



Meet Top Volunteer, Pat Lynass

Attend a Partnering for Progress committee or a board meeting with Pat Lynass at the helm and you'll quickly see how her leadership skills, determination and straight thinking have helped move P4P forward. Pat's interest and involvement in P4P sprang from a long friendship with Mike and Stacey Mainer. When the Mainers and Sandy Ivers returned from their first trip to Kenya in 2007 and were inspired to create a nonprofit organization that would help improve healthcare and quality of life for the residents of Kopanga, Pat wanted to be involved.

"After hearing the great needs in the area, I was honored to be asked to serve on the board," Pat says. She was one of P4P's original board members and has served as board vice president and chair. Pat was also chair of the Into Africa Auction in both 2011 and 2012 and currently chairs the Fundraising Committee. Along with her husband, Jim, Pat traveled to Kopanga where she assisted with health education and Jim worked in the clinic laboratory.

"When we traveled from Nairobi to Migori, one of my first thoughts was that I couldn't believe how many people walk everywhere." While on her early morning runs, Pat recalls children ambling to school in the barely light hours. She remembers the people's happy attitudes and their appreciation for what little they had.

"There is not an abundance of material items," Pat says, "but people, especially children, are resourceful and find joy and entertainment in everything from an old bicycle wheel to a stick. I came home appalled at the stuff we have that clutters up our lives."

Throughout the years, Pat has seen P4P grow and move in many directions. "One of my goals is to have P4P recognized broader locally, nationwide and perhaps internationally. As this happens, hopefully we can attract more volunteers to help us with a myriad of duties that are necessary to keep a non-profit sustainable."

Pat advocates increasing Partnering for Progress' donor base in order to accomplish P4P's goals in Kenya and she would like to broaden the organization's outreach by partnering with Spokane non-profits that are committed to similar causes in Africa. She recognizes the importance of economic development in Kopanga and supports P4P's programs to move the community toward sustaining the projects that P4P has helped them establish.

Pat has lived in Spokane since 1967 and is a retired elementary school principal, Master Gardener, avid

combine long cycling trips and/or mountain climbing with sightseeing all over the world. To top it all off, Pat is mother of three and grandmother of nine.

Say Hello--and Goodbye--to Karen Contos

Since 2009, Karen Contos has been an important cog in the P4P wheel. She first joined us as a volunteer on the Auction Committee, then signed onto the Communications Committee, where she's in charge of our Facebook and Twitter accounts, formats and distributes the monthly e-newsletter and helped revise and update the website.

In 2012, Karen became P4P's part-time Administrative Coordinator. Her job description has stretched to cover working with all committees, handling IT issues and graphic arts, bookkeeping and assisting the Board of Directors and P4P's part-time Executive Director.

Unfortunately for us, Karen is leaving Spokane and P4P at the end of July. She and her husband will resettle in the Seattle area and are looking forward to being close to their daughter in college and exploring and photographing the west side of the state.

"I admire P4P's mission of providing health, education and water assistance to the residents of Kopanga," Karen says, "and I especially like our Power of Milk program. I will certainly miss working with this organization and all of the wonderful dedicated volunteers!"

Karen leaves very big shoes to fill and we are very sorry to see her go. We'll miss her dedication, tenacity and talents.

Notes from the Field-The Price of Education in Kenya

Immense challenges face Kenyan children who want to go to school. There is no public transportation or school bus service, so children walk to and from school in all weather, sometimes several miles a day. Although primary school is free, parents must purchase uniforms and supplies, often a considerable financial burden since the average household income is \$1 per day. Secondary school is not free and fees run \$350 to \$500 a year.

Seven primary schools serve the 11 villages in Kopanga, P4P's service area. Seth Okumu, P4P Program Coordinator, recently surveyed those seven primary schools and found a total of 2,769 students enrolled in all eight grades.

"Dropping out seems to seriously start in the transition of class 5 to 6 and worsens between class 7 and 8 to almost 50 percent," Seth notes. The cost of secondary education is the primary factor driving high dropout rates.

P4P's Education Committee wants to bring hope to some of the 50 percent of 7th graders who cannot afford school by providing more scholarships to secondary school children.

Additionally, school principals and teachers have requested assistance with teacher training, funds to construct playground equipment, libraries, classrooms and maintenance. Catchment tanks for clean water and latrines are desperately needed and are equally important to maintain a safe, healthy learning environment. The Education Committee will review proposals and determine how to help schools improve the quality of education as well as provide a positive, healthy learning environment.

Our current and new donors, fundraising events like Gypsy and Into Africa Auction will help the committee accomplish these goals. Both monetary and supply donations are welcome. For more information, check out P4P's website www.partneringforprogress.org or our Facebook site. If you'd like to work with the Education Committee, click on the photo above and go to Volunteer page.

Prairie View Elementary Steps Up

Sixth graders at Prairie View Elementary School were energized by a talk given by P4P Program Coordinator, Seth Okumu, when he was in Spokane in late 2013, and they decided they wanted to do something for Kenyan children who do not have clean water. Led by their teacher Mrs. Vanderzee, they raised funds to purchase filtration drinking straws. Scholarship students in Kopanga received these straws when Sandy Ivers (pictured) and Stacey Mainer visited in February. The students in Kenya send their thanks to the students at Prairie View -- fresh water is vital to health and therefore school attendance.

Last Chance for Gypsy Tickets

Tickets are selling fast for P4P's fundraiser, Gypsy, at the Spokane Civic Theater on June 4. Don't miss out on this raucous musical review of the life of Gypsy Rose Lee. Tickets are available by clicking on our logo above or by calling 509-720-8408. Individual tickets are \$35, student and groups of 10 or more are \$30 per person.

Save the Date!

P4P's Annual Auction

Friday, October 3

Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley

Board of Directors

Thomas Holman, President

Annie Luu, Vice President

Nancy Chappell, Treasurer

Greg Connolly, Secretary

Sandy Ivers, Founder

Stacey Mainer, Founder

Pat Lynass

Debbie Stimpson

Patti Krafft

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Committee Chairs:

Auction Committee: Annie Luu and Jodi Magee

Communication Committee: Linda Hagen Miller

Education Committee: Helen Biggs

Finance Committee: Nancy Chappell

Fundraising Committee: Pat Lynass

Gypsy Theatre Benefit: Barbara Morkill, Sandy Ivers

Health Committee: Beth Sheeran

Water Committee: Jim Ivers

Part time staff:

Dia Maurer, Executive Director

Karen Contos, Administrative Coordinator

Seth Okumu, Kenya Project Coordinator



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