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*My idea of Christmas is simple: loving others.  
Come to think of it, why do we have to wait  
for Christmas to do that? ~ Bob Hope*



## **Notes from the Field**

*By Nereah Obura, Program Coordinator*

### **Llawa Primary School Tank**

The 10,000 liter tank was well installed with the tap and gate valve. The tank is meant to serve a population of 470 pupils in the school, however with the water shortage in the area and no other safe source of water, the students from the nearby secondary boarding school break the padlock every so often to get access to the water.

The teacher who stays in school, Madam Rachel Wosia had this to say, "This water tank is a godsend. Before it was brought, we had a lot of water problems, walking long

distances to fetch water which in most instances was not safe for drinking. Thanks to P4P, now our pupils and the teachers and all members of staff now have access to clean drinking water during school hours.” Through access to this clean water, it is hoped that cases of water borne diseases will be reduced and class attendance of the children will improve.

As the primary school kids get their access to clean water, it’s also important to prioritize the secondary boarding school in the next year’s plan for water tanks. This is because if not

done, then taking care of the primary school tank will be very expensive to maintain due to frequent interference from the secondary school students.



The Nutrition Assistant, Charles, poses for a photo next to the Lwala branded tank



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## **What We've Learned from 10 years in Kenya**

**By Stacey Mainer and Sandy Ivers, Co-Founders of P4P**

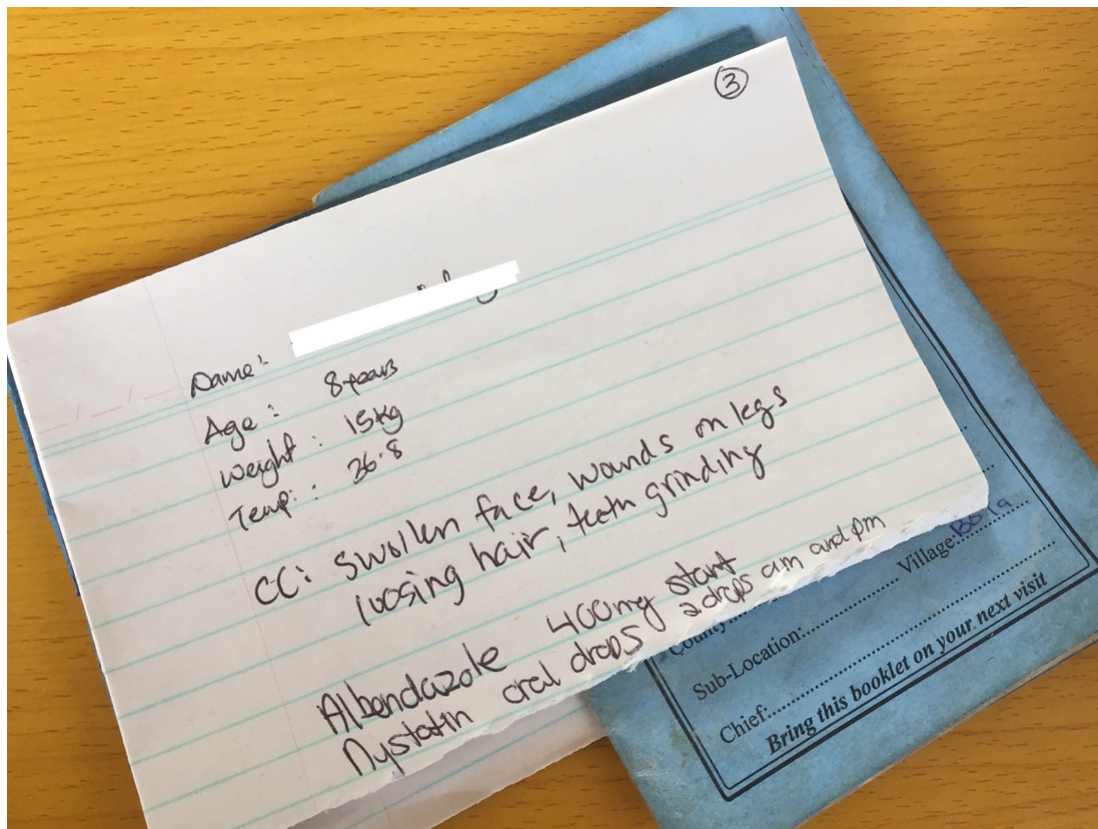
1. **POVERTY.** We underestimated the depth of poverty in this region of Kenya and the impact that poverty has on community health. It quickly became apparent that addressing health needs alone would not provide long term solutions, and we learned that P4P would need to broaden its scope of services and have a multidisciplinary approach to this complex issue.



2. **EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS.** It is important that programs are evidenced based. This can be challenging if our partners have a different point of view. Relying on data and research helps us understand ideas that work and others that might not. We have gained a lot of knowledge by using ideas that have been implemented successfully elsewhere before undertaking new

programs. Sometimes not all partners with whom we work have equal access to this kind of information, which can cause misunderstandings about programming issues.

3. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. We began working with a small group of people in Kenya, and it was a successful model for the first few years. However, we soon learned that P4P needed to develop relationships with many people in the community as well as members of the local government to be truly successful. This was particularly difficult in the beginning because we did not have P4P staff on the ground, and it continues to be challenging given the high turnover of government staff. We are still learning about the layers of authority and influence in the community, the “unseen leaders.”



Bush clinic patient record

4. CULTURE. Learning another culture is a challenge and misinterpreting communication signals or misunderstanding the concept of time is common. We learned that frequently the feedback we received from the community was what they thought we wanted to hear, not what they actually felt. Kenyans believe it is better to not disappoint, so sometimes the truth is difficult to ascertain. Searching for the real meaning of discourse continues to be a challenge. We

learned to expect the unexpected and to stay flexible. And we learned that our cultural concept of time does not translate to Kenya's concept of time. We learned not to expect quick solutions but to proceed pole pole (slowly, slowly).

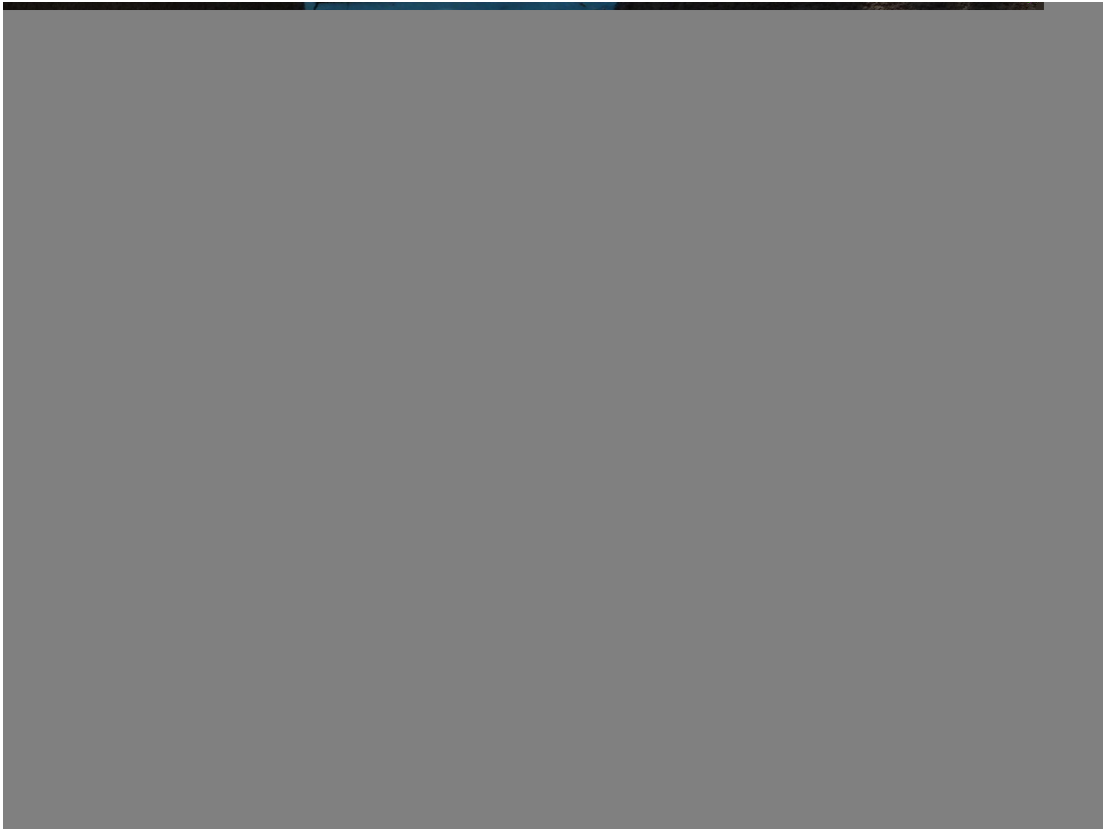
5. **HARD WORK.** Vision is critical in any wide-ranging endeavor and we initially relied on our friends to help establish P4P. However, hard work is also needed to implement an organization's vision, and countless volunteers and staff members have joined P4P to create the essence of this amazing organization.



PT Executive Director, Dia Maurer

6. **STAFF LEADERSHIP.** We wish we could have had an executive director like Dia Maurer early on. Her experience and expertise are taking P4P to another level with more accountability, clearer goals and defined objectives.

7. **FOREIGN BUSINESS.** Business in a foreign country is extremely difficult and the language and cultural differences can be significant impediments. For example, the relatively straightforward process of setting up a checking account entailed multiple visits to the bank and each visit involved an hour's wait. Learning how to establish legal status in Kenya took many months to figure out and finalize.




8. SERVICES FOR ALL. We learned that the needs are great and if we are providing services to one person or family, we must make those services available to everyone. Whether it's pencils or mosquito nets, if we gave out one, we needed to give out 100.



9. THE UNIVERSAL HOPE.

Community leaders are a wealth of knowledge and experience and their desire for change and opportunity



for their children is a universal hope. Parents the world over want a better future for their children.

10. NGOs. P4P has gained a wealth of knowledge working with non-governmental agencies that have similar programs and goals. We are grateful for the NGOs who have generously shared their experiences and knowledge with P4P.

These are some of the things we learned working in Kenya. What we learned working with all of P4P's supporters, volunteers, donors and staff here in the U.S. is how much people care about others and want to contribute to change. The strength, personal integrity and commitment of everyone who has rolled up their sleeves in one way or another to support P4P is amazing.

The list of people who influenced P4P along the way is enormous. We are so thankful for our partners in Kenya, our Board members, committee volunteers and the many people who have advised and mentored us over the years.

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## **The Will to Succeed**

**Rosemary Muriungi, P4P Board Member**

**By Renée Sande, P4P Communications Committee**

“Penye nia, pana njia.” Where there is a will, there is a way.

In the native tongue of Kiswahili, the national language of Kenya, this saying has the potential to carry a much deeper significance than most of us could ever imagine.

For Rosemary Muriungi, one of P4P’s newest board members, it has helped her to realize her dreams of a good education, fulfilling her life’s purpose, keeping her family close, and never forgetting from where she came.

“I am a great believer in reaching out for one’s dreams, however daunting achieving those might seem,” said Rosemary.

A widowed mother of three, Rosemary had worked in her country’s capital, Nairobi, before coming to the states in 2014 to pursue a PhD in Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University.

In 2016, a colleague introduced her to P4P’s executive director, and she has been involved with P4P as a consultant on her country’s culture and government and is now as a board member.

Rosemary currently acts as coordinator for Gonzaga’s Leadership Education and Academic Skills (LEADS) Mentorship program, a program which supports first-generation college students and students of color. She has also worked on various research projects associated with the

Roundtable discussion Rosemary facilitated at the Women LEAD Spokane Conference in March of this year



doctoral program in Leadership Studies and is a teaching assistant for the Masters in Organizational Leadership program.

“I find great fulfillment in developing talent and leadership capacity – especially in women and young people.”

In her spare time, Rosemary likes to travel, and has explored much of Kenya, touring different regions of the country to learn about the history and culture of the Kenyan people and to see the abundant wildlife of her country.

She also loves to read and listen to music and says she is very deliberate in creating quiet moments throughout the day to “cherish silence.”

“It is my way of centering myself, given the busyness of everyday life,” says Rosemary.

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**Volunteer**

*What are your skills and interests? What's your passion? Committee members are the life blood of Partnering for Progress and we welcome new members. Please consider helping support P4P's mission with your time and talents.*

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## **Committee Report – Water**

**By Robert Miller, Jim Ivers and Wayne Krafft**

Water testing tube

Bob Miller writes field notes for water testing of catchment tank

I traveled with the September P4P team and performed Colilert tests on water tanks P4P installed at Kopanga Primary, Boya Primary, Giribe, Nyamanga Primary, and Magongo Ribe Secondary schools. From 100 to over 700 students and community members draw water from these tanks. All of the schools passed testing. Some of the schools use Waterguard, a chlorine treatment, which is very good insurance.

These results were very gratifying and show that we are on the right track focusing our efforts on the schools. The high usage at Kopanga, Mubachi and Nyamanga indicate a strong case could be made for one or more additional tanks in these locations.

Also gratifying was the Nyanganira Borehole, a manual prime hand pump system without storage tanks that is very clean and well maintained and passed testing. The community has

formed a water co-op that charges a nominal monthly assessment for maintenance and repair of the system. This community was very active in taking care of the system, and their success demonstrates how important it is to have the community involved in the project.

Bob Miller (L) and Matt Didsbury (R) take a water sample for testing

Less gratifying was the Kopanga spring which failed testing, indicating that the protection of the source could use improvement. On the good side, the water was clearer than it would be without the spring, and several of the people interviewed said they used Waterguard to treat the water.

The Arombe Dam and River is a back-up source of water for Nyamanga during periods of drought. Both the headwater of the dam and the river were profoundly polluted and failed testing. Test vials converted to a frightening deep blue under UV light. This is unfortunately typical, as there are so many water holes around the area that are equally contaminated and still being used. However, current testing provides a startling contrast between the areas where we have been working and the way things were before P4P's water projects were begun.

While it is very encouraging that so many of the schools now have rainwater collection tanks that provide safe water during normal weather patterns, the results show that there is more that needs to be done in order to provide safe and sufficient drinking water to Kopanga/Giribe's schools during

times of extended dry seasons and drought. When the lack of rain fails to fill the collection tanks, the students are forced to return to unsafe water sources that pose a high exposure risk to potentially fatal waterborne diseases such as cholera.

Water catchment tank

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**Krismasi Njema!**

From our friends and co-workers and students in Kopanga/Giribe, comes this Kiswahili greeting, Merry Christmas.

Faith Oranga, who operates a deaf school in Kopanga, tells us, "During Christmas in Kenya, we celebrate with family members and invite families that do not have money to join us or we offer them new clothes for their children." At the deaf school, Faith says they exchange gifts, make decorations and play Santa Claus videos.

In this predominantly Christian country, December 25 is a national holiday. Families travel to their home villages and towns if they can, where everyone gathers to enjoy a feast, usually of roasted goat, and go to church on Christmas Eve then again on Christmas Day. Some churches have nativity performances and houses and churches are sometimes decorated with balloons, flowers and green leaves.

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## Save the Date!

**March 28, 2018**

Every year, P4P partners with the **Spokane Civic Theatre** to sponsor a night of theater. This annual spring event is an important fundraiser for P4P as well as an evening of friendship and fun.

We're excited to announce that 2018's performance will be the thriller ***Dial M for Murder***. Many will remember the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock tale of intrigue, infidelity, murder and revenge with an appropriately slimy villain and a beautiful victim. Or is she a victim....? Save the date, join us for ***Dial M for Murder***, and find out yourself.

**Theatre tickets make great gifts!**

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

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