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PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS  
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*Wherever you go, go with all your heart. ~ Confucious*



**July Service Team:** (left to right) Dr. Belinda Escanio; Seth Okumu (Kenya Project Coordinator); Patti Krafft (Trip Leader); Gabriella Bulman; Heather Homchick; Jay Wiley; Mary Sobralske; Amber Froberg; Wayne Krafft; Shannon Young; and David, Frate Tours Driver (front)

# Notes from the Field - July Team Report

By Gabriella Bulman, Health Committee

Last month I was fortunate to join Partnering for Progress on one of their biannual trips to Kenya. We were a team of nine: trip leader and nurse practitioner Patti Kraft; engineers Jay Wiley and Wayne Krafft; ARPN Mary Sobralske; Dr. Belinda Escanio; expanded functions dental auxiliary Shannon Young; pharmacist Heather Homchick; and medical administrator Amber Frohberg.

As a pre-medical student, a nursing assistant and a volunteer member of the P4P Health Committee, I was interested in peering through our small organization's lens to grasp the scope of P4P's impact.

The medical team members spent long hours treating patients in Ogada Clinic where they saw countless cases of malaria, typhoid fever and labor-related injuries. We worked with the staff to combine all of our medical expertise to give patients the best care possible.



Our talented teachers traveled from school to school providing lessons on water sanitation that encouraged the students to take a closer look at their water sources. Our Days for Girls team distributed reusable sanitary napkin kits and taught young girls the importance of personal hygiene.



**Muzungu**, the Swahili term for white person, was a term we heard frequently during our travels. It seemed that some Kenyans believed that we were rich Americans, sent there to bear gifts

and take pictures, but all of the Kenyans we worked with quickly realized we weren't there to be Santa Claus. Instead of simply fixing their problems, we attempted to teach them how to help themselves and sustain the life of their community long after our departure. Our medical team worked side-by-side with our medical counterparts. Our teaching team didn't just lecture to the students, they taught them how to test their own water and read the results, giving them knowledge to take home and carry with them for the rest of their lives.



Herein lies one of the central missions of Partnering for Progress—sustainability—a concept I personally saw put into action this July.

**Make a Difference - Volunteer**



## Teaming Up for Days for Girls

“We love Marilyn,” chanted secondary schoolgirls when the July service team showed them photos of the Days for Girls sewing/assembly group. Marilyn is Marilyn Carothers and she, along with Florence Young, Barb Hutchison and Laurie Freeman (who is with Project UnderPantz in Portland, Oregon) head groups of seamstresses who create DFG's reusable sanitary napkin kits. Once the kits are assembled by these dedicated women, P4P takes them to Kenya where our teams distribute them, teach girls how to use them and the importance of feminine hygiene. Now that's teamwork.

**Make a Donation**



## Hot Auction Items!

*Get ready to sizzle!* One of the most unique auction items at this year's Into Africa Auction and Dinner is a **Fire Station Dinner for Eight**. Who'd-a-thunk that those brave firefighting men and women were also darn good cooks? Win this one in what's bound to be a competitive bidding war and you and seven of your best friends can visit the fire station, enjoy a fine meal and have a chance to personally thank the men and women in uniform.

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*. Join volunteers, supporters and staff 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. Our Kenya project coordinator, Seth Okumu, will be featured speaker.

The Mirabeau Park Hotel is holding rooms at the discounted price of \$85 for auction attendees. Book directly with the hotel by calling 509-924-9000. Don't forget to mention P4P to receive the discount.

We're running a ticket special August 18-23, watch Facebook for announcements and discounted prices. For more information, go to [intoafricaauction.org](http://intoafricaauction.org) or call 509-720-8408.



[Purchase Tickets](#)



## The Man Behind the Wheel

By Gordon Jackson

If you ever head to Kopanga with Partnering for Progress, you're likely to have Nelson Kiragu as your driver, first from Nairobi's airport for the nearly 250-mile trip to Migori where P4P teams are based, and then on the 45-minute-each-way commute to Kopanga.

It's on that daily run to and from Kopanga that Nelson truly shows his mettle as a driver. Yes, his skill is obvious on the drive to Migori, a paved road but one that requires him to anticipate one

speed bump after another. But Nelson's driving is more rigorously tested on the eroded and rutted road to Kopanga. It's a route he knows well, with its rocks, bumps and dips, or thick mud after a heavy rain.

Nelson's nine-passenger Toyota van is ready for these roads, specially fitted with steel roll bars, extra hand grips, and a steel plate underneath to protect the engine and transmission.

Nelson has traveled this road repeatedly with P4P teams, in effect making him another one of our partners. "I love working with them," Nelson says of the P4P regulars who keep returning. "We have formed a close partnership and we work as a team."

Nelson has seen significant changes in the Kopanga area during his association with P4P. "They have brought positive help to the community, and health and life is improving," he says. He adds that people increasingly ask if they can be part of P4P programs.

Nelson would undoubtedly be thrilled if P4P's mission expanded to include road maintenance. But until that unlikely development occurs, if you get to take that road to Kopanga, the Toyota van is ready—and so is Nelson.

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## P4P Featured in Several Magazines

Linda Hagen-Miller, Chair of the Communications Committee, pitched the P4P "story" to *Living Local*, a magazine publishing group that produces several monthlies throughout Washington and Idaho. Thank you, *Living Local*, for catching that pitch and giving the assignment to west side writer Michael McAuliffe.

The result was a five-page article that so far has run in four of the company's magazines: *Latitude 45* (Seattle area audience), *Gig Harbor*, *Sandpoint* and *Coeur d'Alene Living Local* reaching thousands of readers in the Pacific Northwest.

Mike did a great job of capturing P4P's mission, accomplishments, our volunteer's dedication to their work and the relationship we have developed with the people we work with in Kenya. Read the story here:

<https://issuu.com/likemedia/docs/gigharborlivinglocalaugust2016>



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