

partners for care

QUARANTINED
Summer 2020

Partnering for hope and health in East Africa



From Our Founder Connie Cheren

These last three months we have all witnessed unprecedented changes. We have spent time in isolation and now, as we move forward, our world has changed. As we struggle here in the US with fighting the virus, our team in Kenya is also fighting the virus.

PFC staff repurposed the water backpacks as hand-washing stations in order to provide a way for thousands of Kenyans to wash their hands who would otherwise have no way to wash their hands. The packs also serve to teach people how to prevent the spread of the virus. This newsletter tells the stories of how PFC staff have set up over 2,500 hand-washing stations. Their efforts have been greatly appreciated and recognized by the people of Kenya.

Thank you to all who, despite what you are dealing with here, continue to faithfully support the team in Kenya.

Connie

A Message from Sammy Wanjau

Executive Director
PFC Kenya

The word that best sums up how I feel is “grateful.” That might seem pretty strange given the current global pandemic, but it really is how I feel every day. I say this knowing that things have forever changed and many people are suffering here in Kenya and all over the world. Jobs have been lost, lives have been lost, and much is uncertain about what life will be like going forward. These things are not lost on me or on the people Partners for Care serves.

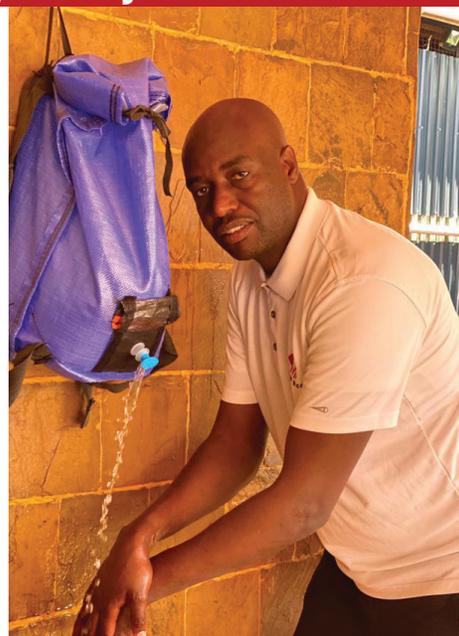
But I am also reminded of what remains the same -- the love, prayers, and support of our donors in the US who have rallied to ensure that Partners for Care staff have what we need to keep working and serving those most in need, even in the midst of this pandemic.

Your donations have made it possible for PFC to partner with organizations like the Kenya Red Cross and St. John Ambulance to deliver thousands of water backpacks, which are being used as hand-washing stations to help stop the spread of COVID-19. As you read through this newsletter, I hope you’re encouraged by the amazing quotes and stories of gratitude for the water backpacks that are helping to save lives in Kenya.

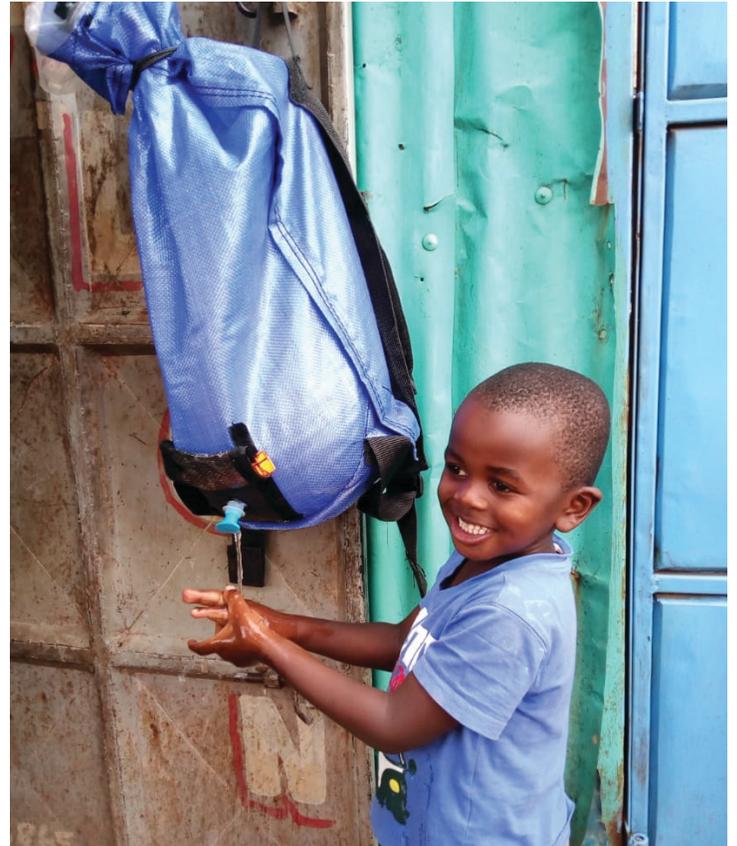
Thank you for the funds to provide bikes for our staff so we could avoid public transport and stay safe. Thank you for the funds to ensure that our staff and the children we care for have enough food during this difficult lockdown period. Thank you for sending Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to keep us protected from the virus as we serve the most vulnerable in slums and remote regions.

What remains the same keeps me grounded and hopeful. While the change all around us can be overwhelming, our PFC staff here in Kenya are inspired to keep going by the support of our donors in the US. We may be continents apart physically but we are one in purpose. It’s true that we are all in this together and we’ll get through it together.

Gratefully, *Sammy*



Using Water Backpacks as Hand-Washing Stations



The people of Kenya were told that washing their hands would help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The problem was WHERE could they wash their hands? Many people do not have access to a sink or fountain with running water. The Partners for Care staff realized they could use the water backpack as hand-washing stations. PFC US initiated the Stop the Spread campaign to raise funds to help staff set up the stations. Partnering with NGOs, government agencies, the Kenya Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, and other groups,

PFC staff have established over 2,500 hand-washing stations from Marsabit to Kilifi and throughout Nairobi. Each station has a volunteer who ensures the water backpack is kept full of water. They also teach people how to properly wash their hands, and they ensure that people stay socially distanced when lining up to wash their hands. Each station helps wash away the virus from their hands, their community, and their nation.



Summer 2020

Saving Lives

Dr. Linus Ndegwa

Dr. Linus Ndegwa, PFC Board Chairman for eight years is with Kenya CDC's Department of Infectious Diseases. Dr. Linus has been working closely with Sammy Wanjau, PFC's Executive Director, and Ashley Waudu, PFC's Water Backpacks program coordinator, throughout the pandemic. Dr. Linus has provided consistent direction and expert medical counsel on how best to protect our staff and the people they serve and how to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Dr. Linus has also helped Connie Cheren our President and Founder in her work helping healthcare facilities in the US manage the pandemic. Dr. Linus has always helped guide and direct PFC Kenya, but these last few months our team in Kenya has relied on him as they navigated through these unprecedented times. We are grateful for his compassion, leadership, and dedication to PFC and the people of Kenya.



Pastor Hirbo



Pastor Hirbo has been traveling around the villages of Marsabit in his car with loud speakers strapped to the roof telling people about the virus and how to use the water backpack to wash their hands. He is especially interested in reaching people living in manyattas (mud huts) and nomadic communities deep in the bush since they have no access to radio and television to provide them with information on the coronavirus. His motivation is to keep his people safe during this pandemic, especially where people live close to one another and are unaware of social distancing. Pastor Hirbo's greatest fear would be for the coronavirus to strike one of the manyattas and spread quickly throughout the community. So he strives to educate the villagers on the importance of hand-washing using the water backpack. To date, Pastor Hirbo's message of prevention has reached many villages and potentially saved hundreds of lives.



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Changing Lives

Summer 2020

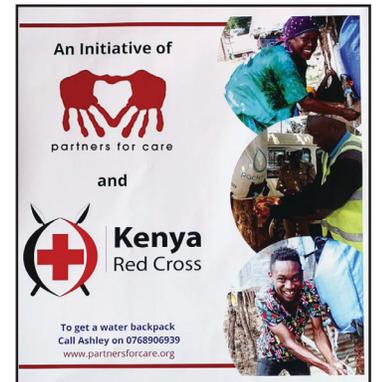
Kenya Red Cross



Partners for Care and the Kenya Red Cross teamed up to deliver and set up hand-washing stations during this pandemic. The Kenya Red Cross set up the stations with the help of their volunteers in Nairobi County (a coronavirus hotspot) and specifically in 10 slums including Mathare, Mukuru kwa Njenga, Kibra, Kangemi, and Korogocho among others. They also set up mobile stations in town based on the need in a particular area. The Kenya Red Cross volunteers were tasked with providing critical information on the coronavirus, the highly infectious respiratory disease. The packs serve as a great teaching tool on the importance of regular hand-washing in order to avoid contracting the virus. The beneficiaries of the hand-washing campaign using the packs have been tuk-tuk drivers, shoe-shiners and other informal workers who cannot afford to stay home during the pandemic. The volunteers ensure that people line up social

distancing themselves, as they wash their hands with the pack. The volunteers also use this opportunity to teach on how to prevent the spread of the virus. The water backpacks play an important role in this effort. The Kenya Red Cross is grateful for the support that Partners for Care has given them during this fight.

“The need for the packs is immeasurable as it provides an important tool for hand-washing, especially during the coronavirus pandemic.”
~ Vera, Nairobi
Field Coordinator
Kenya Red Cross



“Washing my hands using the pack helps me sleep better at night knowing my family and I are safe.”
~ Beneficiary from an informal settlement



Partnering for hope and health in East Africa

Saving Lives

PFC Board Members Have Helped

Moses Ndichu

Fredrick Njihia

In addition to serving as a board member to PFC Kenya, Moses Ndichu is also the Ward Administrator for Mwiki. The water backpacks have greatly enhanced his work in this capacity. Since most of the residents do not have the luxury of staying home to keep safe from the virus, the water backpack provides the perfect opportunity for residents to frequently wash their hands as they go about their daily activities. The packs have reduced the spread of the virus as it encourages regular hand-washing. As a result, there have been very few cases of the virus in Moses' ward. The pack has also proven to be a great teaching tool on the importance and effectiveness of hand-washing in the overall health of the community.



Fredrick Njihia has been able to set up over 25 hand-washing stations in Nairobi County. He selected a delegate to attend the stations to ensure that the packs are being used correctly for optimal effectiveness. Fredrick targeted specific locations for the hand-washing stations, such as entrances to major estates so that every person entering and leaving has the opportunity to wash their hands. The packs have become instrumental in improving community hygiene practices and curbing the spread of the virus.



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St. John Ambulance

Partners for Care partnered with St. John Ambulance, Kenya's largest emergency transport company, to deliver and set up hand-washing stations throughout Kenya. The stations are manned by St. John Ambulance volunteers in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kakamega, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu, and Embu counties. The team is working to stop the spread of the virus by educating people on the importance of hand-washing using the pack as a teaching tool. The pack is an asset to the team especially in some areas where the demand for hand-washing stations is high. The pack has facilitated their work in stopping the spread of the virus through regular hand-washing. Mr. Majiwa, Head of Programs & Emergency Services for St. John Ambulance commends Partners for Care for their tireless work in the fight against the virus.

"The waterpack is the best gift I have received during this pandemic as it has taught me the importance of washing my hands."

~ Beneficiary from an informal settlement



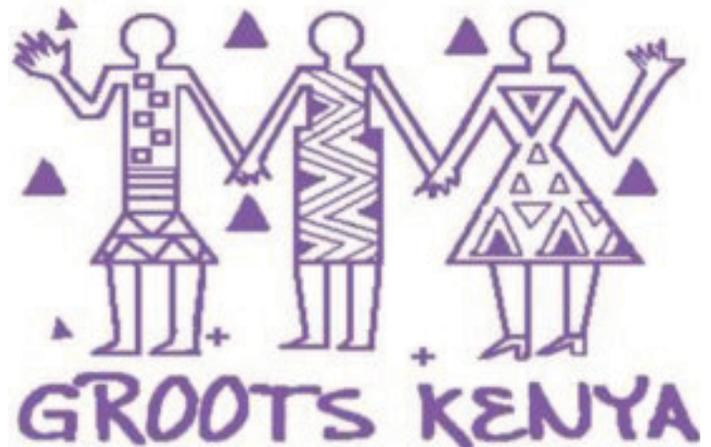
"The water backpacks are like gold to the team. Everywhere we go, people need one for themselves but we cannot leave them behind as it is everything we need for continuity of proper hand-washing."

~Fred Majiwa, Head of Programs & Emergency Services



Pacifica Ongecha

- Pacifica Ongecha is the Coordinator of Groots Kenya
- Movement in Limuru Constituency and one of PFC's
- partners in setting up the hand-washing stations. Pacifica
- says "Serving the community has always been my passion.
- Receiving the packs from Partners for Care was beneficial
- to my community in Limuru. The water backpacks are only
- helpful if used properly. That's why I decided to man the
- station at the bus stop to make sure people know exactly
- what they need to do to keep themselves, their families,
- and their country safe. The virus has taught me that
- nobody can do it alone. We have to come together in this
- prevention effort. People need to learn the importance of
- hand-washing and social distancing to avoid further spread
- of the virus. The water backpacks have helped in reducing
- the spread of the virus because they have encouraged the
- community to wash their hands regularly. We appreciate
- Partners for Care for the gesture."



Summer 2020

Saving Lives

Sammy Wanjau



With the counties in Kenya all “locked-down,” meaning no travel from county to county, food has become a problem for Pastor John at Kathi’s House and for Pastor Hirbo in Marsabit. Food is scarce, as it is no longer coming into the counties. And, with no school all the children are at home at Kathi’s House and there are many more children to help in Marsabit. In Kenya children are fed through school feeding programs so no school means the needs are greater. With the help of our donors PFC has been able to ensure all the children at Kathi’s House and those Pastor Hirbo rescues are being fed. Sammy, PFC Director, buys food in Nairobi and with the permission of the police crosses the county border to Mai Mahui and takes the food to Kathi’s House along with needed supplies. He sends the food to Pastor Hirbo by truck that delivers essential supplies like medication to Pastor Hirbo. Thank you to Sammy and the staff who help him and to our donors that help ensure the children we love are being fed during this pandemic.



Pamela



- Pamela, the sewing school
- tutor, has played a big role in
- fighting this pandemic. She
- transformed the sewing class
- into a production center for
- masks. The masks have helped
- keep the PFC staff safe as they
- continue working. Pamela calls
- it her own small way of fighting
- against the coronavirus.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help the PFC Staff continue their work to STOP THE SPREAD of the coronavirus, in Kenya where large groups of people live in close proximity to one another and there is limited or no access to safe water for hand-washing. An outbreak of the virus in densely-populated areas would mean thousands of deaths, many of whom would be children. To date, we have distributed over 2,500 packs with many more packs ready to be distributed.

It’s true that “we’re all in this together” because stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Kenya slows down the spread everywhere else in the world. That means precious lives saved everywhere.

\$10 Donation = 1 pack

\$100 Donation = 10 packs

\$1000 Donation = 100 packs

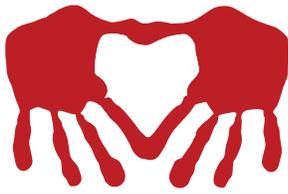
Donate online at www.partnersforcare.org/donate

OR

Mail a check to:

Partners for Care, 2001 Breckenridge Lane, Alpharetta 30005





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Thank You to All Our Partners!



MedShare



Mobility
Worldwide

Empowering People



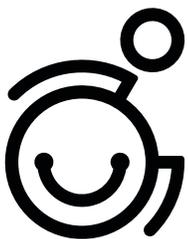
The Engineering for
Social Innovation
(ESI) Center

Mt Kenya



University

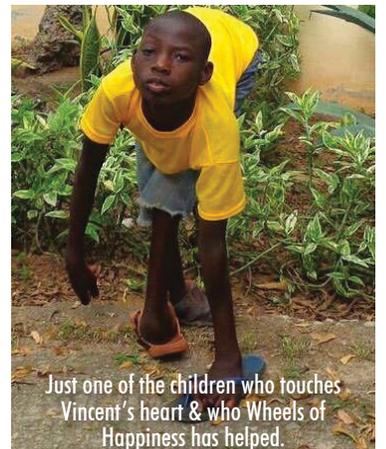
Welcome **Wheels of Happiness, Our Newest PFC Partner!**



**WHEELS OF
HAPPINESS**
FOUNDATION

Wheels of Happiness Foundation has joined Partners for Care to help raise funds for mobility devices for those in need in Kenya. Vincenzo Piscopo, Founder and President, has already helped PFC with funds for 100 mobility carts.

Welcome Vincenzo and Wheels of Happiness! We look forward to partnering together to provide mobility and hope to those in need.



Just one of the children who touches Vincent's heart & who Wheels of Happiness has helped.

www.partnersforcare.org