



*Children should be the first to benefit from mankind's success and the last to suffer from its failures, for it is how we bring up our children that our civilization is measured, our humanity is tested, our future is shaped.*

*~ Jim Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, 1980-1995*



## **Notes from the Field**

**by Gordon Jackson**

### **A First Timer's Take – Part 2**

I don't like shaving when a faucet yields only cold water. Even worse is when a faucet yields no water at all. The water tank at the Methodist guest house where we stay in Migori had run dry, so my bottle of room-temperature drinking water had to suffice. (The water stoppage was remedied, and—as a bonus—I later got my hot water as well.)

I soon got an unwelcome reality check that put my grouchiness in perspective when our group visited the spring in Kopanga.

This natural spring bubbled out of the ground, providing a small but steady flow of water for the community. Women gathered water, did their laundry and perhaps their personal

bathing at the Kopanga spring. At times, animals fouled the swampy area. Not good for drinking, to state the obvious. But now, with P4P funding and labor volunteered by local villagers, the water supply is protected by an underground pipe that feeds through a wall. P4P's water committee has done a great job maximizing the potential of this small water source.

As our P4P group inspected the flow of clean water, a slightly built woman possibly in her early twenties came to fill her five gallon bucket. That took several minutes. Next, with an awe-inspiring mix of practice and strength, she knelt on one knee, hoisted the bucket onto her other knee, then lifted it onto her head.

As the young woman began what would be a 15-minute walk home, I thought it best to keep my shaving crisis to myself.



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[Make a Donation](#)

*To donate by check, mail to*

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## **Meet Volunteer Helen Biggs**

“Please, do not forget us,” the Kenyan teacher softly told Helen Biggs. She had no idea how prophetic that statement would become. All it took for Helen was one trip to Africa with a P4P team to set the wheels in motion. She’s now been to Kenya seven times, three times with her dentist husband Andy, and once with her son Paul and his wife Paige.

“The first time I went, I made posters with Eryn Brooks. We visited two to three schools per day for five days and

talked to students about personal hygiene and made presentations at the clinic where P4P first worked,” Helen says. “Next trip, I used World Health Organization posters and met with headmasters at the schools to talk about the problems they face and possible ways for P4P to work with them.”

Today, Helen spearheads P4P’s work with Days for Girls (DFG), an international organization that creates and distributes sustainable feminine hygiene products to girls in impoverished countries to help them stay in school during their menstrual cycle and break the downward spiral of poverty. Days for Girls Western Washington affiliate is a dedicated group of seamstress volunteers who produce the reusable sanitary kits. Helen leads P4P’s DFG efforts, helps to educate the girls and coordinate distribution of the kits at Kopanga schools.



“Kenya is an amazing country! “ Helen says. “The people are incredibly friendly, curious, welcoming and generous. Most of the Kopanga villagers are subsistence farmers, but they are happy. They value education, although it is not always available to them since it costs money to attend secondary school.”

“I respect that P4P works with the Kopanga community to identify what they need and want, not what we think they should have. For instance, the headmasters asked for scholarships and P4P has provided 27 so far. The communities need clean water sources and we have provided tanks at the schools. The girls at Migongo-Ribe Secondary School asked if we could provide them with sanitary pads, and we are doing that. P4P provides training

to clinic staff, Community Health Volunteers, farmers and parents of malnourished babies. P4P helps the Kopangans help themselves and we work with sustainable projects.”

Helen served as one of P4P’s original board members, chair of the Education Committee and is a tireless volunteer. It’s a sure bet that she has never forgotten the words that teacher spoke to her years ago.

**Make a Difference - Volunteer**



Dear Partnering for Progress [P4P].  
Am very much thankful and grateful to our almighty Lord for giving ~~such~~ us such wonderful opportunity to communicate to each other.  
Am very much happy for the great support you have offered to me since the year 2013 when I joined the secondary education level that is, Secondary school by paying my school fees upto now that am almost leaving the school waiting to do sit for my "Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education" (KCSE) in the Year 2016 by November.  
I will not also forget to appreciate my home who managed to help me whenever I was who is non other than Okumu Seth. I would like to give thanks to him and may our God bless him with his team me included. I am very much happy with the support the P4P organization has done to my life. I had found it

## Messages from Our Scholarship Recipients

### By Gordon Jackson

*All cases are unique and very similar to others.* ~ T. S. Eliot

So, too, is the case with Partnering for Progress' 27 scholarship recipients. Let's begin with the similarities. When our group visited in May, we listened to their words and read their letters. Several themes emerged:

**First, the students are profoundly grateful to Partnering for Progress.** They told us repeatedly that their families are not able to afford school tuition and fees, and they stressed that without P4P's help, they would not be able to attend school. Rose Anyona's letter is an example:

"My parents really thought about it (continuing in school) but there was no way for me to proceed to high school. My parents' occupation is only farming and they could not manage to pay our school fees."

**Second, the students ask that P4P keep funding them AND extend the scholarship program to other students in the future.** Many also hope for a university education so they can return to their village and contribute to their community.

**Third, without fail, the letters express their deep faith in God.** Rose said, "I prayed to God, who cannot fail somebody's wants in life. The Lord heard my prayers and he answered me and suddenly I found myself in your [P4P's] hands." As did 26 other Kenyan high schoolers.

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## Education Committee Report

### *PayPal Makes Scholarship Donations a Snap (or a Click)*

Perhaps you're a donor who received a photograph of one of P4P's 27 scholarship recipients holding a small poster with your name printed on it. The photos were taken by our team that visited Kenya in May and are a way for us to say yet another special thank you for helping a student secure a high school education.



You didn't get a photo with your name on a poster? We can remedy that! Thanks to our new PayPal link, helping a student go to school is just a click away. Our target goal this year is \$5,600 in scholarship funds, and as of late June, we were just over the halfway mark with \$2,930 in hand.

- \$300 - Covers fees and uniform for a year of school
- \$500 - Covers boarding school for a whole year (many Kenyan high school students live at their schools)

Any amount you can commit to is welcome, of course. Just click below to make a donation by PayPal and keep a Kenyan student on track toward reaching high school graduation. In return, a thank you photograph could soon be on the way to you. And if that brightens your day, just think what your support will do for our

scholarship students, their parents and their community.

**Support a Student - Donate with PayPal**

*To donate by check, mail to*

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**ONE EVENT WILL CHANGE  
A THOUSAND LIVES.**

*A dinner and auction to benefit  
Partnering for Progress.*

**It's an Auction... It's a Dinner...**

**It's a Chance to Meet our Man on the Ground in Kenya**

P4P's Program Coordinator Seth Okumu is familiar to anyone reading our newsletter since we begin most editions with his Notes from the Field. This year Seth will deliver notes and much more from the podium as our keynote speaker at P4P's annual **Into Africa Auction** on **October 1**.

Seth is so much more than his title of Program Coordinator. His passion for helping his fellow Kenyans and his dedication to P4P's mission make him an invaluable P4P employee as he travels throughout Kopanga visiting project sites and conferring with educators, community leaders, students and parents.



“This is the most fulfilling job I ever dreamed of,” Seth says, “a job where you work and see the results and quantify progress almost immediately.”

One of eleven children, Seth grew up in a home that valued education. His siblings now work or study in health care, business, science, mass communications and education.

“Even though charity begins at home, I have extended my help to kids unrelated to me who are in high school, for I believe education opens doors to many opportunities,” Seth says. One such child is eleven-year-old Zawadi Pamela Akoth who joined Seth's family when she was an infant after her mother's death.



**Into Africa** is P4P's most important fundraiser and an opportunity for you to be part of ***one event that will change a thousand lives***. Volunteers, supporters and staff will gather at the **Mirabeau Park Hotel** in the Spokane Valley on **October 1 at 5:30** for a silent auction followed by an African-themed dinner, Seth's presentation and a live auction. Don't miss the opportunity to show your support, meet Seth, celebrate P4P's success and learn what's on the horizon.

**Tickets are \$65 individual or \$500 for a table of eight and are available now online at [intoafricaauction.org](http://intoafricaauction.org) or by calling 509-720-8408.**

[Purchase Tickets](#)



## **P4P Goes to the Fair**

Eryn Brooks, P4P volunteer and Communications Committee member, will represent us at Washington State University's Annual Tri-Cities Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, August 31. She'll let would-be volunteers know about our work in Kenya and, hopefully, recruit a few helping hands to join a committee or travel to Africa. Thanks, Eryn, for helping spread the word about P4P!

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