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**Minds are like parachutes. They only
function when they are open.**

~ James Dewar





Notes from the Field

Nereah Obura, Program Coordinator

We had an opportunity to meet some of the scholarship boys and girls together with education committee chair, Mr. David Odongo, and a representative from the scholarship parents. The level of discipline and need was evident in these children and their families. All of these children had 300-plus marks, which is an average of B. I would like to introduce you to our newest scholarship students:

Elisha Mark Otient

Elisha, who aims to become a lawyer, is the first born in his family and, along with his five siblings, is being raised by his grandmother, a peasant farmer. I was touched by Elisha's discipline, both during the vetting and the home visit. He would stand up anytime he was talking (I had to tell him *every time* that it was OK to sit), and he constantly said "thank you" and "God bless you."



"We do appreciate from the bottom of our hearts this very kind consideration," his grandmother said. "I would not have been able to take my grandson to a school like Migori Boys. May you continue to do this needed work."



Vivian Akinyi John

Vivian is the second born in a family of two being raised by a single mother in a humble home in Masrura Village. Her mother travels to three markets a week to sell grains, a business which can barely sustain them. She earns an average of 20 KS (\$2.00 US) a day to support the entire family.

Vivian aspires to be a nurse and will attend her dream school, Nyabisawa Girls High School. Her mother and brother, Victor, were very excited that she received this

scholarship. Vivian's mother, Lilian, had this to say, "Finally my daughter's dream of joining secondary school has been answered, thanks to P4P, may God bless you so much."

Shanise Remy Makori

Shanise, a very calm girl who is always smiling, was the third best girl in her school. Two of her siblings are also attending secondary school and the financial burden is too high for the family who subsists on agricultural work. Shanise wants to become a lecturer (university professor) and is currently a Sunday school teacher and a youth leader at Maranatha Faith Assemblies. She will attend St. Albert's Girls High School in Ulanda.



Clinton Ouma Daniel

Clinton Daniel is the second child in a family of eight. His mother passed away in 2014 and his father has three children in secondary school. It is difficult for him to pay all of the required school fees. Clinton Daniel is very good in math and would like to become an engineer. In school he was a scout commander and a spiritual leader. He

will attend Tarang'anya Boys School.

Clinton's father told Clinton that he must take full advantage of this opportunity and would have only himself to blame if he doesn't work hard to achieve his dreams.

Simon Akoth Abodi

Simon is the last born in his family and the first one whose dream of attending secondary school has been answered. Simon has a calm demeanor and served as the class representative in class seven and class eight. His mother, a peasant

farmer, was widowed when she was pregnant with Simon and struggles to make ends meet.

“Simon is very disciplined and I have never seen any unbecoming behavior in him,” his mother said. He will attend Ikerege Mixed Secondary School and hopes to become a lawyer.



Mary Atieno Nyamwanga

Mary Atient is another polite girl. She was ranked second girl in her school and fifth overall. She hopes to become a secondary school teacher. The youngest child in a family of six, Mary is the second one in her family to attend secondary school. Both parents are peasant farmers who can barely manage to pay school fees for the children.

When her father was asked how he felt when he learned of her successful application, he said, “I prayed and gave thanks for I had no means to take the girl to school. I went to church and asked God to open ways for my girl to go to school. She is a very polite and disciplined child and I hope that she will not be badly influenced by peer pressure.”

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Call (509) 720-8408 to donate by credit card. Thank you!*

Education Committee Report

By Gordon Jackson, Committee Member

Like the old E. F. Hutton TV commercials about helping investors one at a time, P4P's Education Committee is likewise helping high school students one at a time. Students like Beldine Odhiambo. Writing to thank P4P for our scholarship support, she said: "You make me feel I ... have a purpose to accomplish in this world. My family members keep on thanking you."

Beldine, who aspires to be a lawyer, is one of 27 high school students from the Kopanga area whom P4P is helping complete high school. Full annual scholarships of \$300 for day students cover fees and other expenses; scholarships of \$500 enable a student to attend a boarding school, which is common in Kenya.



My ambition is to become a lawyer. This has been my dream since childhood. I feel that it is me to make a difference in other people's lives in a just way. I mean leave a great legacy in the world of tomorrow. Because I believe that I am the change that the world is eagerly waiting for.

An excerpt from Beldine's thank you letter



This past year also included a new milestone for P4P. We extended our educational support beyond secondary school. Alex and Malath (above), two of P4P's first high school graduates, are now attending teachers training college, because of P4P support. The ongoing generosity of P4P's donors enables us to replace the six students who graduated last year with the six new scholarship recipients.

Last year we also instituted practice tests to help all students prepare for the nationally administered standardized tests. Students' scores are going up, which increases their chances of receiving government support at the university level.

Another high-impact P4P activity in 2017 was the distribution of over 100 *Days for Girls* kits. Each P4P team heading to Kopanga meets with young girls, provides reproductive and hygiene information and provides them with re-usable feminine hygiene kits.

The Education Committee looks back on 2017 with much gratitude to you, all our P4P donors, who've helped to enrich life in Kopanga—one person at a time. **Asante sana.**



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Third 2016 Scholarship Graduate Accepted to Univeristy

Daniel Masaga wants to be a lawyer. Thanks to your support and sponsorship, he was able to attend Magongo Ribe Mixed Secondary School. We are proud to announce that this former scholarship student is putting his high school education to good use. Daniel is on his way to Kisii University to begin his studies and make a dream come true. Judging from his shy but happy grin, we think he's pretty proud of himself, too. Congratulations, Daniel.

A Passion for Education Attracts New Board Member to P4P

Sydney Russell, P4P Board Member and Treasurer

By Renée Sande, P4P Communications Committee



When the P4P board asked Sydney Russell to join the Board as incoming treasurer, we had no idea we'd be getting a tap-dancing accountant with a big heart who likes a good mystery and wants to contribute her skills to "making a world of difference, a world away."

"I found P4P through one of my co-workers at Moss Adams," said Sydney. "I knew I wanted to get involved after learning more about the organization and how

they help the people of Kopanga."

For the past two years, Sydney has been working in tax preparation at Moss Adams, where she also completed her internship while a student at EWU. She is currently working towards her CPA license.

As for dancing, Sydney has been passionate about it since she was five years old and is currently taking a tap class at the same dance studio she attended during her days at University High School.

An avid reader as well, Sydney loves a good suspense novel.

However, autobiographies feed her need to read and her love of laughter—her present favorite is Amy Schumer's, *The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo*.

Sydney has always had a passion for learning,

and when she was in high school, she took the opportunity to join Running Start, a program that enables high school juniors/seniors to attain college credits while attending high school.

When Sydney learned how difficult it is for young people in the Kopanga region to gain an education, she knew she had to do something.



Sydney with fiancé, Nolan

“I so appreciate that P4P has multiple scholarships and programs that contribute to providing the people in Kopanga with resources to be able to obtain an education,” said Sydney.

When not tap dancing away, reading or crunching numbers, Sydney enjoys spending time updating the 1950's home that she shares with her fiancé, Nolan, and their two cats.

[Volunteer](#)

Welcome to the Board

Linda Hagen Miller joined P4P's Board of Directors this month. She has served as chair of P4P's Communications Committee and newsletter editor/writer for the



past five years and has been to Kopanga twice.

Linda was a Peace Corps volunteer in Micronesia and parlayed her love of travel and other cultures toward a career as a tourism promotion professional. She currently works as a freelance writer and editor.

Welcome, Linda. P4P is blessed to have you share your passion, time and talent.

Dial M for Murder and Support P4P

Don't miss this year's annual spring fundraising event, *Dial M for Murder*. Produced by the **Spokane Civic Theatre**, the **March 28** event is Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 thriller, a tale of murder, revenge, intrigue and infidelity. You'll be

thoroughly caught up in this twisty tale, so be sure to join us. Doors open at 6:15 pm for coffee, desserts, and raffle. Curtain time is 7:15 pm.

Purchase tickets online via PayPal <http://partneringforprogress.org/civic-theater-benefit/> or by calling (509) 720-8408.

Purchase Tickets

Do you have time and talent to share? The committee is looking for volunteers to help plan (only three meetings prior to March 28) and/or help during the evening fundraising event. Please contact **Barb Morkill** at barbaramorkill@aol.com or call/text (509) 953-8014.



Any gently used mystery books to donate? The committee would greatly appreciate gently used murder mystery books and/or dvds to include in a "Dial M" raffle basket. Call (509) 720-8408.

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