



Name: Lendre Pemberton

School: St.Vincent Grammar School

Form: 2R6

Age: 12

Date of Birth: 3rd June, 2013

Category: Junior

Word Count: 600

It is the most cunning criminal our village has ever known jumping walls and slipping through open windows, moving silently from yard to yard. It finds Mr. Browne's children staring at empty pots before school. It visits Mrs. Jackson, a widow stretching one pot of boileen across three days, leaving her worried at dawn. It climbs the fence of the Baptiste family of seven children, and raids what little peace they have left. By sunrise, it has passed through every vulnerable home on the block, draining energy, stripping dignity, and carving emptiness into bellies that deserved to be full. But the thief never anticipated that everyone knows who it is. Its name is Hunger, and its reign in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) ends now. The Zero Hunger Trust Fund (ZHTF) is already on the ground rallying Vincentians through community outreach, school feeding programmes, and sustainable agriculture advocacy, ensuring every citizen has access to nutritious food. Their mission aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Two, that goal is Zero Hunger, a global commitment to achieve food security by 2030. SVG cannot afford to miss that target and my role in reaching it starts here, with three powerful ideas designed to reinforce what the ZHTF has already built.

Every vision needs someone brave enough to bring it to life. My vision is a Hunger-Free SVG that starts with a Supermarket Surplus Donation Policy attached to a Saturday Community Kitchen. Instead of throwing away unsold food, supermarkets should donate it to community kitchens. Every Saturday, volunteers, parents, and students gather at community centres to transform those donations into large, nutritious meals distributed freely to vulnerable families. This closes the gap between abundance and need, which has always been the thief's greatest accomplice.

A hunger-free SVG looks like neighbours helping neighbours. My second initiative is a Village Food-Sharing Network combined with a Community Seed Trade Initiative. Every village already has a church, school, or community centre these are trusted spaces where families can bring surplus ground provisions, fruits, or home-cooked meals for neighbours in need. Alongside this, families exchange seeds and plants of traditional crops like dasheen, pigeon peas, and sweet potato, so more households grow their own food. . No transaction, no shame, just the Vincentian spirit of togetherness, organised to reliably reach every vulnerable family. The Zero Hunger Trust Fund could champion and coordinate both initiatives nationally, turning community trust into a powerful weapon against hunger.

A hunger-free SVG cannot be built by adults alone, so I envision my role as a Youth Hunger Heroes Ambassador. Young people should not only witness the problem, but we should be trained to actively dismantle it. Under this programme, students across SVG would be appointed as community ambassadors, identifying food-insecure families in their neighbourhoods and connecting them directly to available resources, the Saturday Community Kitchen and the food-sharing network. We become the bridge between help and those who need it most because sometimes the most powerful key to unlocking change is a young person who refuses to look away.

The whole neighbourhood has watched hunger operate. The whole community has felt the damage. But with the Zero Hunger Trust Fund leading the charge with the Supermarket Surplus Donation Policy tied to a Saturday Community Kitchen, Village Food-Sharing Network, combined with a Community Seed Trade Initiative, and young Vincentians like me ready to play our part, we are finally organised and determined. SVG is too resilient and too full of promise to keep giving way to a thief. We are locking it up and this time, we are throwing away the key.