



Greetings Friends and Supporters,

The last several months have been busy at Partnering for Progress and we have some exciting news to share with you. As founders and co-executive directors of P4P for the last five years, our belief and passion in P4P's mission has brought inspiration to the two of us and we are fortunate to have a strong, committed board and great volunteers to help move P4P forward in its important mission of improving access to health care, education, clean water and sanitation in underserved developing countries.

It is very exciting to see the growth of Partnering for Progress over the last several years. In Kenya, Seth Okumu, Project Coordinator, is completing a critical community needs assessment which will guide us in developing our future strategic plan. He also continues to work with the Power of Milk, the scholarship program and two water projects.

In the United States our fundraising goals are increasing to match the needs in Kenya. We will be applying for grants as well as increasing our donor base and developing partnerships with national and international businesses and other nonprofits.

With an eye to the future and an understanding of the increasing demand for experienced leadership and fundraising skills, the board recently approved funding to hire a part time executive director. We are in the throes of interviews and are thrilled at the high number of applicants with strong experience in these crucial areas as well as experience and understanding in the international arena.

With P4P's continued growth, we need an executive director who can dedicate the time and has knowledge and experience necessary to achieve these objectives and move the organization forward. This has been an amazing journey for us and it is thrilling to be hiring a part time, paid executive director.

Stacey Mainer, Co-Executive Director
Sandy Ivers, Co-Executive Director

Notes from the Field

Seth Ogutu Okumu, P4P's Project Coordinator, has been busy completing a qualitative participatory needs assessment. This important measurement will help determine the needs of the citizens of Kopanga, how these needs are currently being met and identify the current use of resources in the community. Partnering for Progress will utilize this information to develop a strategic plan to guide our

Seth also continues his work with the Power of Milk program to identify moderately and severely malnourished infants and enroll them in a nutrition program to help them gain weight. Five of the ten children enrolled in the program have exited due to achieving their recommended weights. These infants will not receive Plumpy Nut (a peanut-based paste fortified with vitamins and minerals), but Seth monitors them to make sure they maintain weight. Five more malnourished infants are being added to the program in the next month.

Due to excessive rains, the Kopanga Springs Project has been delayed until July 2013. Seth maintains contact with the local Water Committee and reports they express continued gratitude and excitement for this project.

Seth is very involved in developing and strengthening relationships in the area and is a key liaison for Partnering for Progress. Not only does Seth share P4P's mission, but he understands the culture and customs of the region. P4P believes these partnerships and strong communication channels are the key to long-term change, and we value having a local representative who understands and can help promote our goals of health, education and clean water in the Kopanga/Griebe area.

P4P Pioneers a Scholarship Program for Five Students

By Helen Biggs, Education Committee Chair

We are pleased to announce that our Project Coordinator, Seth Okumu, has worked diligently with local schools to identify five students who will be recipients of a continuing education scholarship program sponsored by Partnering for Progress.

In America, we take it for granted that our children will receive free education from kindergarten through high school, but in many parts of Africa, going to school is not a birthright. In Kenya, the government subsidizes the cost of primary education but parents are responsible for their children's uniforms and meals. Once students reach the secondary level, however, the government only pays teachers' salaries and a small portion of the tuition. Thousands of children drop out of school at this point because their parents cannot afford to pay the remaining fees. Once a Kenyan girl is no longer in school, she frequently marries, often as young as 14 or 15 years old.

Seth learned in a meeting with the Deputy Principal of the Magongo Secondary School, that the girls in Suna West have the worst academic performance in the Nyanza province. Based on this information, and the risk of early teenage marriage for girls who are not attending school, P4P decided to give scholarships to three girls and two boys. The recipients for 2013 are:

- Esther Odongo - attending Bande Girls Secondary School
- Odira Malath - attending Bande Girls Secondary School
- Faith Anyango - attending Owiro Akoko Girls Secondary School
- Julius Okeyo - attending St. Michael's Nyarongi Boys Secondary School
- Daniel Masagna Nyongesa - attending Magongo-Giribe Secondary School.

The students will be evaluated annually by the Education Committee. They must maintain their grades in order to retain their scholarship funding for the next academic term and they must participate in a student-designed project to give something back to their school or community.

We are excited that P4P's scholarship program has kicked off to a great start, and we'll keep you informed of the students' progress and challenges in upcoming newsletters and on our website.

Civic theatre benefit results

by all - a terrific fundraising event. We netted over \$3,800. Thank you again to our sponsors and supporters.

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