



*"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water." - W.H. Auden*

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### **Water is Life ... Notes From the Field**

By Seth Okumu

Water is Life. Teachers and pupils in rural schools in Kenya spend at least eight hours a day, five days a week and sometimes weekends in school. Schools are not only a center for learning but also an important gathering place, yet many rural schools have no safe, reliable drinking water.

This photo shows the water source for Nyabukemo Primary School, a facility that serves 225 students and 10 teachers. Cows, goats, donkeys and stray dogs also used this spring.

Partnering for Progress (P4P) has been working with Nyabukemo Primary School to improve not only the level of education but also the health of the community, and in July we were able to help the community purchase a 10,000 liter water tank.

The project was completed very quickly because the community was so anxious to deliver their part of the bargain, and I have received many personal thank yous from teachers, students and community leaders.

Generosity of a private donor moves mountains.

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## **Report from the Water Committee**

By Jim Ivers

The Water Committee was very happy to learn that Nyabukemu Primary School received and installed the 10,000 liter water tank. Nyabukemu is the most remote school in Kopanga and is the only one of six that did not have a water tank. The sole source of drinking water for the school was a non-flowing spring that could more accurately be described as a highly contaminated mud puddle.

Rain water will be gathered from the roof of the school in rain gutters and stored in the new tank. Hopefully the high capacity of the tank will last the school through the dry season. Surprisingly,

outbreaks of serious diseases caused by water contamination increase during the rainy season because rain washes contaminated material toward drinking sources.

The community involvement in this project was nothing short of phenomenal. The school requested the project and agreed to provide and install the gutters and the tank base for it. They got their part of the project done very quickly, and as a result we got our part of the project done very quickly also. This has been one of the best projects we have worked on, in all regards. Hopefully the students will note the improvement in their health and become advocates for clean water in their communities.

Many thanks to the donor who adopted this project and funded it. Thanks are also due to the entire P4P community for providing the infrastructure that allows projects like this to happen.

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## **Into Africa Auction – Friday, October 3rd**

Don't miss P4P's annual auction and dinner October 3 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel. NEW this year: an African-themed menu especially developed for P4P by the Mirabeau Park Hotel chef. Also new this year, info booths staffed by P4P committee

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**Now is the time to buy your tickets and save.** Our ticket special runs from September 1-8 when individual tickets will be \$60 and tables \$480. Don't delay since after September 8, regular prices will return, \$65 for individuals and \$520 for a table. There are three ways to buy your tickets: (1) visit P4P's website and click the event icon which will route you to [www.intoafricauction.org](http://www.intoafricauction.org), (2) call 509-720-8408 for phone purchase by credit card (3) or send your check to P.O. Box 28191, Spokane, WA 99228, attention Into Africa Auction.

To date our sponsors include individuals, service clubs and corporations. Additional sponsors are needed to help underwrite the cost of the event and allow more proceeds from the auction to go toward our work in the Kopanga/Giribe area. Sponsorship levels are: African Elephant (\$2,500), African Rhino (\$1,000), African Leopard (\$500), African Lion (\$250) and Cape Buffalo (\$100). If you'd like to become a sponsor or know someone who would, contact Annie Luu at [aluu@dc-engineers.com](mailto:aluu@dc-engineers.com).

We have some great auction items already – tickets to Disneyland; a Camp Reed gift certificate for the kids; dinner parties and wine events for the adults. We are still collecting unique items, so please contact Jodi Magee at [clanmagee@aol.com](mailto:clanmagee@aol.com) with your auction donation.

Into Africa promises to be an evening of tasty, innovative food, wine and global engagement. Don't miss the fun!

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## Welcome Lee Fowler

P4P's New Administrative Coordinator

Without ever stepping onto African soil, Lee Fowler's heart was touched by its people and she learned first hand the nation's need for health care.

"Our family has been blessed with two of the most loving, joyful girls from Ethiopia," Lee says.

"Shibare and Baynake, ages two and three, were adopted after losing their parents to malaria by my youngest sister and her husband. They were shockingly tiny due to lack of good nutrition, yet those little girls glowed with happiness, trust and openness. It seems to me that warmth radiates from people of Africa."

Lee joined P4P as administrative coordinator in late July but has been involved with us in the past through auction donations. In her new position, Lee will administer P4P and Into Africa's websites, Facebook, Twitter and serve on the Communications and Finance Committees.

Originally from Massachusetts, Lee moved to Spokane where she and her late husband, Leonard, raised their daughter, Leslie-Louise. She worked as a teacher-librarian for Spokane Public Schools for 33 years. Lee now works with Humanities Washington Prime Time Family Reading, a program that works with children and caregivers to promote the importance of families reading together. She exercises her impressive creative muscles dabbling in everything from paper art to jewelry making and quilting. She teaches classes at Michael's and conducts craft classes through her home-based business, Creative-Lee Yours.

"What I like, respect and admire about P4P is its mission to forge partnerships with leaders and volunteers in communities of developing countries, something I believe is so important to the success of self-sustaining programs," Lee says. "I respect the philosophy of a hand up, not a hand out, and becoming a catalyst for change. I greatly admire the health care workers, engineers and educators who have volunteered to travel to Kenya to work toward breaking the cycle of poverty and poor health."

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## P4P in the News!

Chey Scott has written a great article on P4P's origins and our work in Kenya for the August-September issue of InHealth. The

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magazine is distributed to 500 health clinics, hospitals and retail outlets throughout the Inland Northwest. Read the article at

<http://www.inlander.com/spokane/responding-to-need/Content?oid=2332813>

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