



## **VillageReach Board of Directors Member Dr. Michael Free Named to Order of the British Empire**

*Health technologies leader recognized for innovation and entrepreneurship*

**Seattle, WA, July 28, 2011** – Dr. Michael J. Free, who serves on the VillageReach board of directors and is vice president and senior advisor for technologies at PATH, has been named as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. The recognition was noted on the Queen’s Birthday Honours list for 2011. The Queen herself will be presenting medals to the honorees at an investiture to be held at Buckingham Palace in the next few months.

Established in 1917, the Order of the British Empire is an order of chivalry comprised of five classes in civil and military divisions. The award recognizes people who have provided exemplary service and demonstrated innovations and entrepreneurship. Dr. Free is being recognized for his achievements in and dedication to improving global health and the availability of health technologies designed specifically for resource-poor settings.

Dr. Free played a leading role in the establishment of VillageReach in 2000 and has served on the board of directors since then. Under his visionary leadership, PATH has developed and advanced more than 85 health technologies for low-resource settings. More than 20 of these health technologies are being manufactured, sold, and used in developing country health systems today. In addition, Dr. Free has invented a number of health technologies that have directly influenced global health policies and are saving lives and reducing illness throughout the world.

### **About VillageReach**

VillageReach is a non-profit social enterprise that extends the reach of conventional healthcare services to remote, underserved communities by creating dynamic delivery and information monitoring systems. Its mission is to save lives and improve well being in developing countries by increasing last-mile access to healthcare and investing in social businesses that address gaps in community infrastructure. VillageReach has been given the highest-possible charity rating by Givewell. See [www.givewell.org](http://www.givewell.org)

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