

PTPL UPDATE

People To People Liaison
PO Box 751, Greensboro, NC 27402
Winter 2017

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

by Ralph Cauthen



PTPL continues to do good work in Eastern Congo.

PTPL has been able to sustain 325 children with school tuition, aid 20+ women with microcredit loans, and start a very small vocational training program for young adults.

Costs keep rising, but your board has been reluctant to cut back, even though that would be the easiest way to balance the budget. We are calling on all donors to do just a bit more.

Please think about how many children you can support. Can you support one additional child's tuition ~ \$60 in elementary school, \$90 in high school? Or can you increase your giving from the elementary school level to the high school level?

Consider becoming a sustainer with a monthly commitment rather than only an annual or occasional gift. We are grateful for your support!

As Goldie Wells keeps reminding us: This is God's work, and we are glad to partner with God in helping to empower the people of Eastern Congo, one life at a time. ▲

PTPL PARTNERSHIP WITH TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES OCT. 26, 2017

On the evening of October 26, Ten Thousand Villages and the PTPL Board welcomed family and friends to our first Community Shopping event.

Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit organization that partners with international workshops, co-ops and small artisan groups ~ including coffee growers in Eastern Congo and a sewing school in Kinshasa ~ to provide livelihoods for disadvantaged peoples. The value of all Ten Thousand Villages' items is increased by their maker's personal stories of resilience in the face of war, poverty and discrimination. Our shared missions made for immediate bonding as attendees mingled and purchased early holiday gifts ~ unique items that give twice or even three times!

As Co-Founder Bahekelwa Imatha reported, "our goal was to have more visibility to the public." "(By) connect (ing) us and opening the door with a worldwide organization (such as Ten Thousand Villages)." To this end, the event was a great success.

The event turned into a mini Board retreat and brainstorming session. Here were hand-make items ~ fragrant soaps, bags crafted from bright Congolese prints, toys created from recycled items ~ similar to those created by PTPL trained soap makers or tailors, or beloved by primary school boys. Why not host a Congolese festival as our next event with Ten Thousand Villages? We could invite



artists, musicians, or performers to join with us to raise awareness of Congo culture and the struggle her people face daily.



PTPL at the Ten Thousand Villages Fundraising Event

Anne McKee, a long time dedicated PTPL Board member, was also a volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages. Her gifts, carefully chosen from Ten Thousand Villages' artisans, are still treasured by her family, especially daughter, Katherine (Kassy) who has served on the Board since her mother's death. Connecting these two organizations, so dearly loved by her mother, has been one of Kassy's dreams for People to People Liaison ~ a dream that has now come true. ▲

PTPL'S MISSION

People To People Liaison empowers families in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo by providing funds for primary and secondary tuition, young adult vocational training, and micro-credit loans to women to grow small businesses.

- ▶ \$60 sends a child to primary school for a year.
- ▶ \$90 sends a teenager to secondary school for a year.
- ▶ \$100 finances a year of vocational education.
- ▶ \$150 provides funds for a small business.

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE PTPL BOARD?

Contact Board Chair, Ralph Cauthen 336-299-2089 or
Board Membership Chair, Dr. Goldie Wells 336-549-8712

PTPL USA BOARD MEMBERS

Marcia Rhodes (Secretary), Ralph Cauthen (Chair), Matu-maini (Mimi) Furaha (Co-founder), Bahekelwa (Baim) Imatha (Co-founder & Executive Director), Dr. Adrienne Israel (Fundraiser), Katherine McKee (Public Relations), Casey Patterson (Treasurer), Dr. Goldie Wells (Membership), Bahati Wanza (Webmaster), Sally Wins-low (Emerita), Helen Wolf (Emerita)

SMALL GROUP
GATHERINGS CELEBRATE
PTPL SUCCESSES

by Adrienne Israel



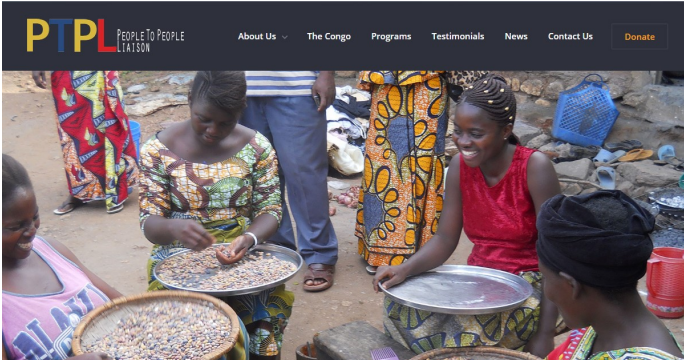
People to People Liaison hosted two gatherings for donors in late summer and fall, 2017. The purpose of these small events was to update supporters about the progress being made by children and adults in Eastern Congo who have received support for their education and vocational training for young adults. The gatherings were held at the home of PTPL USA Chairman Ralph Cauthen and organized by Vice-Chairwoman Adrienne Israel.

Bahati Wanza, PTPL’s media coordinator unveiled the new website and explained how contributions can be made electronically. Executive Director Bahekelwa Imatha provided updates about recent school graduates, those who are employed as a result of vocational training, and women who are operating successful businesses because of PTPL’s micro-lending initiative.

Ten guests attended the August 17 gathering and donated a total of \$975 to PTPL. On December 1, six guests joined PTPL board members for two sessions with donations totaling \$325. We look forward to YOUR joining us in 2018 at more of these intimate gatherings. ▲

PTPL NEW WEBSITE

PEOPLETPEOPLELIAISON.ORG has been an effective tool for PTPL for spreading the word about its mission to help educate children and empower women in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.



New PTPL Website Screenshot

In January 2017, PTPL Board decided it was time to re-vamp the website by updating its look and feel while keeping its functionality and to optimize it for mobile devices as mobile and tablet devices account for 51 percent of internet use today.

The new website was launched in September 2017 and contains updated information about PTPL. It has new content like photos and videos from students and women who have benefited from PTPL’s programs and a testimonial page with their success stories. The website also contains all PTPL’s newsletters to help visitors learn about recent and past activities of the organization. And for the first time, our donors can make recurring donations through

the website. These donations are securely processed through PayPal and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Although the website is live, it is necessary to point out that PTPL considers it a work in progress. PTPL will continue to add more functionalities to its website to increase its presence in the Web. PTPL vows to ensure that children and women of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are never forgotten. ▲

REPORT FROM CONGO

by Bahekelwa Imatha



The school year in the DRC, runs from September to July; the school year 2017 -18 was not different. However, in the Fizi-Uvira area, the “back to school” was disturbed by an insurgency. An armed group destabilized the region, claiming to fight the regime of Kinshasa from thousands of miles away. The

schools and other activities resumed to normal few weeks later.

This year PTPL is assisting 325 children attending 36 elementary and secondary schools. Considering that many of those school run thanks to the funds from PTPL, the PTPL office in Congo has suggested raising the number of children to 400 in 2018-2019, in order to give a chance to other schools.

PTPL-DRC is proud to report over 10 years serving the neediest population; young adults are becoming more and more self-sustaining thanks to Vocational Training opportunity given to them by PTPL. The Vocational Fund support 2 college students paying full tuition for one student, and covers all the necessities for the other.

Every penny donated to PTPL goes long way, Changing Lives One at a Time.

Blessings on your Christmas and New Year. ▲

PLEASE SUPPORT PTPL’S PROGRAMS

Mail your tax-deductible donation to:
People to People Liaison,
PO Box 751, Greensboro, NC 27402

PTPL Treasurer’s Report		
Opening Balance	01/01/2017	\$24,595.19
Total Receipts		\$15,923.36
Total Disbursement		\$28,266.12
Ending Balance	12/18/2017	\$12,252.43
Please send donations to People To People Liaison, P.O. Box 751, Greensboro, NC 27402-0751.		