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PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS  
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*"I'm convinced of this: Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. For a change, start by speaking to people rather than walking by them like they're stones that don't matter. As long as you're breathing, it's never too late to do some good." ~~ Maya Angelou*



## Notes from the Field

By Seth Okumu

### Integrated Scholarship Review Meetings Ensure Program Success

P4P currently supports 22 children in Forms 2-4 (which is the equivalent of sophomore through senior years in high school in the U.S.), and we expect another five students will be selected in the next couple of weeks for the 2016 school year. We are proud of these students but believe that in order for them to succeed, they must have the support of their parents, their teachers and their community. It is one thing to pay school fees for a deserving student but it is another thing to lay the foundation that ensures they stay focused on their studies and continue to fulfil their part of the scholarship commitment P4P has established.

Many factors can affect a child's success in school and retaining students throughout their scholarship term can be challenging. P4P works to meet these challenges by conducting frequent meetings with the student, their guardian, the primary school principal and a P4P representative.

During the meeting, each stakeholder's performance is evaluated to determine if their involvement is working toward ensuring the success of the sponsored child. Problem issues are addressed in the most constructive way possible and solutions are devised to avoid future occurrence. Parents are encouraged to coordinate school visit days if their students are from the same school but one of them cannot attend. Former head teachers are requested to serve as mentors so that they may guide and counsel students and their parents. Additionally, students are asked to share textbooks with others when the class is short on textbooks.

We are very pleased to report that these small efforts have ensured 100 percent retention in P4P's scholarship program.

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Partnering for Progress, P.O. Box 28191, Spokane, WA 99228. Thank You!**

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### Meet Barb Morkill, Volunteer Extraordinaire

"In this crazy, sad world of ours, Partnering for Progress is a very hopeful organization. I am so proud to be involved," says Barb Morkill. "P4P encompasses the idea that we are a global village and that giving a hand up is better than a hand out. It is a breath of fresh air being around folks who care and work to make life better for others."

Barb's involvement with P4P started when the organization first began in 2008 when Sandy Ivers asked her to join the Board of Directors. "My job was to ask questions, to clarify issues, and round out the Board from a non-medical perspective."



As a retired elementary school teacher who believes education is always the answer, Barb's volunteer hours segued to the Education Committee, fund raising and auctions. Her current focus is P4P's annual spring fund raising event at the Spokane Civic Theater.

"My son is in Gambia doing agriculture work with the Peace Corps now," Barb says. "I have not been to Kenya, but because of my son, I will be venturing to Africa to see him. Unfortunately I will not be able to go to Kopanga."

Barb grew up in Oakland, California, and moved to Northern Idaho in 1974 to teach fifth and sixth grades. Her family eventually moved to Spokane and opened a furniture store. When her two sons were born, Barb left the store and worked with co-op preschools and Head Start. She's an avid gardener, loves to walk and enjoy nature's beauty, and feels centered spending time with friends.

"I believe in working to make my community better and I put much of my energies into environmental causes including the Inland NW Land Conservancy and others. We cannot live without clean water and clean air, here as well as in

Kopanga. I continually marvel at what P4P has been able to accomplish. Though my part has been very small, I am proud of our accomplishments."

## Economic Development

### By Traci Anderson

Last July, the Economic Development Committee reported that P4P would provide fertilizer, vegetable and grain seeds to ten farmers to participate in an agriculture program. Planting would begin in August. In return for the start-up assistance, the farmers would contribute produce and grain to the Power of Milk program, which provides education and food to malnourished infants. Excess vegetables and grains can be sold to improve the standard of living for families in the project.



To date, eight farmers are growing vegetables and two are growing grain. We're excited to see what the yields are when the farmers harvest in January and February. Post-harvest, we will survey the farmers to determine if the fertilizer increased yields over past seasons when it was not available.

Regarding the goat project, P4P continues to match funds for the Power of Milk graduates to purchase goats. This year the committee has budgeted to match funds for goats for the scholarship families and community health workers.

***P4P wants to give a big shout out to the members of the Economic Development Committee for the diligent work Chair Traci Anderson outlined in this report. Traci is supported by Stacey Mainer***

and Dr. Elizabeth Tipton. And while we are shouting, here's a call for more people to join the committee. Got ideas? Energy? Ready to get involved with vegetables, grain and goats? Send P4P's Administrative Coordinator an email at [info@partneringforprogress.org](mailto:info@partneringforprogress.org).

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## Become a Volunteer Now

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### Celebrating Corporations

P4P received gifts from several companies this year that highlight the generosity of corporations and the power of employee/customer advocacy. We are so grateful for these gifts which allow us to move our programs forward in Kenya.

The first gift, a check for \$2,000, came from **DaVita**, a global company that is a leading provider of dialysis services in the United States. The company's name means '*giving life*' in Italian and their mission is to support programs dedicated to creating positive, sustainable change in communities around the world. P4P Board Member Julie Bunker is an employee, and she recommended P4P as a candidate for DaVita support.

Consistent support has come from **Thrivent Financial** and their members. Thrivent's T-shirts read "*Live Generously*" – and they do! Each member has access to \$500 in **Action Team** grant funds each year as well as '**Choice Dollars**' at least annually. These funds are donated by Thrivent and directed by members to the non-profit of their choosing. Since Thrivent is a non-profit financial planning organization, those dollars that would normally go to shareholders go instead to groups doing good work throughout the world. If YOU are a Thrivent member and are interested in directing your Action Team grants or Choice Dollars to P4P, please contact [diamaurer@gmail.com](mailto:diamaurer@gmail.com) or call 509-389-9858.



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**Smile.Amazon.com** costs YOU nothing but benefits the non-profit of your choice. Last year P4P garnered over \$100 from this online shopping site that mirrors Amazon.com in every way. You must register first by going to <http://smile.amazon.com>, then whenever you shop, go to Smile.Amazon.Com (NOT Amazon.com), click on smile.amazon.com and 0.5% of your purchase price on eligible items will be donated to P4P.

**Microsoft** follows their employees' hearts by providing matching funds that are directed by their employee gifts – way to go David in selecting P4P as your non-profit recipient!

Another generous donation came from **Salesforce**, a company that provides customer relationship management software and has been named the most innovative company four years running by Forbes magazine. Employee Kayla won an award and named P4P as the recipient organization.

The **Empire Health Foundation**, whose vision is to transform Eastern Washington into the state's healthiest region, allows employees to direct donations to a non-profit and our thanks go out to Sarah for her passion for P4P.

These contributions support many programs and make a huge impact on many lives. They are greatly appreciated by P4P and the people in Kopanga and surrounding communities.

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## Little Women, 2016 Spring Civic Theater Fundraiser

Here's a new twist on a classic: *Little Women: The Musical*. The adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy and their mother, Marmee, in New England during the Civil War has been set to music and was performed on Broadway. Join us for our annual spring fundraiser Wednesday, March 16, at the Civic Theater in Spokane. Buy tickets at <http://partneringforprogress.org/civic-theatre-benefit.html> or call (509)720-8408 to purchase by check or credit card.

**CLICK TO BUY  
TICKETS**

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Economic Development: Traci Anderson

Education Committee: Cameryn Flynn (Co-Chair)

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Fundraising Committee: Chair Needed

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