



### Notes from the Field

Albert Odongo Ayugi lives in the hillside village of Nyanganira, within the Kopanga/Giribe area. A quiet, earnest man, Albert was among the first to initiate the conversation with P4P regarding repair work on a broken pump on the Nyanganira well. This well dates back to the early 1990's, when many wells were dug throughout the region by the Kenyan government and other NGOs (non-governmental organizations). However, after nearly 15 years of use and little or no maintenance, many of the wells' pumps have broken and the wells are inoperative, including the Nyanganira well.

P4P's Water Committee assessed the well and determined that it was still a viable water source and a new pump would mitigate the village's water shortage issue. Since P4P's mission dictates that all work must have a sustainable component, we could not merely fix the pump. A plan had to be in place that would assure that the pump and the well's future maintenance would become the responsibility of the community it serves.

Albert Odongo Ayugi and the community responded by developing a water district where families that use the water pay a nominal fee of 30 KSH per month (approximately 34 cents). The funds are collected and deposited in an account to cover future repairs, and community members have received training on maintenance and repair.

The restored Nyanganira well serves 30 households, or about 150 people. Since the well was repaired, Albert and community members report a notable decrease in the stomach and intestinal illnesses that have plagued this community for many years. This project is a marvelous example of how working with community leaders and members can make a lasting and sustainable change.

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### The Path to Health

by Beth Sheeran - Health Committee

*To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear. ~ Buddha*

Under-nutrition plays a huge role in perpetuating the cycle of poverty in Kenya. Children are the most vulnerable and are at an increased risk of premature death, perform poorly in school and are less capable of physical labor in adulthood. Women who have grown up with poor nutrition, stunting and

A recent survey conducted in the Kopanga area indicates that 27% of children show evidence of stunting and 20% are undernourished. To attack this problem, P4P launched the Power of Milk program in 2012 to chart and monitor a number of infants and provide them with high-nutrient formula. The program is now operating under a new partnership with a clinic in Ogada.

Nineteen children are enrolled in the Power of Milk and our workers in the field are making significant progress. P4P's Program Administrator, Seth Okumu, continues to network with government officials and families to ensure the success of the program. We are excited to be intervening in the lives of these 19 children in an effort to help them enjoy a healthy, productive future.

The P4P Health Committee is delighted to be expanding into new areas in 2014. We are formulating methods to provide critically-needed nutrition training for health care workers, and we are in the process of developing an assessment survey to determine what additional training is necessary. Additionally, we are looking at ways to reduce prevalent diseases such as malaria, diarrhea and HIV/AIDS.

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### **Meet our Board Chair, Thomas Holman**

"The words that come to mind when I think about the people we serve in Kopanga are 'full of life'," says P4P's new Board Chair, Thomas Holman. "Going from our culture where we are sometimes too busy to help a stranger on the side of the road, I learned from the Kenyans how to slow down and embrace life with a smile."

Thomas is often seen wearing a cowboy hat, paying tribute to his youth growing up on a farm in Grangeville, Idaho. Apparently you can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy. Thomas says cutting firewood and helping his dad on the farm are still two of his favorite things to do (along with back country backpacking and hunting). He added being a father to the list this month when Thomas and his wife Kari Duclos-Holman welcomed their first child.

Thomas has been to Kenya once, and as an engineer with DCI Engineering, his skills have been put to good use on the Water Committee. He helped coordinate the last three projects: bringing running water to the Kopanga Clinic; completing the Kopanga Spring Water Project, a year-round water source that serves over 1,000 people; and replacing the Nyanganira water pump, which serves about 150 people.

"P4P is founded on the basic principle of serving those in need," Thomas says. "While there are many needs here domestically, which I also support, the severe poverty found in the southern reaches of Kenya is like nothing I have seen here at home. P4P has provided an avenue for me to serve a calling to do God's will that three years ago I didn't think possible."

"Focusing on relationships first, then problem solving second has been instrumental in my continued involvement with P4P. We are truly partnering with the community in our endeavors, thus entrusting the future of our projects to them. We are a helping hand along the way, ready and willing to let go as soon as the project has stabilized."

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### **Let Us Entertain You!**

Two major events each year provide valuable funding to enable health care, clean water and education programs to thrive in Kopanga, Kenya.

Our first event for 2014 is the Civic Theatre production of Gypsy, a raucous musical review of the life of Gypsy Rose Lee. Tickets are available now for the June 4 show at [www.partneringforprogress.org](http://www.partneringforprogress.org) or

click on the above picture or call (509) 720-8408. Special prices are available for groups of 10 or more or for students; individual ticket prices are \$35 each.

Whenever a nonprofit hosts a fundraiser, there is risk that expenses will exceed revenue. Several outstanding supporters are helping to remove the risk to P4P's precious resources by sponsoring part of this event's production costs. These donors recognize the value in our programs and in reaching out to the community for further support. Please join us in thanking these generous people and companies:

- Stacey and Mike Mainer
- Thrivent Financial
- Rick and Sue Matthews
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- Edwards Lalone Travel
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There's still time for you to become a sponsor and add your name to the list of those concerned about the sustainability of P4P's good work. Purchasing a ticket will allow you to preview P4P's Northwest Cellars wine debut and taste delicious savories. For more details about donations or buying tickets, please visit our site.

P4P's second event will be our Into Africa Auction in October. Additional details will be provided on our website and mailed out as the event approaches. Both events are stellar evenings out in the community and an opportunity to meet P4P volunteers and supporters, plus learn more about the organization and how you can get involved.

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### **P4P's Stars on KYRS Radio Show**

Thanks to an invite from Sam Evans, Program Director for KYRS radio station's show Nonprofit Spokane, P4P was the focus of an hour-long program on March 22. Stacey Mainer, Beth Sheeran, Dia Maurer and Linda Hagen-Miller talked about P4P programs, their experiences in Kenya and P4P's hopes and plans for the future. We appreciated the opportunity to be on the show. Click on the picture of Africa to be taken to the podcast.

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