

COMMUNITY

Nonprofit Spotlight

Partnering for Progress

Description

The mission of Partnering for Progress is to help provide access to health care, education, sanitation, clean water and economic development to residents in developing countries.

Founding

In June 2007, the lives of four volunteers from Spokane were changed when they traveled to Kopanga, Kenya, as medical volunteers. Dr. Michale Mainer, Stacey Mainer, Sandy Ivers and her son Nick worked at a small, understaffed, inadequately supplied clinic to treat malnourished infants, pregnant women, children and adults with a variety of conditions. The group was determined to find a way to help the people of this region, and by 2008 they had established Partnering for Progress to ensure the Kenyan people access to health care, sanitation, clean water and educational opportunities.

What they do

The nonprofit organizes bi-annual medical/education trips to Kopanga to provide care and educate local medical providers. The group has also raised funds to build a new medical facility and have funded scholarships for students.

Who benefits

Volunteer teams work in Kopanga/Giribe, a community of several villages in southern Kenya, twice year to assist residents in the areas of health, education, water/sanitation and economic development. A nutrition program called The Power of Milk serves under-nourished babies, and young girls receive reusable sanitary napkin kits courtesy of the nonprofit. The group



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Tyler Gunderson from Wenatchee examines a patient as part of a dental team during a Partnering for Progress trip to Kenya.

Below, Villagers in Kenya recently received goats as part of the economic development program sponsored by the Spokane-based nonprofit.



IF YOU GO ...

Into Africa Auction and Dinner

When: 5:30 p.m. Oct. 10

Where: Mirabeau Park Hotel

What: Learn about the programs Partnering for Progress offers in Kenya while enjoying an African-themed dinner and auction items.

Tickets: \$65 per person, \$500 for table of eight or \$650 to be a table sponsor

For more: www.intoafricaauction.org or 720-8408

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Registration is open for the fall Citizens Academy put on by the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. The class begins Oct. 5 and runs Monday nights through Nov. 23 at the Spokane Valley Precinct, 12710 E. Sprague.

The eight classes will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to meet deputies, learn about the training and challenges, and explore the different unit assignments. A background check is required.

To register or for more, call 477-2592 or email crjohnston@spokanesherriff.org.

Great Candy Buy Back to be held Nov. 2

KiDDS Dental is offering kids \$1 per pound of candy during their annual buy back from 4 to 8 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Liberty Lake office, 1327 N. Stanford Lane, suite B. The candy must be unopened and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission is \$2 at the door. For more information, email cvmbpublicity@hotmail.com.

Exchange program seeks reps

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs is looking for volunteers to serve as area representatives in the community. ASSE provides academic year and semester exchange programs in the United States for high school students from around the world.

Duties include recruiting and screening prospective host families, interviewing students to study abroad and supervising exchange students, a press release said. Area representatives are compensated based on the number of students they supervise.

For more information, call 800-733-2773 or email asseusawest@asse.com.

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also provide scholarships to over 10 high school kids a year, as secondary education is not free in Kenya.

Partnering for Progress recently started an economic development program with goats and chickens, and farmers are now being trained in an agriculture pilot about growing grains and vegetables. Volunteers have built water tanks and installed water pumps in several villages and always stress importance of safe drinking water. This is all in addition to the medical, dental and optical teams sent to treat patients and work with community health workers to educate on nutrition, sanitation, HIV/AIDS, etc.

How you can help

Partnering for Progress organizes two trips to Kenya every year in the fall and early winter. Volunteer opportunities are available for medical professionals, educators, engineers and business people to share their expertise and make a difference in the lives of those in south Kenya. Volunteers pay their own expenses, which

are approximately \$2,800.

You do not have to be a world traveler to make a difference in Kenya. The group is also in need of volunteers of various skills to serve on local committees in the areas of health, education, communications, water/sanitation and the annual auction.

For more, call 720-8408 or visit www.partneringforprogress.org/volunteer.html.

To learn more

Attend the Oct. 10 event called Into Africa event, the largest fundraiser of the year for Partnering for Progress. Held at the Mirabeau Part Hotel, guests will be treated to African-themed foods complemented by American cuisine. The program will include videos from recent trips as well as a silent and loud auction.

Interested people can also sign up to receive a monthly electronic newsletter with current news at www.partneringforprogress.org.

Do you know of an organization in the greater Spokane Valley area that should be featured as a Nonprofit Spotlight? Tell us at editor@valleycurrent.com.

• Update on the legislative plans for the Washington Tourism Alliance (WTA)

• What challenges need to be addressed in

» **December 18**
Business Connections
Lunch "Stories of Good Will"