

# **Progress Report**

Summer Newsletter
July 2013

# Empowerment Through Education



Thank You to Our Contributors:









Our Mission is to empower individuals and communities in need to achieve sustainability through education, leadership and Partnership.

Integrity Accountability

Collaboration

**Empowerment** 

Sustainability





## **International Volunteers**

What is joy? The children from Raven Education Centre chasing a monkey around the Animal Orphanage. Those same children playing on slides and swings for the first time ever. Hundreds (yes hundreds) of Dandora community children lining up for lollipops and stickers being handed out by

Mary-Ann and some strange tattooed white guy. A soccer game involving the children at Eating Stones Orphanage and white visitors from Canada.

What is trust? An exhausted little girl sleeping on the lap of a white person whose name she doesn't know during the bus ride home from the Animal Orphange. Walking through impoverished communities knowing we were safe because of Peter and other the Kenyans who were with us. Being driven through the chaos that is Nairobi traffic and knowing that our driver Dennis would get us where we were going without incident.

What is love? Being welcomed into the homes of people who had little and having them share that little with us. Bringing them food staples (bought not by us but by People For Progress Foundation) that would add to their meager supplies. Sharing an evening at the Mauka home which was opened to us at a time they were grieving the death of their mother and grandmother Koko and dealing with illness and injuries.

What is acceptance? The Kenyan workers incorporating us in their work (even though we probably slowed them down) because we showed a willingness to work with them. The tradesman Robert pooling knowledge with our work leader Ken to facilitate the renovating of the school. The families and children in Dandora greeting us as we greeted them each day we were there. The Raven children pulling us into their classroom time. Sharing communion talking with Kenyans who wanted to know the meanings of my tattoos. And being adopted by a little African cat who showed up at the student house.

What is hope? The community spirit in Dandora Phase IV, that Raven is part of. The chance for a future these children are being given at Raven and Eating Stones. The sense of belonging, foundation for change and ties to a larger caring world that a permanent reenergized building at Raven brings to the community.

What is a miracle? Being gifted with the opportunity to experience all these things. Being accepted by the children, staff, workers and community in Dandora. Feeling the joy of each experience by letting go of self and just going with the flow. Seeing all these things and the renovations progressing inspite of occassional challenges brought on by a western attitude of pride, selfness and entitlement that sometimes showed up in the Calgary team members, including myself. Being part of a larger whole.

Thank you to People For Progress Foundation and the anonymous friend who sponsored me for this awesome experience.

Ron Bennett International Volunteer

## **President's Letter**



To achieve unity, it is necessary for any of us who are abundant in any one aspect of human dignity to share with

those who are deficient in any area.

Our basic requirements for human dignity go beyond the physical realm of food, clothing, shelter, water and health care into the emotional realm of love, acceptance, belonging and education.

Some of our program participants have prior experience with extreme physical poverty often with strong emotional support and others survived extreme emotional deprivation while provided with strong physical support. Each community has their definitive strengths and weaknesses, while each struggles to become self sufficient.

Our Foundation develops the current physical and social networks of our communities. We work with community leaders to maximize the sustainability of our programs. By facilitating all aspects of human dignity, while specifically focusing our effort toward education, we are empowering our program participants and their communities.

Mary-Ann Stushnoff President

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## **Raven Education Centre**

Raven Education Centre is now celebrating our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of service to the Dandora Slum of Nairobi Kenya. We educate 65 children who we provide security, clean water and 2 meals per day. Our recent property development resulted in a fully functional school with 3 large brightly lit classrooms. Our facilities includes a kitchen, safe food storage, security centre, flush toilet, functional sink and sanitation area and a chicken raising project. We developed a teacher's resource centre, library and school supplies room and finally an office which provides space and privacy for parent and community meetings.

Our gratitude goes out to our many contributors and international volunteers who were an integral part of the renovation.









## **Community Development**

Raven Education Centre was inspired by an opportunity to give back to the home community of our scholarship students and founding partners, the Mauka family. Since the inspiration came to life in January 2011, the school has become not only a flagship program for People for Progress Foundation, but also an origin of community development.

The social network in the high density, low income environment of Dandora is at once ultimately powerful and extremely delicate. Our community presence is significantly impactful and as we develop relationships with local families, youth groups, government officials and police, we gain respect and appreciation from our new friends and neighbors. Our effort toward maintaining a clean, friendly and safe environment motivates the community toward increased development.

Since we opened Raven Education Centre 3 years ago, not only has the community become a more secure and cleaner environment, but we have also witnessed increased business development, along with improved property maintenance and a more uplifting, vibrant feel in the entire area.





**Integrity** Collaboration

Sustainability

Accountability

**Empowerment** 



## **Upcoming Events**

#### **Ford Drive One**

Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup> 2013 Lake Bonavista Prominade

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

D'Arcy Ranch Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 at 1:00 pm

#### Harambee

Annual Concert and Silent Auction Cardel Theatre Friday November 1<sup>nd</sup> 2013 6:30 pm

## **Board of Directors**

Mary-Ann Stushnoff President

- /			
		Director	Kenya
Susan Jack	kson	Treasurer	Canada
Dr. Bernad	dette Curry	Director	Canada
Sandi Carl	ile	Director	Canada
		Director	Kenya
Knute Smi	th	Director	Canada
		Director	Kenya
Dennis Ma	auka	<b>Executive Director</b>	Canada
		Chairperson	Kenya
Roystone	Mwiti	Secretary	Kenya

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Golf Tournament Coordinator**

- April July
- Lead a team of experienced volunteers

#### **Harambee - Concert and Silent Auction Coordinator**

- September November
- Lead a team of experienced volunteers

#### Website Designer/Update

- Monthly
- Update information, pictures and videos

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Canada

- Semi-annual
- Edit articles and put in a news letter format

## **Fund Development Coordinator**

- Monthly
- Apply for government grants and corporate sponsorship

#### **Event Committee Members**

- April July and September November
- Attend meetings to plan fundraising events

## **People for Progress Foundation**

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# **Committee Members**

Carmen Riguedell
Rolonde Marchand
Kelsey Beck
Taylor Carr
Muriel Keeling
Dr. Bernadette Curry
Mary-Ann Stushnoff
Susan Jackson
Phillip Poon

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www.peopleforprogress.net

Charity Registration # 84745 1119 RR0001

Our mission is to **empower** individuals and communities in need to achieve **sustainability** through **education**, **leadership** and **partnership**.

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Contact Mary-Ann 403-605-5563 for Registration!