



### From Our Founder Connie Cheren

While we love to share the work of our staff by the numbers...17 computer schools, 9 sewing schools, a million people reached with the message of HIV/AIDS through our outreach team, 14,000 treated for the crippling jigger, 2200 mobility carts, and 47,000 water backpacks distributed....it's really the stories behind these numbers that encourage our staff and touch our hearts.

**LIVES CHANGED** – that is what we want to share with you in our Spring newsletter.

We hope that as you read the stories behind the numbers, you too will be encouraged. We hope that each story of a life changed makes the work of Partners for Care just a little more personal and a lot more significant.

We are humbled and grateful that each life impacted by the work of our staff is made possible by the generosity of our partner donors.

*Connie*

### A Message from Sammy Wanjau Executive Director

PFC Kenya



This year, Partners for Care participated in the 2018 President's Devolution Conference in Kenya. The fifth Annual Devolution Conference kicked off on April 23 in Kakamega County and focused on four key areas: manufacturing, affordable housing, universal healthcare coverage, and food security. The term "devolution" means that resources, responsibilities and power are transferred to the 47 Counties.

Because so many of Kenya's governors were in attendance, it was a great opportunity to share the work of Partners for Care. PFC Founder Connie Cheren, myself, and staff members Chalo, Ashley, and Anthony demonstrated the water backpack, and pointed out how much more efficient and safe the water pack is over a jerry can for water transport and storage. The governors were very impressed with the simplicity of the pack's design as well as its efficiency and affordability. We also demonstrated the mobility cart for the governors and shared many stories of lives changed by the gift of mobility.

It was exciting to have participated in this year's Devolution Conference, and we look forward to following up with all the governors who stopped by our booth.

*Sammy*





# Changing Lives

Spring 2019

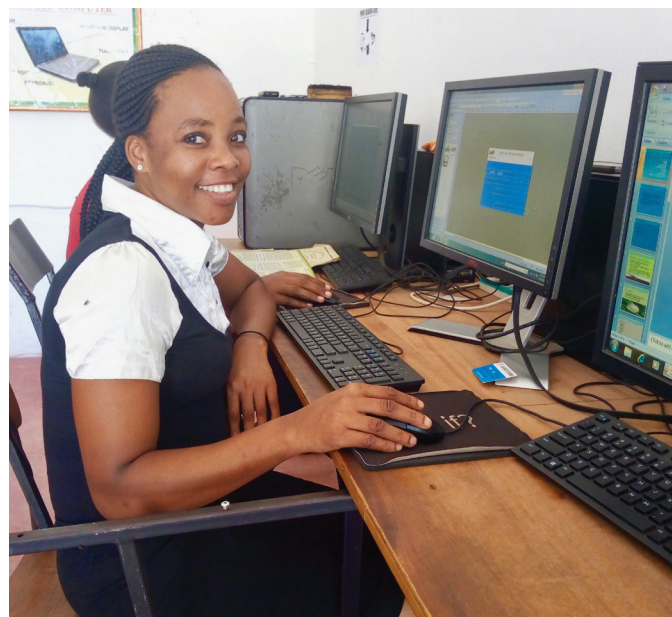
## Jiggers

*Mama Zawadi Katana*

Mama Zawadi is a resident of Kubo Village in Kilifi County. She is a beneficiary of Partners for Care's anti-jigger campaign. In a recent follow up visit to her home, the team found that Mama Zawadi can now walk comfortably because the wounds caused by jiggers on her feet have healed. She says this is the first time in a long time that she is able to walk painlessly, and is grateful to Partners for Care for the good work they are doing in Kilifi.



## Computer Schools



Furaha Thoya is a kindergarten teacher employed by the Kenya government. The government recently passed a directive requiring all teachers to have computer education. This worried Furaha as she could barely afford to pay college fees on her meager salary. When she heard about Partners for Care's computer school in Watamu (Kilifi County), she immediately signed up and has since developed a solid foundation in computer skills. Faraha's proficiency in computers not only helps ensure that she will keep her job, but also gives her a competitive advantage for promotional opportunities. Faraha looks forward to impacting many students' lives with the knowledge she has acquired in the class and is thankful to PFC.



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# Saving Lives

## Medical

Mr. Ireri is a 92-year-old man who lives in Juacali slum in Nairobi, about half a mile from the Partners for Care medical clinic. Our medical team discovered Mr. Ireri and his wife while making routine home visits. Both Mr. Ireri and his wife had been bedridden for some time. Mr. Ireri has severe osteoarthritis and had developed sores due to his immobility. Our clinician Dr. Sheila immediately put him on a treatment plan and has continued monitoring his condition, which has greatly improved. Our staff visit Mr. Ireri and his wife twice a week.

Recently, PFC medical staff gave Mr. Ireri a walking frame, which we received from our partners Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC). Using the walking frame, Mr. Ireri is able to walk short distances and even go outside to sit in the sun. He is thankful to Partners for Care's medical clinic for the care he and his wife receive and for the gift of the walking frame.



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# Changing Lives

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## Sewing School

"I am thrilled to learn how to sew different types of clothes. When I joined Partners for Care's sewing school, I didn't know anything about sewing but I have wanted to learn the skill ever since I was a young girl. In three months time, I learned how to make many different fashions and designs, like the one I am wearing. I thank God for Partners for Care for giving me the chance to develop a skill I can use now that I am retired. I am already making \$50 a week from sewing at home." Anne Gene



## Literacy Schools

Janet Chiku missed out on an education as a young girl because her family lived in a remote village, and her parents could not afford to take her to school. She grew up hoping to somehow get an education and did household chores for neighbors to try and raise the required school fees. Unfortunately, the money she saved never seemed to be enough and she eventually gave up on her dream. That is until recently, when Janet learned that Partners for Care had granted her pastor's request to offer literacy classes at a local church right there in her own village. Janet was overjoyed and signed up immediately.



The church literacy school doesn't have desks or chairs, but that doesn't stop Janet from coming every day to sit on the floor and learn. Our literacy teacher from Watamu, Eunice, comes every day to teach Janet and the other students. Thanks to her new literacy class, Janet can now read and write. She says her dream has come true.

PFC is committed to reaching as many underserved people as possible to help them learn to read and write and change their lives!



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## Mobility Carts

Pastor Samuel Kazungu is a physically-challenged, father of five who weaves mats, baskets and hats for a living. Samuel received a mobility cart in 2016 and it changed his life completely. He cycles 12 miles from his home to Galana River and back to cut reeds for his mats, baskets, and hats. On Sunday, Pastor Samuel cycles to the Baptist Church in Mijomboni to give his sermon. He is grateful for the life transformation that the mobility cart has given him.

*Partners for Care continues to partner with Mobility Worldwide to change lives.*



# Changing Lives

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## Why I Support Partners for Care

Laura Leeds, PFC Supporter

For the past 10 years I have listened to my friend, Connie Cheren, and watched her do amazing things to develop Partners for Care (PFC), the nonprofit she founded based in Kenya. I prayed and thought about going there. Wouldn't the cost of the trip be better used as a donation to PFC than having me go? Of course Africa would be a new notch on my travels but again, WHY GO? I can just look at the pictures from every non-governmental-organization (NGO) asking for money, so WHY GO?

***But when I prayed about it I kept getting the same answer...GO, and so I finally did.***

I did not have to go to know that many Kenyans live in extreme poverty, have no water and their children die of hunger and curable diseases. There is not enough clean safe drinking water, and 4 % of the children are at risk from lack of food and water. In Nairobi about 60% of the people live in slums. They do not have the luxuries of indoor plumbing, running water, stoves.

***So again I ask WHY ME?***

Kenya is a young nation. Many of their young adults are resourceful, talented and serious. I learned that with a high school education these men and women dedicate themselves to improving the lives of their community and families. They use their resources and talents to influence and change what they can. No matter how small their wages, they reach back and take care of their parents and siblings' families. When parents die they take care of the children. This caring comes at a cost – they sacrifice their comforts and futures. But their faith in God's provision is enormous. That provision comes from those of us who have been given the GIFT of living in a resource-rich country.

***Now WHY ME is clear.***

I witnessed a deep faith in God in the people of Kenya, and I discovered areas where I need to strengthen my own belief in HIS providence. I realized that we in America did not earn our good life – It is a GIFT. Our GIFT began when we were born or immigrated here. Yes we work hard, but so do Kenyans and yet they suffer. My job going forward is to never take for granted my running water, house, food supply and choices, medical services and our FREE EDUCATION. My job will be to follow the prophet Micah and "Seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."

WHY ME? has become WHY **NOT** ME? This is the reason I support the work of Partners for Care. I want to be a part of an organization committed to reaching children and their families who would otherwise perish from disease and poverty, giving them food, water, medical care, access to education, and hope for their future.



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# Saving Lives

## Beyond Zero Run

Several PFC staff members participated in the 21km (12 miles) Beyond Zero Marathon. The purpose of the run was to raise funds for mobile clinics and to raise awareness of infant deaths during birth. Partners for Care is pleased to have offered support to Her Excellency the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, who is one of our partners for the mobility carts.



“Special thanks to Sandie Hugg, PFC board member, for sponsoring the PFC staff runners.”

## What People Are Saying About Partners for Care

*Nisha Patel, University of Missouri student & PFC Volunteer*

I am so excited to share a small part of my trip to Kenya with you. As a soldier, pre-med, and Miss Heart of St. Louis, service has always been an integral part of my lifestyle. However, after multiple experiences of serving in other countries and my local community, I was forced to ask myself “am I really making a long-lasting impact?” This inspired me to start RFA (Relief for Africa)-Mizzou. With the help of my amazing group of friends and my mentor Dr. Jeanetta, we established our mission by focusing on sustainable projects while incorporating strong student initiatives in Kenya.

With our newfound organization, we ran into a few roadblocks. We realized that running a non-profit was not an idealistic notion served on a silver platter. Finding and sustaining members, establishing a consistent line of communication abroad, and solidifying a viable project took months of planning, re-planning, structuring, and restructuring. So much so, that it seemed as if failing became our new mantra. And with every idea and every aspiration lost, we also lost sight of our vision. But then, fortunately, we met Connie Cheren, Founder of Partners for Care, and her PFC team and our vision was restored.

I would like to thank Connie from the bottom of my heart for mentoring me on how to efficiently run an NGO. I want to thank every Kenyan PFC staff member for treating us like family and filling our days with an endless supply of laughter. I want to thank each person who believed and donated to our cause. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the men and women of Partners for Care to change the lives of so many.

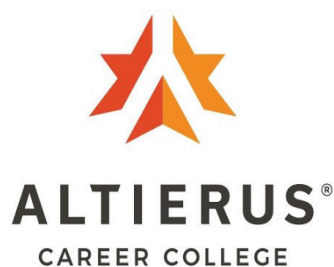




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# Thank You to All Our Partners!



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