



Fall 2019

Partnering for hope and health in East Africa

### From Our Founder Connie Cheren

Back in 2007 when the idea of Partners for Care as a nonprofit in Kenya was just forming, we needed to come up with a logo for the organization. Ryan Morris, who spent time with PFC in Kenya developed the logo and we loved it. If you're a PFC follower, you instantly recognize the two red hands coming together to form a heart in the middle.

Our logo beautifully symbolizes what can happen when we put our hands together - love can grow an organization and help transform lives. And that's exactly what has happened over the eleven years Partners for Care has been serving the materially poor in Kenya.

Hundreds of people who believe in the work of PFC and have a heart for helping others, have joined hands with our PFC staff over the years to help thousands of the world's most vulnerable people through generous donations of their time, talents, and treasures.

We wanted to do something a little different in this newsletter and highlight just a few stories of the amazing ways people have both supported and raised funds for the work of PFC. We will continue to share more of these inspiring stories. Together, we've raised almost \$5 million dollars and another \$5 million in in-kind contributions since Partners for Care began, and the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Kenya have been changed forever.

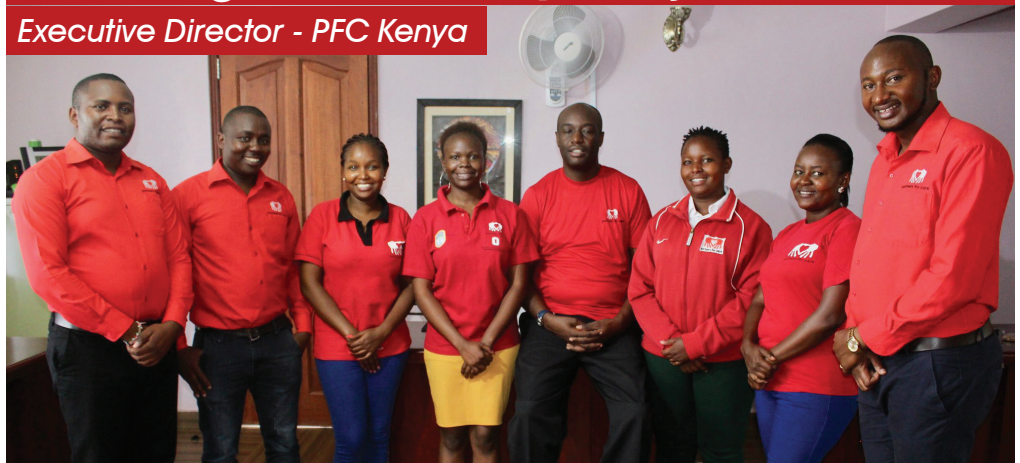
We hope these stories of those who found creative ways to raise funds to support the work of PFC will encourage and inspire you!

*You will be made rich in every way, so that you can be generous on every occasion...your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. - 2 Corinthians 9:11*

Connie

### A Message from Sammy Wanjau

Executive Director - PFC Kenya



It's a little overwhelming to think about the thousands of lives changed by the work of Partners for Care over the last eleven years - over 1 million people have been reached with the life-saving message of HIV/AIDS prevention; more than 16,000 people have accepted Christ, over 250,000 people have been given access to safe water through our water backpacks program; over 2,000 disabled children and adults have received the gift of mobility through our mobility carts program, and thousands have acquired the skills they need to secure jobs and earn an income to feed their families through our computer, literacy, and sewing schools.

We never lose sight of the fact that none of it would be possible without the prayers and support of our donors. One of my favorite quotes says "No one who achieves success does so without the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude."

We ARE grateful for you! Your financial support funds the work, and your emotional and prayer support fuels our souls. Your commitment inspires our staff in Kenya and we are working hard so our programs are sustainable through donors here in Kenya, partnerships, and user fees. The Music for Change recording and equipment rental program brings in enough funds to support one PFC staff member. Member fees for our Circles of Health program cover the cost of medications and all our partner sewing and computer schools are self-sustaining.

This newsletter is dedicated to you, our donors. This edition highlights some of the creative ways our donors have used to raise funds to support and advance the work of our staff on the ground.

Thank you for partnering with us to change the lives of the materially poor in Kenya. Together, we are building a better future for the people of this beautiful country.

Sammy

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# Changing Lives

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## Bed Nets

*Jim Wall*

Jim Wall is a retired professor of business at the University of Missouri and, though his career has been in academics, his passion is for helping others in the world. Jim met Connie at a Mobility Worldwide Conference a couple of years ago and decided he wanted to help support the work of Partners for Care. Jim was especially drawn to the fact that PFC has “boots on the ground” and can implement sustainable solutions quickly and effectively. He wasn’t interested in a lot of fanfare, his concern was only with getting bed nets to families to protect them from malaria.

Jim asked if PFC could get bed nets distributed to those in need if he donated funds to purchase them. The answer was of course, yes! Since PFC’s partnership with Jim, he has donated enough to provide thousands of children, pregnant women, and the elderly with bed nets to protect them from malaria.



## Computers

*Dwight Smith*



Dwight Smith is the CEO of an IT company called Sophisticated Systems Inc. in Columbus, OH. He’s also the founder of a nonprofit called Thanks Be To God Foundation ([tbtgfoundation.org](http://tbtgfoundation.org)). Through its partnership with Sophisticated Systems Inc, the foundation provides desktops and laptop computers to non-profits including schools and community centers.

In his personal bio, Dwight says “I have always believed that it is extraordinarily important to give back and the Lord has laid it on my heart to do so.” Dwight has put this belief to work in a big way with Partners for Care. He has donated hundreds of computers and peripheral equipment to PFC’s computer schools in Kenya so that underserved children and adults would have access to computer training. The skills learned through PFC’s computer schools pave the way for students to secure jobs, go on to college, or start small businesses, all of which provide the opportunity to earn an income and provide for their families.

Hundreds of men, women, and children have benefitted from the computers Dwight has donated. And he’s not done yet! Dwight has pledged to donate even more computers so that additional schools can be opened and more people will have brighter, more hopeful futures.



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# Saving Lives

## Computers & Food

*Kelli & Keith Joyner*

Keith and Kelli Joyner met Danny Kellenberger and his wife Betty through a small group they all attended. Over time, a friendship formed and Danny was able to share with them about the work of Partners for Care. Keith and Kelli loved the simplicity of the organizational model and the very real impact the work was having on the lives of so many in Kenya. They became PFC monthly donors, but their support didn't stop at monthly giving – Keith and Kelli found other ways to help PFC as well.

Kelli has worked for UPS for over 30 years. When PFC needed to raise funds to ship 100 donated computers to Kenya, Kelli offered to see if the UPS Foundation would be willing to help. The UPS Foundation was more than happy to help. They sent a truck to pick up and load the computers and they covered the shipping cost to send them all the way to Kenya!

Those computers are now in use in our computer schools where access to computer training is made available to some of the most marginalized people. The skills and

knowledge they develop help them find jobs, start small businesses, or go to college – all of which help them earn an income to provide for their families.

The Joyners also give to PFC through UPS's United Way Employee Giving program. Every year, around Easter time, United Way sends a charitable donation on behalf of the Joyners to Partners for Care to help advance the work of our staff. One of those donations came during a particularly harsh drought in Marsabit. People were starving and food and water were desperately needed. PFC was able to raise funds to send a truck with bags of grain to Marsabit. The people needed to grind the grain into usable flour for cooking. The Joyner's donation allowed PFC to purchase a large food grinder that our staff used to grind the grain and give hundreds of bags of flour to the starving people. The grain was enough to sustain life for many people until the rains finally returned.



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## Sewing Schools

*Linda Grosskopf*



Linda is our Michigan board member and a passionate advocate of women in Kenya. Linda wanted to help PFC open a new sewing school so more women would have the opportunity to learn to sew and

earn an income to support their families.

Mobility Worldwide had donated 10 sewing machines for use in our sewing school, but the machines had to be retrofitted so they could be placed in tables and work in areas where electricity is not available. The cost to retrofit is about \$100 per machine.

Linda launched a campaign to raise \$1,200 to cover retrofitting and purchase sewing supplies (fabric, thread, scissors). She designed a beautiful flyer titled "Families Are Fed By Needle and Thread" and prayed about to whom she should send the letter. She tracked responses and followed up with donors keeping everyone informed of the campaign's progress. In just a few weeks, Linda had raised enough to retrofit all 10 machines and purchase the needed sewing supplies!

PFC then partnered with an organization called Come Together Widows and Orphans to open the new sewing school, which bears the same name. The organization's mission is to rescue women and girls who are victims of domestic violence. There are 20 women in the sewing class. Imagine how the lives of these women, and many others in the community, will be rehabilitated and transformed for the better! Learning to sew will give them the skills they need to earn an income to support themselves and their children and move forward with new hope for the future.

### Families are Fed by Needle and Thread



#### Ten New Machines are Waiting . . .

Many families do not have access to electricity, so machines must be adapted with pedals for use. For just \$100 per machine, a whole new world of opportunity will be opened up for a seamstress and her (or his) family.

**Will You Help?** I'm asking for your help to raise \$1,200 **by Easter**. (\$1,000 for 10 machines + \$200 for supplies) Let's get those machines humming and give hope to more families! **Please contact me soon!**

Thank you! *Linda* 231-838-9314 lgrosskopf7@gmail.com

## Kathi's House

*David Gruber*

Over a decade ago, David Gruber partnered with Connie Cheren to help build and finance Kathi's House of Restoration, a ministry of Partners for Care located in Maai Mahui, Kenya in the Great Rift Valley. Kathi's House was built in honor of David's late wife, Kathi, who had a passion for missions and a special way with children.

Kathi's House is a respite for orphans, especially children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. David is a PFC board member and over the years, he has helped raise thousands of dollars for the children of Kathi's House. His efforts have helped Pastor John and his wife Mary restore the spiritual and physical health of dozens of children. The funds he has helped raise have provided school uniforms and tuition to send the children to school so they would have an education and a chance at a brighter future. Those funds have also been used to purchase shoes, winter coats, medicine, and school supplies for the children. Pastor John and Mary love and care for the children in a home-like setting, something these children would otherwise never have experienced.

Over the years, David has raised funds in various ways to help keep Kathi's House open. Some of his fundraisers include a 5k walk/run, a vintage bourbon raffle, corporate sponsorships, and appeals to friends and family who knew and loved Kathi Gruber. We are grateful to David for partnering with PFC so many years ago and for "never growing weary" in his efforts to honor his former wife by helping the children of Kathi's House.



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## Mobility Carts

*The Kellenberger Family*

While Danny Kellenberger has volunteered for Partners for Care since it was formed, he had never been to Kenya to see the work first hand. Danny involved his whole family as he prepared to travel to Kenya.

Danny and his wife Betty wanted to give their 13-year old son Daniel the opportunity to experience the world from the viewpoint of those in the developing nation of Kenya. They launched a fundraiser on Facebook to cover the cost of distributing mobility carts to disabled adults and children. The Kellenbergers covered the cost of their travel to and from Kenya, and invited their entire family, friends, business colleagues, the PFC board, and neighbors to donate to PFC for the mobility

carts. Betty posted updates from the ground, including photos and videos of Danny and Daniel serving alongside the PFC staff as they assembled and distributed mobility carts to those in need. The look of utter joy on the faces of the recipients was a life-changing experience for Daniel.

The trip was a success on many levels. Daniel's eyes were opened to the needs that exist in the world around him and he has expressed a desire to keep helping people as he gets older. And with the support of the Kellenbergers' friends and family, the fundraiser raised enough money to ship 100 mobility carts to Kenya, changing lives and restoring hope for all who receive them through the gift of mobility.



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## Bridgette Boylan

PFC Board Member Bridgette Boylan is the kind of person we lovingly refer to as our “shameless asker.” Bridgette shares the work of PFC with literally every one she knows and asks them to join her in supporting the organization. Bridgette believes that it’s her job to ask people to donate and the Holy Spirit’s job to move people’s hearts. Over the years, Bridgette has sent out letters and Christmas cards enlisting the support of clients, family, neighbors, tennis partners, her mailman, her CPA, and too many more to list. Her donor database has hundreds of people in it, and many of them have donated and some are even monthly donors. Over the years, Bridgette’s fundraising efforts have contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the life-saving work of PFC. The impact of Bridgette’s fundraising efforts can only be fully realized in the hundreds of lives transformed by PFC programs and services her donors continue to support.



## Sandy Matthews

Sandy Matthews works in Florida state government. She met Connie through Mary Ellen Early, a mutual friend who connected the two of them after Sandy shared that she had always wanted to go to Kenya. Once Sandy and Connie met, they immediately bonded over their love of Africa. Connie invited Sandy to join her in Kenya to see first-hand the work of Partners for Care and meet the PFC staff. Sandy prayed about how to raise funds and to whom to send her letters. To her surprise, Sandy’s letter writing campaign raised over \$5,000 in donations from friends, family, church members, and business colleagues and before long, she was serving alongside the PFC staff in the country she’s loved for so long. Sandy chronicled her experience in Kenya in a beautiful and moving piece she called “A Walk to Kenya.” At the end of that piece, Sandy wrote:

*I have loved every moment of my time in Kenya, and every aspect of Partners for Care. The people, the work, and the accomplishments I have witnessed in the past 7 days. I will be leaving a part of my heart here and I hope to return again. Please join with me in prayer and ask God how He wants me to assist Partners for Care. Hopefully, this is not an ending, but a beginning of things to come...*

It was indeed a beginning of a beautiful partnership between Sandy, Partners for Care, and Kenya. Sandy became a monthly donor and continues to share the work of PFC with everyone and anyone who will listen! She has raised thousands of dollars to provide mobility carts to disabled children and adults; water backpacks for safe water to school children; bed nets to pregnant women, children, and the elderly; and sewing machines to women so they can earn an income to feed their families.



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## Music for Change

*Sandie Hugg*

Sandie and Connie have known each other for years through their work in healthcare. As they worked together, a strong friendship formed and Sandie was anxious to learn more about Connie's "other" job running a nonprofit to Kenya. Sandie loved hearing about the work of Partners for Care and the many lives changed by the team on the ground. The more she learned, the more she wanted to be a part of it.

When the time came for Sandie to retire from the corporate world, she knew she wanted to help Connie and the PFC team. She joined the board and began looking for ways to expand the donor base and raise money for the work of PFC. In addition to her own generous monthly support, Sandie has raised thousands of dollars for everything from water backpacks to sewing schools to mobility carts.

A few months ago, Sandie listened to an interview on KRFU News Talk Radio in Columbia, Missouri. The interviewees that day were PFC's Founder Connie Cheren and Kenya's Executive Director Sammy Wanjau. In response to a question from the host about what drives him to do this work, Sammy responded that every day when he wakes up, he asks himself "What can I do today to change someone's life?" Sandie was touched and wanted to help Sammy fulfill his passion. She knew that one of the ways Sammy and the PFC staff change lives is through their music ministry, so she donated to purchase a new keyboard for PFC's Music for Change studio. Sammy and the PFC staff reach thousands of people with the message of HIV/AIDS prevention through concerts and events. Additionally, income from music equipment rentals helps make Music for Change a sustainable program.



## Water Packs Visionary

*David Fischer*



David Fischer is the former (retired) CEO of Greif Inc, one of the world's largest packaging companies. After the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, David and his company got involved in several philanthropic projects to support the recovery period. During a trip to Haiti to help, David became increasingly concerned about the lack clean water available to millions of people both in Haiti and in other developing nations. He saw what many had missed and that is the concept of water, from source to consumption is a system. Transportation and storage is the Achilles heel for keeping clean water clean and keeping people healthy and productive. What he learned would change his life. David realized that there are very few good options available for transporting and storing water safely. And the traditional method of using jerry cans was actually contributing to the spread of waterborne diseases because jerry cans were never meant to carry water and the inside can't be adequately cleaned.

From this realization came the development of the packH2o water backpack and David's partnership with PFC. In just a few years, David has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for PFC's water backpack program in Kenya. To date, over 50,000 water packs have been distributed in Kenya with a primary focus on distribution to children in schools. David and PFC share a common vision of making the backpacks in country, utilizing Kenyan women to sew the packs providing them with a job and a sustainable business model for the pack. Partners For Care has purchased a suitable production facility and is now on the homestretch of raising funds to buy equipment to begin manufacturing in Kenya. David's vision is for every person in Kenya to have safe water to drink – in school, at home, at their church, and in their communities.



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## Mindy Miller

Mindy is probably one of PFC's greatest advocates. She has been a donor and board member since PFC was established as a nonprofit 11 years ago. In that time, Mindy has raised funds by sharing the work of Partners for Care through year-end letter writing campaigns, personal appeals to family, friends and co-workers, and through her own incredibly generous giving.



In 2017, when Northern Kenya experienced a particularly devastating drought and people were starving, Mindy wasted no time in responding. She gave generously and encouraged her family and friends to do the same. Her efforts, coupled with donations from many other PFC supporters made it possible for PFC to send over 15 tons of food and several trucks of water to help ease the suffering of thousands of people. Many lives were saved by the compassionate giving of our PFC donors. It is hard to express in words our gratitude for Mindy Miller – she is a true blessing to PFC.

## Joe Beasley & Northside Hospital

Joe Beasley has been a friend and supporter of Partners for Care for years. He is also a long-time friend and colleague of Bob Quattrocchi, CEO of Northside Hospital.

A few years ago, PFC needed funds to open a maternity ward in Marurui Health Center. The maternity ward was closed due to the lack of a doctor and necessary hospital equipment. As a result, women in Marurui were forced to give birth, usually unattended, in their small shanty homes, which was dangerous for both moms and their babies. PFC needed funds to cover salaries, medical equipment and supplies, cleaning, and prep to reopen the Marurui Health Center Labor & Delivery unit.

Joe Beasley encouraged us to request a meeting with Mr. Quattrocchi and present him with a proposal for the needed funds. With Mr. Beasley's help, the meeting was scheduled and Northside Hospital granted our request. Moms could now deliver their babies safely in a well-equipped and staffed maternity ward in their own community. And just recently, Northside Hospital donated funds to help our staff eliminate jiggers in Watamu, Kenya.



**NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL**

## Facebook Fundraisers

One of the easiest and most popular ways people have used to raise funds for PFC is through Facebook. Using one's own Facebook page, a supporter can easily and quickly launch a fundraiser with PFC as the recipient for donations. We love this because it allows people to simply share why they are raising money for PFC and what specific program or initiative the funds will support, ex: "I'm asking for donations to Partners for Care, a nonprofit working in Kenya to implement sustainable solutions to the problems of poverty and disease. I want to raise \$X to provide mobility carts to materially-poor disabled adults and children in Kenya." Then you just "invite your friends"

to the fundraiser and they can donate online. There are no processing fees so 100% of each donation goes to PFC. And of course, those donations are tax deductible to the donor.

Several PFC supporters, including Laura Leeds, Mindy Miller, Jane Fischer, Paul Brown, Sharon Dicks, Ken and Barb Munkel, Sandy Matthews and Danny Kellenberger have raised over \$20,000 through fundraisers on Facebook.



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## Cara Canon



Cara Canon came to know about Partners for Care through her friend Bridgette Boylan, PFC Board member. The two share an affinity for Africa and for helping others in the world. Cara and her husband Jeff began donating to PFC's year-end campaign and to

other special fundraising initiatives years ago. Bridgette arranged for Cara to meet Connie and learn more about the organization they were already supporting. From that meeting, Cara and Jeff's connection to PFC increased and they became monthly donors. It wasn't long before Cara also became a board member.

Cara is especially drawn by PFC's initiatives to provide women with a means for earning an income to feed their families and send their children to school. She generously funded the first PFC Sewing School, called Sisters for Christ, in Nairobi. Women in the community love the sewing school and the opportunity it has afforded them to learn a marketable trade. Since that time, PFC has opened a total of 12 sewing schools, giving dozens of women new hope for their future and for their children.

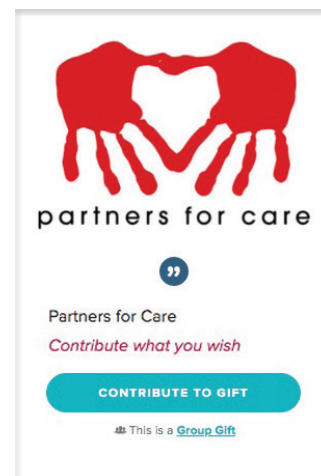
Recently, when Cara's mother passed away, Cara asked for donation to Partners for Care in lieu of flowers as a way to honor her mother. Family and friends generously donated, raising enough to retrofit 10 sewing machines, open a new sewing school, remodel the girls' dormitory at Kathi's House, and distribute 200 more mobility carts to disabled adults and children! Many lives were blessed by the funds raised to honor Cara's mother.



## Ryan & Ashley Perry



Like many young couples planning a wedding, Ryan and Ashley set up an online registry where people could select gifts and have them sent directly to the newlyweds. But they wanted to do more than receive – they wanted to give as well. They included the choice to donate to Partners for Care on behalf of Ryan's mom Sharon (PFC volunteer) as one of the choices on their registry.



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## Kevin & Ginger Powell

Kevin and Ginger Powell were Sharon's neighbors for years, and the three have been friends for as long as they can remember. When Sharon began working with PFC, she shared the work with Kevin and Ginger, who liked the organizational model and the fact that 100% of donor funds raised goes to Kenya. They became monthly donors and have also contributed generously to each year-end campaign. Ginger has used her considerable event planning skills several times to help plan and organize fundraisers for PFC. She hosted a gathering at her home and invited some friends to come meet



Connie and learn more about the work of PFC. The gathering was small and intimate and included some popular Kenyan foods and African décor. One of the attendees became a monthly donor who also hosted a birthday fundraiser in her home and raised over \$1,100 for PFC.



Ginger also partnered with another PFC volunteer, Donna Liberatore to help organize, plan, and decorate PFC's 2018 Year End Kick Off Dinner at a local restaurant for board members and PFC donors. It was a beautiful event and a great launch to our 2018 Year End Campaign.

Ginger has also helped with several mail-out campaigns, sorting, addressing, and stamping hundreds of marketing pieces for PFC. In addition, Ginger and Kevin, and their college-age daughter Bekah, have given generously over the years to fund the work of PFC.

It is both humbling and inspiring to have the love, prayers and support of Ginger and Kevin Powell!



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## Cris & Gary Willis

Cris and Gary have been long-time PFC supporters since they first learned about Connie Cheren and the work of PFC in Kenya years ago. When their church group studied a book about missions, Cris knew that if she ever went on a mission trip it would be with PFC.

Cris and her daughter Kacey, who was just graduating from high school, arranged to go to Kenya with PFC. On that trip, they visited several PFC programs, including our medical initiative, and were moved by the efforts of PFC staff to provide affordable medical care to the most vulnerable. Cris made the decision to fully fund the PFC medical clinic so that those most in need would have access to affordable medical care. Since then, the medical clinic has treated thousands of patients, including those in hard-to-reach slum areas.

Cris's husband Gary was so impressed by the impact on Kacey and the excitement of Cris, he decided to go with Cris on her next trip. They traveled to Kenya going all the way to Marsabit, in the far northeastern region of Kenya. There they witnessed Pastor Hirbo's ministry to the tribal communities, which make up some of the poorest of the poor in the world. Marsabit is a very remote region characterized by abject poverty, few paved roads, no running water, and very few employment opportunities. Pastor Hirbo was walking six miles a day

each way to minister to the people, providing medical care, jigger treatment, and sharing the gospel. After that trip, Cris told Gary that all she wanted for Christmas that year was a motorbike for Pastor Hirbo so he could get to Marsabit easier and faster. And of course, Gary said yes!

Cris and Gary became monthly supporter and have held numerous gatherings at their home to share the work of Partners for Care with friends and family and raise support.

Cris and Gary went to Kenya a third time a few years ago and brought Cris's mom and aunt with them, both of whom also became monthly supporters.

For several years in a row, Cris and Gary have held a fundraiser called Parsons On Mission at their Parsons Gifts store in Cumming to raise funds for PFC. They have also hosted visiting PFC staff members in their home and invited friends and family to come meet them.

The Willis's enthusiasm and deep-seated support for the work of Partners for Care in Kenya has helped raise thousands of dollars in funding. Everyone who knows Cris and Gary also knows about the work of PFC. We are humbled and grateful for Cris and Gary.





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# Thank You to All Our Partners!



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