PID’s Unsung Heroes

Recently, I returned to Haiti for a visit. Since February 2019, there has been a lot of unrest in Haiti, and two of my previous attempts to visit were ultimately cancelled. While there, I stood with Pouchon and watched the hustle and bustle that surrounded the clinic, the cafeteria, the education building, the admin building, the bunkhouse and the new medical depot. Outside, Nickerson worked in the yard. Those of you who have traveled with us know Nickerson. For those who don’t know him, Nickerson is a young man who came into PID’s child sponsorship program at age eleven, when both of his parents died.

As we stood watching, Pouchon said, “Gale, do you know how many people you have lifted up?” I replied, “Pouchon, as much as I’d like to take the credit, it is the many people working and volunteering that make PID happen. I consider it a privilege to be a part of this wonderful group of people. It is not just me that makes this happen.” It was then I decided to write about a few of the unsung heroes who volunteer, travel, and work for PID in Guatemala, Haiti, Mississippi, Peru and in our Ipswich office.

Paul is a local journalist dedicated to changing the lives of others. He can be seen riding his bicycle all over Ipswich with a trash bag over his shoulder collecting recyclable cans. Last year he donated over $1800 to PID, all from his can collections.

Alynne is a brilliant scientist. She produces instant tests for Malaria, STDs, Typhoid, and several other diseases at a fraction of the cost to many organizations all over the world. These are tests that many clinics could not provide except for through her work and dedication. When I visited her, she told me about her decision to leave her job in 2001. She left a lucrative job, committing to take a $45,000 pay cut and live on $25,000 a year for two years. Her hope was to make the dream of providing low cost lab tests a reality. Many times, she ate only what was ready from her garden, sometimes living off of only cantaloupe for weeks. As we ate lunch, she shared with me her secrets for keeping her living costs low (she does make more than 25,000 now. But it is still nothing compared to what she could make working as a scientist), so that she can continue to provide this service to organizations all over the world.

(cont’d on page 3)
Recently we received an email from the other side of the planet! "I am an academic, researcher and activist with a strong interest in sustainability, equity, and the wellbeing economy. I am also in the market for an engagement ring. My partner is also an active permaculturalist, sustainability advocate, and zero-waste activist.

So naturally, having recently found out about PID and PID Crafts, I am very excited by the possibility of sourcing an engagement ring from using recycled glass-based gems from Haiti. This just seems a beautiful alternative to mining diamonds, in so many ways.

From your website I note that your artist, Michaelange Antoine, has a desire to expand her glass gem-cutting program through the purchase of an additional gem-cutting machine. So it strikes me that, rather than spending $X thousand on a diamond, there may be a better allocation of money towards a donation of a similar magnitude that has lasting impact on this wonderful, high-impact small business enterprise; and in so doing, as a side effect, I might procure an engagement ring that contains a gem from recycled glass, which carries a far more valuable story than any diamond ever could.

So... I would like to enquire as to the specific possibility of my donating a gem-cutting machine to the Haiti-based glass gem business, in exchange for a custom engagement ring.

- James from Australia
The First Ipswich Bank had a “Wear Jeans to Work” day, which raised $200 for Partners in Development. They also worked with us to develop a low cost alternative loan to keep building costs in Mississippi affordable.

Rick, of Lowe’s in Batesville, MS, continually helps us with construction and helps monitor our construction costs because, as he said, “Miss Gale, I believe what you are doing is the right thing and I want to help you. “

Two children, ages eight and nine, raised $25 by conducting their own church service at home, after their aunt attended a benefit concert for PID, because they wanted to make a difference.

The Kerr family who, after one family member traveled to Guatemala, set a goal of raising money for the salary of the librarian at our new location in Solala, Guatemala.

This is just a small sampling of the individuals, both past and present, who have given their time, their lives, and shared their finances, to make PID what it is today. We all stand together in gratitude that we have the chance to lift up so many people that were born in areas of low to no opportunity. Seeing the smile of Nickerson reminds me of why we will never quit.

- Gale Hull

We want to give a special thank you to the families of David Kerr and Barbara Beeman, for encouraging donations to PID in lieu of flowers. David and Barbara were long time PID supporters who, sadly, recently passed away.

**PID CRAFTS CORNER**

Our new and improved Etsy shop is up and running! Visit our online shop at [www.etsy.com/shop/PIDcrafts](http://www.etsy.com/shop/PIDcrafts) or in person at our Ipswich office to shop for handmade crafts from Haiti, Guatemala, Peru, and the Mississippi Delta! Also, check out our Caribbean Crystals line—hand cut gems from Haiti made from upcycled glass. All proceeds from the sale of our crafts and gems go right back into our programs!

Look for us at Boston University’s Global Bazaar on October 5, 2019 and at the Topsfield Fair on October 12, 2019!
A Note About Volunteers

We rely heavily on the volunteers in our office to help keep up with the daily and weekly tasks involved with running our program. We’d like to introduce you to some of our volunteers. Some were with us for the summer, while others have stayed into the fall.

Jackie, a student from Pingree, came to help this summer for the 3rd year in a row! After learning about PID when her 8th grade class came to visit, she has been dedicated to help each summer since!

Long time volunteers Merrily and Sue continue to come weekly to work on a variety of tasks including translating and mailing letters from sponsored children to their sponsors and helping with our Etsy shop!

Summer volunteer, Maddie, was essential in helping us take our Etsy shop to the next level!

New volunteers for the fall include Carissa (an intern from UMass Dartmouth), Gwen (a home school student), and Kelly (a registered nurse who has helped tremendously in our warehouse).

Starting soon in our office will be Elizabeth and Rochelle, respiratory therapy students from North Shore Community, who will be helping us work on our Annual Benefit. We will also have Astrid, who previously volunteered when she was in high school, and has decided to come back.

We want to thank our current and past volunteers for their dedication to helping those living in extreme poverty. We could not do what we do without them. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.pidonline.org/get-involved/volunteer to apply.

19th Annual Benefit And Fund Drive

silent auction, dinner and live entertainment

funding programs for individuals living in extreme poverty in Haiti, Guatemala, the Mississippi Delta, and Peru

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2019 at 6PM

VITTORI-ROCCI POST
143 Brimbal Ave., Beverly, Mass. 01915

RSVP by October 8, 2019
978-380-6132 or pidonline.org or mail

Tickets $50