



Notes from the Field

By Seth Okumu

A nutrition project that started with the goal of rescuing severely malnourished children has become a powerful group of people dedicated to lifting families out of poverty -- the root cause of malnutrition.

The parents and guardians of the children in our Power of Milk program have initiated a table banking system where each member contributes 50 Kenyan Shillings per week. The funds are used as seed capital for group members to engage in income-generating activity. Five members of the table banking system have purchased goats, which are fast breeders and easy to care for. They will sell the baby goats as a revenue source for their families.

Tis the Season of Giving

During this season of gratitude and giving, our partners in Kenya give thanks for the comfort and joy your caring hearts have shared with them. Because of your time, talent and treasure, we have accomplished much this past year. In 2014 P4P was able to:

- Expand the scholarship program for secondary school children with 10 new students selected to partner with us for their freshman year.
- Install rainwater catchment tanks at two schools last year which provide safe drinking water for children and teachers. Four more are planned for 2015.
- Provide weekly supplemental food, education and health care to 20 infants simultaneously through our Power of Milk Program.
- Train volunteer health care workers (called CHWs) to identify health issues and work with care providers to promote healthier communities.
- Begin to address the issue of poverty, the root cause of many so many challenges.
- Award chickens to graduating caregivers in the Power of Milk Program.
- Funded vegetable and poultry projects for a local grade school, providing financial support plus a learning opportunity for students and teachers.

Our past achievements and future plans would not be possible without YOU, our faithful supporters. In this season of giving, help us spread a little more comfort and joy and make future projects become reality. Our annual appeal effort has brought in \$3,000 to date but we still need \$9,000 to bring our plans to fruition. Donations can be made on our website (www.partneringforprogress.org), through Smile.Amazon.com with your Amazon purchases or by mail (P O Box 28191, Spokane, WA 99228).

There are other ways to help – if you'd like to volunteer, please call 509-720-8408 or email info@partneringforprogress.org.

Your partnership brings us hope for a brighter future for our brothers and sisters in Kopanga, Kenya. Thank you for walking beside us on this exciting journey and may your holiday season be filled with joy and hope.

Happy Holidays,

P4P Board of Directors

Meet Greg Connolly

P4P Board of Directors Secretary

Greg Connolly first touched down on African soil in 2010 with a group of P4P volunteers and his wife, Jessica, an optometrist who works at Broadway Eyecare.

“We felt it was a great opportunity to help some folks that needed it as well as a great way to explore a new place and meet new people,” Greg says. “My wife and I absolutely loved Kenya. We found that the people were very welcoming and kind. Even though they do not have much material wealth and they constantly face daunting challenges, they have the most wonderful disposition.”

"I really like working with P4P because of the people involved and the mission," he says. "I think P4P is so effective because we are always open to new ideas and work through consensus. I also think it is extremely important to work with local people in Kenya and make sure they play a key role in the decision making process of the programs and efforts that P4P makes. The people of Kenya know what the needs are locally and what will make the most impact."

Greg has worked as a global solutions architect for Deltek Inc., for the last 11 years and lived in Spokane since 2007. The company sells Enterprise Resource Planning, accounting software for professional services firm. Originally from Boston, Greg and Jessica have three-and-a-half-year old twin daughters. When he's not working for Deltek or with his family, Greg says he loves to snowboard.

"I actually look forward to winter more than summer just because of snowboarding."

New Board Members

P4P is excited to welcome three new board members! Julie Bunker, a dietician with DaVita Healthcare, joined the board in October. She has been to Kopanga and serves on the Health Committee. Carol Miller and Ashley Lenz joined the board in November. Carol, who has also been to Kenya, is a retired physician's assistant and serves on the Health Committee. Ashley, CFO at Coeur d'Alene Bank, will serve as Board Treasurer and is a member of the Finance Committee. We are thrilled to welcome these talented people to our board of directors.

Remember to SMILE

Don't forget to sign up for Amazon's Smile program so your Amazon purchases can put a few bucks in P4P's fundraising coffers. It's quick and easy to set up with just a few clicks of your mouse. Go to www.smile.amazon.com and designate Partnering for Progress as your charity of choice. When you make purchases, you must log onto smile.amazon.com first (not amazon.com) in order for the credit to go to P4P. As of November we had received \$17.01. We can do better than that! Please sign up now and smile for P4P.

P4P Mentioned in Spokesman Review Article

In November, the Spokesman Review printed an article on Flying Doctors, a medical outreach group whose founder recently relocated to Coeur d'Alene. After covering the group's story, reporter Adrian Rogers mentioned that two other Inland Northwest groups, P4P and Healing Hearts Northwest, also conduct service missions to Africa. The Communications Committee's hard work has helped put our accomplishments on the local media's radar and we are pleased to merit a mention in this article. The word is spreading about P4P's

good works in Africa and our passionate commitment to a mission of providing access to health care, education, sanitation and clean water to residents in developing countries.

Violence in Kenya

The U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning for U.S. citizens traveling to Kenya in light of recent attacks by Somalia-based al-Qaeda affiliate al-Shabaab. U.S. government personnel are restricted from traveling to all coastal counties and cities along the Kenya/Somalia border and tourists are advised not to travel to these areas.

P4P is carefully monitoring the political unrest in Kenya and reminds our supporters that we will not send groups to Kenya if the situation deteriorates. In the meantime, we ask that everyone remember that thousands of tourists and aid workers travel to Kenya each year without incident. Additionally, it helps to keep geography in mind considering the current circumstances and the focus area of P4P.

The Somali border is east of Kenya and P4P works in the Migori region in the southwest corner of the state, near the Kenya/Tanzania border. There is no political tension between Kenya and Tanzania. Kopanga is over 900 miles from Mogadishu, Somalia, (Kopanga is close to Kisumu on the map), and 230 miles west of Nairobi. P4P teams arrive and depart from Nairobi, the capital city. Depending on flight arrival times, teams either spend one night in a Methodist guest house or are immediately transported to Kopanga. P4P utilizes Frate Tours, a reliable ground transportation company that has provided van service for us for over seven years. P4P's support and connection with the people of Kopanga is even more important now, and our programs make an important and positive impact on the lives of the people we serve.

Committee Reports

Health Committee

Six babies who were significantly malnourished have graduated from the Intensive Phase of the Power of Milk Program. The caregivers demonstrated their love and commitment to their babies' wellbeing by attending health education classes and bringing their babies to the clinic for weekly weigh-ins. Follow-up home visits and monthly weigh-ins will ensure their health will stabilize. Upon graduation the caregivers received two chickens which will provide a source of food for the family. Twenty children are still active in the program.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FROM MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER 2014

Wishing all our Partnering for Progress supporters, board, volunteers, and staff a safe, joyous holiday and a Happy New Year!

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