



From Our Founder Connie Cheren

It's always good to go to the field because, as Pastor Hirbo says, "that's where the miracles happen." Going to the field helps to remind me that the work is not done. People are still crawling on the ground and need mobility carts. Children are still hungry and drinking dirty water. And moms are still struggling to help their families.

Going to the field also reminds me how much I appreciate every donation, every donor, because that's what allows our staff to reach the poorest of the poor and to change a life. I am blessed to be able to go to the field.



A Message from Sammy Wanjau

Executive Director

PFC Kenya



The Water Backpack Has A New Friend!

One of our Kenya board members, Professor Dominic Mwenja, is CEO of Mater Hospital. Dominic loves the water pack and helps us with our mission to raise awareness of the water backpack. Dominic organized a meeting between myself, our founder Connie Cheren, and the wife of the Vice President of Kenya, Rachel Ruto, to talk about how the water pack can help provide safe water in Kenya. It was an especially meaningful discussion as Mrs. Ruto's focus for this administration is water.

We spent two hours with Mrs. Ruto sharing about the work of Partners for Care. She is a woman of faith and very humble. She appreciated us for our work.

When Mrs. Ruto saw the water backpack she asked us to fill it with water so she could try it. She posted on her Facebook about the pack:

"Yesterday, I held a consultative meeting with leaders of the Partners for Care organization and the CEO of Mater Hospital who laid out their water storage innovation that makes fetching water a simple and effortless task. I was taken back to my earlier days when fetching water and walking long distances was burdensome and exhaustive. Thanks to this new innovation, we hope to bring this life-transforming model closer to women in our nation."

With Her Excellency's support we are one step closer to helping everyone in Kenya have safe water using the water backpack.

Changing Lives

Summer 2018

Changing Lives With The Gift of Mobility



Seven years ago, Partners for Care received the first mobility carts through our partner MedShare in Atlanta. The carts were shipped in a container along with medical supplies and arrived at the port in Mombasa. They were then transported by truck to Nairobi. Pastor Hirbo personally carried five carts all the way from Nairobi to Marsabit by bus to those in need. One of the recipients was Abdala Mohammed.

Recently, Pastor Hirbo checked on Abdala to see how he was doing and found that he was still using his mobility cart from seven years ago. The cart, though worn and in need of repair, was still working and has made such a difference in Abdala's life. The cart has given him the gift of mobility and enabled him to be an active member of his community. Pastor Hirbo recognized that Abdala's cart was on its last leg and gave him a new one to ensure many more years of mobility.



Sustainability Tools for Feeding the Hungry



In 2016, Marsabit experienced one of the longest and harshest droughts on record, and many people suffered greatly for lack of food and water. Thanks to the generosity of Partners for Care donors, PFC raised enough funds to send hundreds of sacks of grain and several trucks of clean water to the residents of Marsabit. We also received a donation to purchase a grinder to convert the grain into usable flour for cooking. Pastor Hirbo used the grinder to create a sustainable business. He earns enough money from grinding to pay the rent, one employee, buy the fuel and pay for the maintenance on the grinder. Profits are used to support 23 elderly residents with food. The grinder runs on diesel fuel, requires regular maintenance, and is not the most efficient way for Pastor Hirbo to serve the needs of the community.

Pastor Hirbo has asked for an electric grinder. We would move the current diesel model to Pastor John and Mary to use at Kathi's House. Operating the diesel grinder at Kathi's House is much more feasible and less expensive. Utilizing an electric grinder in Marsabit would greatly reduce the expense of diesel fuel and maintenance, significantly increase the profit for Pastor Hirbo's ministry, and enable him to increase the number of elderly people he serves.



Partnering for hope and health in East Africa

Summer 2018

Saving Lives

Changing Lives *Through the Gift of Mobility*

Songa Mbele Na Masomo Children's Centre – An Open Letter From Connie Cheren

On my most recent trip to Kenya, I went with my staff to a day center for mentally and physically challenged children. Many years ago, my first job as a nurse was in a home for children like these. However, the home where I worked had plenty of food for the children and all the equipment they needed - special wheelchairs, therapy equipment and adaptive devices to help the children play, sit up and move about. By contrast, this humble children's center in Kenya on the edge of a slum, struggles everyday just to have food. Their "wheelchairs" are homemade from wood and what walkers they had were broken. One little boy touched me so much - he is mentally and physically challenged and blind. His only way to get around was to crawl on the ground and move his body towards your voice. He was so excited to receive a mobility cart!

Another child, a sweet little girl named Mercy, laughed with utter delight when she was lifted onto the mobility cart by Benson, the center's director. Before receiving a cart, the only way Mercy could get around was by using a broken walker that only took her around and around in a circle. Watching Mercy as she experienced the gift of mobility for the first time made me think of the words to the song "there will be joy in the morning".



Mother Teresa said if you can't feed 100 children, just feed one. We couldn't help all the children but we did help five of them.

PFC is grateful to our board members Professor Dominic Mwenja and Mr. Moses Ndichu who joined us in the field as we distributed mobility carts to children at the Songa Mbele Na Masomo Children's Centre.

Thanks also to Mobility Worldwide for the gift of mobility carts to our children.



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Changing Lives

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Tribute to Francis Maina

Francis Maina was a friend and an ambassador for Partners for Care. We first met Francis when he was experiencing a chronic health crisis. Our medical field worker, Max Maina, helped Francis over many weeks to get the treatment he needed through our mhealth program. Since then, Francis told everyone about the work of Partners for Care. He received one of the first water backpacks. He was always willing to host PFC visitors in his home in Marurui slum and happily shared his story about how the pack helped him drink safe water and prevent him and his wife from getting sick from water-borne diseases. The PFC clinic has helped manage Francis' health condition for many years.

On April 26th, Francis succumbed to his illness and passed away peacefully. He will be missed by his family and all his Partners for Care friends.



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Mater Hospital Heart Run



This year, PFC staff participated in the 2018 Mater Hospital Heart Run in Nairobi, Kenya. The event is one of the largest races in Kenya and is designed to raise funds for heart surgeries for children. 10,000 people participated in this year's run with the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, flagging off the race (pictured second from left in top photo). PFC's founder, Connie Cheren, was invited to breakfast with the First Lady prior to the race and took the opportunity to share about PFC's programs with her. Several media channels also covered the race, and Connie was interviewed by a local TV station.

Sammy Wanjau, PFC Director, demonstrated the proper use of the water backpacks as one sustainable solution to the water crisis. The First Lady was very impressed with the packs and PFC's programs for helping the poor.

Our staff also participated in the race and wore water backpacks to raise awareness about the packs as a sustainable solution to the water crisis. They also served runners with safe water throughout the event. PFC's Temples of Worship performed "This Little Light of Mine" to the delight of the crowd.

PFC is grateful to Mater Hospital C.E.O Professor Dominic Mwenja and his team for the opportunity to be a part of this important event.



Partnering for hope and health in East Africa

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Saving Lives

The Transformation of Marsabit Hospital The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Several years ago, Partners for Care began a project of transforming a hospital in one of the most remote regions of northeastern Kenya - Marsabit County. The hospital was the sole medical facility for over 200,000 residents, and was in desperate need of updated medical equipment and supplies. Marsabit Hospital is a government facility in a remote and harsh area of Kenya characterized by low average rainfall, no paved roads, no local water source, and over 90% of the population living in abject poverty.

Partners for Care staff were privileged and honored to participate in the making of history in Marsabit. To date, nine (9) 40-foot containers of medical equipment, hospital beds, and supplies, funded by Coca-Cola Africa Foundation and supplied by MedShare, have been donated and shipped from the US to Marsabit Hospital, marking a new beginning for the hospital and restoring the gift of hope for the people it serves.

Marsabit Hospital's dramatic transformation story was the project presented by Marsabit Governor Ali at a meeting held by Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta. Each governor was asked to present a summary of the improvements implemented in their county. The Marsabit governor shared the slide show created by Partners for Care, which showed the dramatic before and after photos of the Marsabit hospital. Now, many county governors want to partner with PFC to update and transform their hospitals.

Partners for Care is working to develop strong, effective partnerships with each county governor to assess the needs of the communities they serve and work together to meet those needs.

The first container, sent to Marsabit Hospital in 2011 was a blessing for both the people of Marsabit and for Partners for Care. Our staff are honored to have a role in dramatically improving the level of healthcare available to the people of Kenya.



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Why I Support Partners for Care

Bridgette Boylan, PFC Board Member and Supporter



Cheren and Partners for Care...and have been going back every year since, God willing.

Born and raised in the United States, it is difficult to grasp the dichotomy between how we live/thrive and how so many in our world do not. One thing I can grasp is that God has greatly blessed me for one reason - to be a blessing to others. Every time I go to Kenya, I see first-hand how the PFC Kenyan team work tirelessly to make a sustainable difference in their world, now AND for future generations to come. It is because of these trips that I've come to realize my responsibility...more my honor... is to support their daily efforts, which will successfully continue long after I am gone.

Every time I return to Africa, I am humbled and overwhelmed by the extreme poverty I see. But I am equally amazed and empowered by all that the Partners For Care team does sacrificially every day to enrich and save so many lives. I'm reminded of this by something I wrote at the end of one of my trips.

One day in 2008, while sitting in church, God invited me to Kenya, Africa. Who ME?? REALLY? I now call it my "Tour Bus Trip"... but the beauty of that first short, eye-opening adventure left me with a yearning desire to go back and to go deeper. I returned the following year with Connie

"As I approach the end of this trip with Partners for Care, I am always at odds with going home. Don't misunderstand - I love my home, my family, my country, and look forward to returning to home! I just find myself reflecting on the same things every time I leave Africa. You see, I'll never truly know what it feels like to be starving. I'll never truly understand an orphan's cries as he/she sits alone and abandoned. I'll never walk 6 hours to source for water, often dirty and un-drinkable. I'll never know what it feels like to bury one or more of my children under the age of 5. I'll never understand the inability to read or write my own name, or to lack access to basic education.

But thanks to the work of Partners for Care over the years, there are a few things I do understand - such as what real JOY looks like - orphans being loved and cared for, hungry people fed, water packs filled with clean safe water hanging in huts, children and adults given the opportunity to read, write, and even learn computer skills, villagers sleeping protected under bed nets, and a child lifted off the ground through the gift of a mobility cart.

I don't know how much time I have left on this earth or what the future may hold, but I do know that I have received far more than I have given over the past 8 years that I have been coming to Kenya. I am forever grateful and forever changed by the experience."

So I support the continuing efforts of Partners for Care for all of these reasons and more. I go back so that I may never, ever forget. Thanks be to God for the privilege.



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Summer 2018

Saving Lives

How You Can Help!

Families are Fed by Needle & Thread

You can help by donating to help PFC get more sewing machines retrofitted for use in our sewing schools. Retrofitting enables the women to use the machines without electricity, as most women in our sewing schools will not have access to electricity.

\$100 retrofits one machine and puts it in a table.



Safe Water is Life

Help us reach our goal of placing one water backpack in every classroom in Kenya. There are 47 counties in Kenya. We have enough packs for every classroom in three counties (Marsabit, Kilifi, and Nairobi). 44 more counties to go! Water backpacks in schools give children access to safe water.

\$10 puts a pack in a classroom and helps 30 children.



Moving at the Speed of Technology



PFC is using technology to standardize student registration, survey data collection, and analysis in our computer, literacy, and sewing schools and mobility carts. The data will be used to identify key service metrics and implement process improvements in those programs and eventually, in all our service areas. New quality assurance systems will help us more effectively measure how we're doing and how we can improve. That in turn, helps us determine the impact of our work on the people we serve.

*PFC
Implements
New Quality
Process
Improvements*



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Thank You to All Our Partners!

PFC Welcomes a New Partner Georgia Tech Engineering for Social Innovation Center (ESI)



Partners for Care welcomes our newest partner, Georgia Tech's Engineering for Social Innovation (ESI) Center. The center is headed up by Dr. Joy Harris, and supports a collection of ongoing projects, which are selected from corporate and non-profit organizations. Projects are designed to improve the lives of the underprivileged domestic population or people in the developing world.

Dr. Harris and the ESI Center have been supporting the work of PFC by raising funds to purchase water for drought-stricken Marsabit. Dr. Harris recently traveled to Marsabit with four Georgia Tech students to learn more about how they can help. Her team observed conditions in Marsabit and spent time learning from Pastor Hirbo and his staff about the water crisis and its impact on the people, especially the children.

We look forward to working with Dr. Harris and the ESI Center in developing new and sustainable ways to provide water and other critical services to the people of Marsabit.

