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“There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live.” ~ Dalai Lama



A Decade of Progress - Celebrating P4P's 10th Year by Stacey Mainer, Co-Founder

Oh my, just imagine. It was 2007 and we were gathered around my dining room table with a big dream: to help Kopanga, Kenya, become a healthier community. Everyone – friends, co-workers, family – was on board with the dream.

We all recognized that the poverty and inequities that plague Africa are unfair and undeserved, but we were not sure how we, a small group of Americans, could do anything to bring about change. But we were determined. I have no doubt this determination was what fueled us in the early stages of P4P.

Fast forward to 2012. We are sending medical teams to Kopanga once or twice a year, we are saving lives and bringing higher health care standards to Kopanga. We have a strong volunteer leadership core and we are working hard, but the task is daunting. We know we need to hire someone with nonprofit management experience and skills to bring all the facets together and guide us.

Enter Dia Maurer, a woman with phenomenal knowledge, experience, tact and the ability to lead us to the next step. Dia becomes Partnering for Progress' first paid part-time executive director. Under her leadership, our committees formalize goals and structure, our board defines roles and responsibilities and our programs develop more depth. Through all of this, the Kopanga community becomes more involved in the work we do. This participation underscores P4P's original vision that the Kopanga community will be the leaders working alongside us to ensure a healthier community.

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

Notes from the Field

By Seth Okumu, P4P Project Coordinator

Jim Ivers does a very good job of explaining the importance of water tanks and water education in his article which follows. Working with the communities, we have chosen four schools which will receive water tanks this year. They are Lwala Primary, Mancha Primary, Magongo Secondary and Mubachi Secondary School.

Kenya is in a very critical time now with a drought that is said to be the worst in recent years. Since the drought directly affects agriculture and livestock, food security is threatened and more than a million people in the northern, eastern and coastal counties are facing starvation. Even if food is imported, most Kenyan families cannot afford to buy it at the same time they are forced to buy water.

On a more hopeful note, P4P has awarded scholarships to five new students. They are:



Jackline Atieno Otieno

St. Michael Nyarongi Secondary School

Scored 273 marks out of the possible 500

Career choice: Nurse



Beatrice Akinyi Owino

Bande Girls High School

Scored 270 marks out of the possible 500

Career choice: Traffic Police



Lydia Akoth Obuya

St. Michael Nyarongi Secondary School

Scored 312 marks out of the possible 500

Career choice: Nurse



Dan Ocholla Peter

St. Michael Nyarongi Secondary School.

Scored 332 marks out of the possible 500

Career choice: Accountant



Victor Odhiambo

St. Michael Nyarongi Secondary School

Scored 300 marks out of the possible 500

Career choice: Engineer

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Water Committee Report

By Jim Ivers

I would never imagine that a mud puddle could be a source of drinking water, but for many people in Kopanga/Giribe where P4P works, that is exactly what it is. The rainy season brings a lot of puddles, which become a convenient water source. Unfortunately, bacterium washes into the water sources so we generally

see an increase in water-borne diseases and cholera outbreaks.

The P4P Water Committee's primary emphasis now is providing community rainwater catchment tanks and educating students on the importance of safe drinking water. We have had success installing the tanks at the schools because they are well-organized with administration officials in place. The community is required to contribute, which insures their respect and pride in the project because they are consulted and they help make it happen. Four water tanks will be added to area schools this year and we will continue our education mission.



We believe that teaching people about clean water may be the most important part of our work. A water project may eventually need maintenance and/or replacement, but education is forever. To this end, our volunteer teams visit high school science classrooms where we demonstrate bacteria growth and show how chlorine inhibits bacteria growth. We also discuss latrine utilization and hand washing. This may be the most impactful part of what we do.

We have also provided protection to some natural springs in the area by isolating the spring from people and animals. The water comes out a pipe which is used to fill buckets and jugs. The natural spring immediately improves the water source, have no moving parts and require very little maintenance. We also try to include an education component about the value of protecting springs from contamination.



Be A Dream Maker -- Attend P4P's Kopanga Benefit Concert

Join Partnering for Progress in celebrating the power of community at our Kopanga Benefit Concert! Our goal is to raise \$2,500 which will go toward scholarships for five deserving freshman students. High school is not free in Kenya, and with your help these five young people will have the chance to finish high school and follow their dreams!

This fun evening will include live music by *Troubadour*, a local band that plays dance music from the 80's, 90's and 2000's, and *Funky Unkle*, specializing in funk, James Brown and Tower of Power tunes. There will also be a raffle for a one-of-a-kind Kopanga-inspired painting by local artist Katie Staib, First Friday artwork curated by Art Seed Spokane, a 50/50 raffle, great food, awesome company and more.



Come dance the night away and support P4P as a catalyst for change as we work to break the long-standing cycle of poverty and disease in rural Kenya.



Friday, April 7th, 7 PM - Midnight

The Observatory, 15 S Howard Street, Downtown Spokane

\$10 Suggested Donation

All proceeds will benefit P4P scholarship students in Kopanga, Kenya.

Special Thanks To

Presenting Sponsor: The Observatory

In-Kind Sponsors:

Strong Technology Consulting, Inc.

Artist Katie Staib (left)

Meet Linda and Amanda Strong, Mother-Daughter Volunteers

Linda and Amanda Strong are the mother-daughter powerhouse team behind the first annual Kopanga Benefit. Amanda joined P4P's Communications Committee as a volunteer intern in 2015 and was immensely helpful getting our social media platform kicked into high gear plus she was a big help with both the Into Africa Auction and Civic Theatre benefits. Amanda took a hiatus to pursue a Masters in Leadership for Creative Enterprises from Northwestern's School of Communication, and rejoined P4P when she returned.



Introduced to P4P by Amanda, Mom Linda began attending P4P events, and the two of them are now on the Fundraising Committee and took the reins to plan and execute the Kopanga Benefit.

“When we were approached about helping start a new art and music fundraising event for P4P, we were ecstatic!” Amanda says. Both women have art backgrounds. Linda worked for the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (the MAC) and Amanda focused on nonprofit arts management in college. “We couldn’t wait to combine our shared love of the arts with an amazing organization like P4P.”

Strong Technology

“One of the things we love most about P4P,” Amanda adds, “is its unique ability to create real, human connections between the people and communities it serves in Kenya. There is a face, a family and a story connected with everything P4P does. When you work with P4P, you know you are truly making a difference.”

Linda is co-owner and business manager at Strong Technology Consulting, Inc. which provides dedicated IT support for dental and professional offices across the Inland Northwest. Amanda is now working with her parents at Strong Technology, a synergy not all families are able to pull off.

“We love working together!” Linda says. “We just wish there wasn’t a wall separating our workspaces -- we like to chat.”

Both women enjoy traveling and checking out local art and music. Linda has recently taken up crocheting, enjoys gardening and spending time outdoors. Amanda spends most of her free time promoting, managing and listening to her boyfriend’s band, *Funky Unkle*.

[Volunteer](#)

By Gordon Jackson, Trip Leader

P4P's next Kenya trip is taking shape, with several individuals either firmly committed or highly interested, according to trip leader and P4P Board Trustee Gordon Jackson. "The team is primarily focused on medical care," he says, "but we have one person with a social work background and another who is a lawyer, each of whom will help us see things from unique perspectives and help us identify new opportunities to live out P4P's mission."

He adds that a feature of those who have firmly committed to the trip is their hands-on experience in Africa, either in the medical field or--in Gordon's case--having visited Kopanga in May 2016.

Gordon emphasizes that there's room for more **health care volunteers** who can help with this trip's medical emphasis. Trip dates are May 5 - 14, with the option for anyone who wants to stay longer to go on a safari. If you'd like to know more about the May trip, please email Gordon at gjackson@whitworth.edu.



Catch a Broadway Musical and Support P4P

Kiss Me, Kate is a play within a play, a romance within a romance and a lively, unforgettable Tony Award-Winning Broadway musical. Cole Porter wrote the music and lyrics for what became his most successful play. Over 1,000 performances ran on Broadway, and in 1949, **Kiss Me, Kate** won the first Tony Award presented for Best Musical.

Don't miss this entertaining way to support P4P. Join us **Wednesday, May 31** at the **Civic Theater in Spokane** for an evening of theater. Tickets are \$35 adult, \$300 for a

package of ten, and \$30 student. Our usual pre-function appetizer spread and no host bar will sweeten the evening even more. Buy tickets using PayPal at <http://partneringforprogress.org/civic-theatre-benefit.html> or call (509) 720-8408 for all other purchases.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Thriving Together

Partnering for Progress works with Thrivent Mutual Fund's Choice Dollars® program which gives Thrivent members the opportunity to direct donations to schools, churches and nonprofits. Last year over 335,000 Thrivent members made contributions to over 32,000 organizations through the program – and P4P was one of those recipients. Thanks to Thrivent member recommendations, we received \$457 in charitable outreach funds.

If you are a Thrivent member, now is the time to direct your **Choice Dollars**. Go to [Thrivent Choice page](#) on Thrivent.com to direct your funds, they expire on March 31st.

"Choose Your Cruise" Winner Announced

Congratulations to Bob Harley, winner of the Spokane Aurora Northwest Rotary "Choose Your Cruise" Raffle!!! Thank **YOU**, P4P supporters! Your purchases of raffle tickets helped raise \$592 to support P4P's mission in Kenya. Asante Sana!



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