

## Partners In Development, Inc.

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Since 1990, PID has been serving the extreme poor in the developing world.

Through child sponsorships, micro credit loans, housing opportunities and medical care we aim to transform communities so they can be self-sufficient.

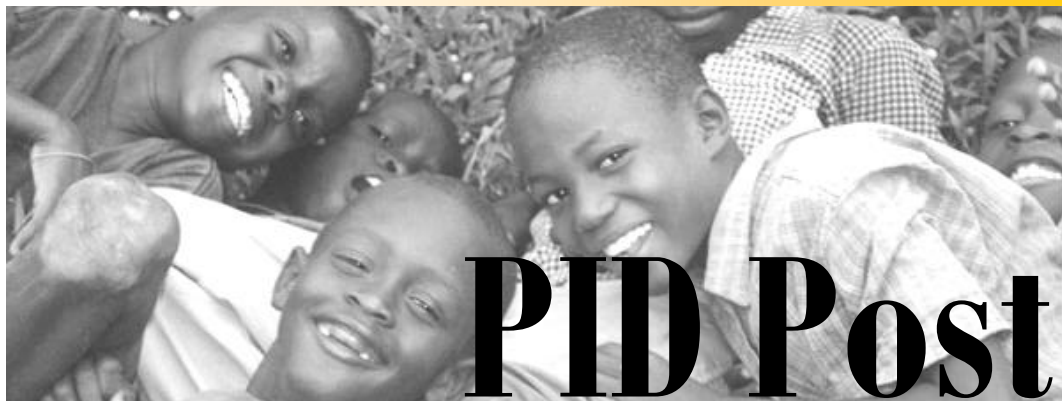
We serve thousands of people each year in Haiti, Guatemala, and recently the US who are determined to break the cycle of poverty.

*PID is a 501c(3) nonprofit Christian service organization. Donations are tax-deductible.*

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## PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Spring 2014

## Working Stateside: Our First US Team Trip

This February, PID embarked on a new journey in the United States. An assessment team of 16 people landed in Glendora, Mississippi and were joined by Patrick Magennis, our new Field Director. (Patrick had been working with PID in Haiti and arrived in Glendora three weeks before the team). Thanks to a very hard working team and all the preparations made, what we accomplished in the five days was remarkable.

The team's job was to assess the community by gathering information on trends in health, education, culture, work-force, family life, local resources and more. There are existing services and programs in Glendora and the Mississippi Delta region, but most we learned about have been unsuccessful. PID is confident that our experience working in areas that have few economic resources and populations that are undereducated will allow us to make headway with our new programs. Additionally, as when PID is introduced into any community, we make friends there and work with the people so they can tailor a program that addresses their most pressing needs.

Our group found that about 75% of the population has only finished the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and it is typical for girls have their first child at age 14 or 15. Welfare and benefit programs are the main source of income for most of the community. Most adult profiles told a similar story: little education, no car, no license, no skills to access the job market and unhealthy. There is no playground or place for the children to play safely. Affordable transportation does not exist. Illiteracy rates are high, even among those who attended school. Like in many impoverished places, depression is an issue when you feel trapped by poverty.

After collecting information on this initial trip, we have come up with an outline of our first programs:

**1. GED Program & Computer Skills Training:** GED training, computer skills and also basic jobs skills.

**2. Exercise Room:** The exercise room came about as a result of the medical team's assessment to promote health. PID's health mission to Glendora will be teaching in basic health care, providing transportation and helping those with no insurance to figure out a healthcare plan that makes sense.



Downtown Glendora passing the time.

**3. Early Development Center:** Our April team will help to develop the curriculum and vision for future programming. They will teach and train those from Glendora who will run the program.

**4. Creation of a Community Park:** Building the park will be the first team construction in Glendora. This will take a lot of research and fundraising.

### How You Can Help\*

1. Sponsor a Family for \$30 a month. A sponsorship includes the following: Educational programs, Health and Wellness programs, Job skills training and Family support services.

2. Sponsor an improvement project in Glendora with a one-time gift of \$100 or more: Park, Library, Construction.

*\*See the website for more detailed information about these sponsorships.*

As in the past when we have entered new communities, the to-do list is long, but the enthusiasm for our programs is inspiring. Town officials from Glendora have given PID a building to use as our headquarters there. On our first team trip to Mississippi we not only began assessments but we created a computer lab, library, study room, kitchen, parent/child room and an exercise room in the headquarters. Stay tuned as the program in Glendora develops and if you are interested in joining a team, be sure to check out the trip dates listed on page 3. Thanks to all the members of our assessment team and to Patrick!

## A Journey With PID - Tali's Story

I could have never imagined where my life was headed, after being sent from Haiti to Guatemala in 2005 with my husband and eight month old son. We were the start-up Field Directors in a country where PID had never worked, in a culture we had never experienced.

I passed the next 6 ½ years of my life designing, redesigning, setting up and improving programs. My husband and I spent those years building trust in the community and learning about the culture of Guatemala. At first, the language, being a female and even my age was a barrier. Eventually all these barriers were overcome. The open hearts of the people and the community, with their kindness and acceptance won my heart, while PID's commitment to their community and its people won the hearts of the Guatemalans. I hired a staff of Guatemalans that were some of the greatest employees that I have ever known and who still continue to work for PID. Their ideas, loyalty, friendship and love for PID only added to the growth of the programs.

During our time there, our three daughters were born in Guatemala. I made friendships that will last forever and a bond and trust with the community that will never be lost. In 2010 my husband and I made the most difficult decision to move to the US to be closer to my family and have better communication with his, who were and are still in Haiti.

After making the decision, I still wasn't ready. I felt the only way I would be entirely ready would be if I witnessed the finished construction of our new medical clinic and saw it operating. I also needed to know that I had a trainable replacement and that I would feel fully confident they were ready to take over when I left.

The clinic was built and the programs grew. The village was so excited and had such hope for growth, not only in the community but in PID programs also. It was amazing. The time came nearer to interview my replacement. I felt apprehensive and nervous. This was really hard for me, but after meeting Abby and training her I felt that she was ready for

the position and that it was my time to leave.

Coming back turned out to be an overwhelming adjustment. I felt like I no longer belonged in the US. There was so much stimulation and technology and so many things had changed in the past decade. I grit my teeth and decided to go back to school to get a job like a "normal working class American."

When I finished school and got a job I was excited, but there were many nights that I lay in bed wishing I could fall asleep to the sounds of the frogs outside my window.

I missed the smiles and laughter of the kids in the village and looking out of the clinic and seeing my kids fishing in the stream with the other children. The hardest adjustment of all was feeling like I had lost purpose and meaning in what I was doing with my life.

I've always known from my first day of my first trip to Haiti when I was 14, that working with the extreme poor was what I was supposed to do with my life. I have never doubted that. A few weeks ago when my heart was feeling beyond heavy, with the emptiness and loss of this type of service to the poor, I received a phone call asking if I would consider returning to PID as assistant director. It was as if the Lord couldn't have said it clearer, "Tali, it's time, you're ready to go back."

**We are excited to welcome Tali as our assistant director in the US office. Tali has extensive field experience in both Haiti and Guatemala. She brings with her a decade of program management and development. She is fluent in Spanish and Creole and brings with her a heart to serve the poorest of the poor wherever that might be.**



**Tali and PID founder, Gale Hull, working in Haiti together in 2010. The mother-daughter team share a passion for serving the poor.**

## Breast Cancer - A Personal View

By Sela Nelson 10/9/13

Breast cancer is a major crisis for many women today. Although the rate of breast cancer has fallen in the last five years, one out of eight women can still expect to develop breast cancer at some point in her life.

I am one of those women. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1989. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy followed, and the cancer was conquered. At least that is what the doctors and I thought. In the spring of 2006, the cancer reappeared. It had silently taken roots in my lungs and bones. It was stage IV cancer. Stage IV breast cancer is incurable. Only 22% of the people survive for five years or more years, with odds significantly lower each year. At the same time, treatment options have multiplied in the last several years, and more can be done to stall the inevitable. Here in the Boston area we are fortunate to have access to the very newest treatment



**Sela & Gene Nelson, with their sponsor child in Guatemala.**

options. Because of that, and because of the many prayers made on my behalf, I am now in my eighth year of treatment. These have been some of the best years of my life.

There is an ad by some of the leading cancer centers that says, "I have cancer, cancer does not have me." I agree with that statement. These last eight years have been happy, rewarding years. We all have a choice. We can look at the crises in our lives and dwell on them until they dominate our lives. A chronically ill person can live for the doctor visits or they can live for the days between doctor visits. I have chosen the latter. Eight years ago, I was forced to consider what was important to me and what were my priorities in life - and then to act accordingly. It was a blessing. Knowing that time was limited, I live each day concentrating on the good and beautiful things around me, I seek to actively serve my Lord and my neighbor, and I will continue to do that as long as I possibly can. Having lived more than three score and ten years, and having grown closer to God, I will be ready to become even closer when the time comes to give up this body to the cancer and take my spirit to greater things.

*In loving memory of Sela Nelson. For much of the eight years she referred to, Sela served the poor through PID. Sela was our Child Sponsorship & Higher Education Coordinator and took extended trips to Guatemala to teach there. She is forever in our hearts. In her honor our Higher Education program will be renamed to The Sela Nelson Higher Education Fund, for which over \$4500 was donated in her memory. Please see a full list of the many who contributed in her honor on our website [www.pidonline.org](http://www.pidonline.org)*

## Get Involved

## Take Action

## Help Us Help Others

## Voices of PID

When you travel with PID, you are touched deeply in your soul. We are fortunate to be able to share these reflections from some of our travelers.

**From Kaela Murphy, January 2014 Trip**

My Name is Kaela Murphy and I'm a junior at Saints Josephs College of Maine. I recently went on a service trip with SJC through PID. I had no idea what to expect when I signed up for the trip and was a little hesitant and nervous at first, however, I can honestly say it was one of the best experiences of my life and changed my life more than I expected. I was shocked at how much I enjoyed working on construction and even more blown away by the enthusiastic spirits of the children in the village all because of what this organization does. What you do is amazing; not only for the people and families you help, but the experience you give the volunteers. I came home with a completely different perspective on things and knew that I wanted to sponsor a child and continue to help a family even while being back in the States. I wanted to thank you for that opportunity, and I cannot wait to come back next year! Thank you!

**From Charlotte Emery, January 2014 Trip**

I find myself a seat on the stone ledge out behind the clinic and make myself at home munching on my peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a meal I previously associated with elementary school days when Mom packed my lunch. I'm in awe of my surroundings; the towering emerald trees, the stray chickens wandering by, the countless kids teetering on the edge of excitement and nerves.

My energy matches theirs; eager to help everyone I can on this mission trip to Guatemala, yet intimidated by my first time out of the United States, witnessing extreme poverty at only thirteen years old.

In my lunchtime daze I seem to have made a friend. A little boy, Ricardo, has snuck up next to me. He flashes me a toothy grin (or rather, a missing-toothy grin), and it's all I can do not to offer him the world, from candy to rainbows to video games,

even a unicorn, anything I could do to make sure that smile never goes away. With the lack of unicorns at hand, I settle for giving him half of my PB&J.

I assume he will take the jelly-soaked bread, offer his thanks, eat it, and be on his merry way, just as I would do if someone offered me something to eat, just as most people would have done. This is not the case with Ricardo.

I get the greatest shock of my life seeing him scurry away to his family with the mushy piece of bread. I watch him go around the little courtyard, ripping off piece after piece of his tiny morsel of lunch. A piece for his sister, a piece for his brother, a slightly bigger piece for the toddler next door who, due to the parasites growing in her stomach, may never receive enough nourishment. He tucks away a piece for his momma, and one for his papa.

I notice him tuck away another piece and ask him if he's saving it for himself. He responds with a simple "No, it's not for me," and I wonder who else he could possibly feel responsible for feeding. He tells me that he's saving that one little bite in case one of the younger kids falls down while playing, scrapes their knee, and needs a pick-me-up. I am completely astonished.

This little boy, when given half a sandwich that will probably be the biggest meal he has all month, chooses to share it amongst his friends and family, not even keeping a piece for himself. This kind of unconditional selflessness is unheard of to me. Back home, had I been given half of a soggy sandwich, chances are I would have thrown it away and gone to the fridge to find something better.

Most surprising of all to me is that not only did this little boy revolutionize my understanding of the word gallant with just one action, but in doing so, he smiled even wider. It actually made this boy of maybe eight years old (at the most) elated to see the people around him feasting on scraps of PB&J, knowing that he was the one who provided it to them.

Looking down at the food on my napkin, I no longer see two pieces of crumbling bread, saturated with jelly and sticky with peanut butter. Now I see a feast. I see a smile. I see the key to the world and all I ever needed. Even as I'm thinking this, I am astounded. This half of a sandwich, eaten on a dirty ledge, overlooking a tiny yard, next to a dusty clinic, in one of the poorest countries in the world, has the ability to make me feel as if I am the luckiest person on earth.

It took a seven hour flight, a four hour bus ride, and half of a smushed PB&J sandwich to teach me how to truly be happy.

## Calling All Travelers!

Have you always wanted to go on a mission trip, but weren't sure where to begin? Traveling with PID is an experience of a lifetime! Each year, repeat travelers return with us to work with the extreme poor, immerse themselves in a different culture, visit friends made in a distant place and feel proud to give back.

We've been offering trips to Haiti and Guatemala for over a decade; and new this year, we are offering an opportunity to serve in Glendale, Mississippi! Our trips give you the opportunity to work one on one with the people we serve. Whether you work on a construction project, help with a children's program, or provide medical care, there is something for everyone. Trips do fill up, so contact us if you would like to get on a team list. Individuals and groups welcome. For more info, email [Trips@pidonline.org](mailto:Trips@pidonline.org), call (978) 380-6132, or visit [www.pidonline.org](http://www.pidonline.org)

**Upcoming Trips**

(m=medical, co=construction, ch=children's program)

March 23 – 30	Haiti (M,CO)
April 21 – 28	GLENDORA, MISSISSIPPI
April 22 – 29	Guatemala (M,CO)
April 23 – 30	Haiti (M,CO)
May 14 – 21	Haiti (M,CO)
May 21 – 28	Haiti (M,CO)
	Upper Iowa University - FULL
May 28 – June 4	Haiti (M,CO)
	North Shore CC– OPEN
June 4 – 11	Haiti (M,CO)
	Univ. of Scranton – OPEN
June 15 – 22	GLENDORA, MISSISSIPPI
June 18 – 25	Haiti (M,CO)
June 18 – 25	Guatemala (M,CO)
June 22 – 29	GLENDORA, MISSISSIPPI
	First Church of Ipswich (full)
June 25 – July 2	Haiti (M,CO)
	McMurry University – OPEN
June 25 – July 2	Guatemala (M,CO,CH)
July 9 – 16	Haiti (M,CO)
July 16 – 23	Guatemala (M,CO,CH)
	Hamilton Congregational
July 16 – 23	Haiti (M,CO)
July 21 – 28	GLENDORA, MS
July 27 – Aug 3	Haiti (M,CO,CH)
July 28 – Aug 4	Haiti (CH)
Aug 1 – 7	GLENDORA, MISSISSIPPI
	Second Congregational (full)
August 13 – 20	Haiti (M,CO)
Sept 17 – 24	Guatemala (M,CO)
Sept 22 – 29	GLENDORA, MS
Oct 15 – 22	Haiti (M,CO)
Oct 20 – 27	GLENDORA, MS
Nov 12 – 19	Guatemala (M,CO,CH)
Nov 12 – 19	GLENDORA, MS <sup>Thanksgiving Party</sup>
Dec 3 – 10	Haiti Christmas Party
Dec 3 – 10	Guatemala Christmas Party
Dec 3 – 10	Glendora Christmas Party

Please call the office if you'd like to plan your own trip dates.



## Let Your Light Shine

While every donation is special to Partners In Development, many supporters have given gifts from the heart in honor or memory of their friends and loved ones. We would like to acknowledge these noteworthy contributions & efforts:

- Catherine Parsi gave in honor of Alberto Parsi.
- William & Kathleen Woods contributed in honor of Tamara New & Judy Caruso.
- Lillian Zwerner, Julie Merriam and Priscilla Merriam donated in honor of Richard & Ruth Merriam.
- Richard Merriam gave to the education program in honor of intern, Julie Merriam.
- Rachel Morse & Ed Beckett from The Hive in Kennebunk, Maine raised \$500 with Heartwood College of Art for an exhibit called "100 Birds For Haiti".
- Judith Spiller gave in honor of Ann Grinnell, for Haiti emergency child

fund.

- Elizabeth Stevenson gave a gift in honor of Robin Earle to be used for English & computer classes in Guatemala.
- Dawn Bennett donated to the Glendora program in honor of Betty & Bill Hastings.
- Amanda Hardman gave in honor of Alex Hardman, Susan Duchesney, Lisa Porter & R. Scott Sherman, Pam Page and Peter Deary. Susan Duchesney donated in honor of Amanda Hardman.
- Mary Beth Brady made a gift in honor of Barbara Wilson.
- Debbie & Bill Monroe gave in honor of their son, Bill, and his family.
- Dawn Bennett donated in honor of Mr. & Mrs. William Bennett.
- Christopher Mawhorter gave in honor of Dr. Steven Mawhorter.
- Linda Barrington made a donation in honor of Robin Rhoades.
- Many gave in loving memory of Sela Nelson. Please see our website for a full list.



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### *Join us for PID's Annual Celebration (and a Haiti announcement)!*

*Sunday, April 6, 2014 2:00 – 4:00 pm*

Boone Hall (adjacent to Ascension Memorial Church), 31 County Road, Ipswich, MA



Our key note speaker will be Lizzy Barnes, current Field Director in Haiti. She will be returning to the US August 25<sup>th</sup>. Her replacement, the new Field Director in Haiti, will be announced at the Annual Celebration!! This gathering will also feature PID updates including the latest news on our U.S. initiative, native crafts to purchase, delicious food, & a chance to catch up with PID pals. This is a great way to introduce new people to our work, so bring your friends.

All are welcome, free of charge!  
Please RSVP for food planning purposes:

**Email [info@pidonline.org](mailto:info@pidonline.org) or call (978) 380-6132**

### **Stay Connected!**

**There is always news and updates with PID!**

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