



 [Ashervine after 3 months](#)

Ashervine - March

Ashervine - July

Notes from the Field by Seth Okumu

In April 2011, Nancy Anyango and James Ouma had twins, a little girl they named Mary Ann Awiti and a little boy named Ashervine. Mary Ann was healthy, eating well and developing at a good rate. Ashervine, however was not.

Nancy told P4P's Seth Okumu "I had given up on my son. I was just waiting for the day he will die."

Ashervine was enrolled in P4P's Power of Milk program in March 2014 and the results have been heartwarming and encouraging. The weekly hospital setting combined with the nutrition service the mother gets weekly has really been helpful in the improvement of the child.

"My son can do things I never thought he would do," Ashervine's mother says. "He can now walk using objects, he can talk, and he is energetic. He can eat alone unlike before when we had to feed him. He is even talking. My husband is so happy with his progress and very supportive. May you and your organization remain blessed more and more."

Chair

"Please do not forget us," are words forever etched in Helen Biggs' mind. She and P4P volunteer Eryn Brooks had just finished a hygiene presentation at a Kopanga elementary school when one of the teachers gently implored the women to keep the children in their hearts.

"Africa was not a place I had considered traveling to, but I found the people are amazing!" Helen says. "They are very hospitable, dignified and funny. Even though Kopanga is very rural and poor, everyone is so welcoming."

Now a veteran of six trips to Kopanga, Helen will return with the November P4P group. She has been a steadfast P4P volunteer, currently chairs the Education Committee and has also served on the Auction Committee. Husband Andy, a Spokane dentist, has also been to Kopanga with P4P four times, and son Paul and daughter-in-law Paige joined last year in Kopanga.

"I like our collaborative efforts--we try to help the community with projects they want, not what we think they need or should have. Our goal is to give them a hand up, not a hand out. I am very excited that we have established a scholarship program for secondary students who would not be able to afford school otherwise. The recipients are chosen by a selection committee in Kopanga so it is truly a community project. We are a small organization, but the volunteers are committed."

Originally from Lexington, Massachusetts, Helen has lived in Spokane since 1981. She likes to hike, backpack, travel, read, and play tennis, but by far her favorite activity is being grandmother to 6-month-old Crosby.

Helen believes Margaret Mead's comment captures P4P's efforts: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

"I think this small group is not only P4P's volunteers but the members of the Kopanga community as well!"

Words and Pictures - Communications Committee Report

Online, in print, in photographs, posters and handouts, P4P's Communications Committee works to maintain and share a consistent, entertaining, informative message about P4P. You see our work on the monthly newsletter and the newly revamped website, www.partneringforprogress.org, Facebook and Twitter postings, articles and news blurbs about the organization, and free event listings promoting Into Africa Auction and Civic Theater fundraisers.

P4P's ComCom – Karen Contos, Dia Maurer, Sandy Ivers, Eryn Brooks, Pam Reilly, and chair Linda Hagen Miller – spend most of our time on our computers, crafting and delivering P4P's message to the public, donors and supporters. Occasionally we share the spotlight with founders and board members at media or public speaking events.

The ComCom maintains an extensive photo library (the initial 200 or so images and video were donated by Pat Stimpson) and hundreds of additional images have been supplied by P4P volunteers and Seth Okumu. Those images are invaluable and are used extensively on the website, tri-fold brochure, media articles, posters and canvas prints.

Last year P4P was featured on an hour-long segment on KYRS radio and an article is scheduled to appear in InHealth Northwest in the next few months. Past media coverage includes the Inlander, Journal of Business, Wenatchee World, The Message, Spokane/CDA Woman, The Good Life, and the Spokesman Review. All articles are archived on the website.

The ComCom is constantly looking for additional ways to spread the word about P4P and new outlets to print our stories. Want to get involved? Help research media outlets. Suggest a media outlet. Organize our vast photo library. Proofread or

team and play well with others. Our next meeting is July 29th, 1 pm at Catholic Charities, 5th and Division. Join us or email lindahagenmiller@gmail.com for more info.

Into Africa Auction

You're not too late to take advantage of ticket specials for P4P's annual Into Africa Auction and Dinner. The event is Friday, October 3rd at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and from August 4th through 11th tickets will be \$55 (instead of \$65) and tables will be \$440 (instead of \$500).

Can't make the event? You can still support P4P with an auction item or monetary donation. Donations can be made by clicking on the picture. If you have auction items, contact Jodi Magee (clanmagee@aol.com) or Annie Luu (aluu@dci-engineers.com).

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help with the auction—before, during, or after. We need your help! Contact Jodi or Annie.

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