

## After tragedy, a mother's mission

"It doesn't happen to my child or to yours. But it does happen in many places, many times each day," says Steve Davis, PATH's president and CEO. What is "it"? Death from diarrhea.

Diarrhea is the second leading cause of childhood death (after pneumonia)—it kills more children in a year than the entire population of Seattle or Denver. Children under five who are exposed to unsafe water and unsanitary conditions are especially vulnerable.

Standing in a cornfield near her Kenyan home, Jane Wamalwa testifies to this preventable tragedy. She points out the three small mounds that mark the graves of her children—two little boys and a baby girl—who died because she didn't know how to protect them.

### Cursed or cured

In Jane's community, diarrhea meant a child had been cursed. According to tradition, the only way to cure the disease was to administer special herbs. When the herbs caused the child to vomit, Jane was told the curse was leaving the child's body. The truth: vomiting hastened death.

Only after the death of her third child did Jane learn about the actual causes of diarrhea and the best ways to treat it. She heard about the importance of treating the family's drinking water from radio programs sponsored by PATH. She learned about oral



Kenyan Jane Wamalwa has a mission. "I lost my kids because of this," she tells her neighbors. "Now I am informed."

rehydration solution and zinc tablets, both used to treat dehydration caused by diarrhea, at a meeting of village elders. A community health worker taught her ways to improve her family's hygiene and sanitation practices.

When Jane had her fourth baby, she knew how to protect the little girl.

Now Jane is a PATH-trained community health worker herself, taking the fight against diarrhea door to door in her community. She says, "I go to my neighbors and I say: 'You know me. I lost my kids because of this. Now I am informed.'"

### The right toolkit

PATH has trained thousands of community health workers across western Kenya, where only about one in four people has safe water and fewer

than one in ten has access to improved latrines or flush toilets. Health officials say they're seeing significant progress in the fight against diarrheal disease, with more children getting earlier treatment and fewer needing hospitalization for severe dehydration.

Our community-based approaches are powerful, but we know that it takes more than one tool to stop a disease, so PATH has developed a complete set. We are:

- Making water safer (see page 2).
- Developing technologies to quickly diagnose the cause of diarrhea.
- Conducting clinical trials of a new drug to treat severe diarrhea.
- Advancing vaccines against several of the major causes of the disease.

## Clean water for Mani

Mani gives her mother a big grin before she chugs the cup of clean water. Then the four-year-old runs to the sari that is tied to the rafters of her house, sits inside, and swings.

Mani was not in such impish form when she was two. “She was so sick, I was scared,” her mother, Madhavi, says. The toddler was struck with diarrhea, vomiting, and a high fever—a combination that can kill small children. The likely cause: the family’s drinking water, which comes from a shallow well and contains bacteria, viruses, and fecal matter.

Fortunately for Mani, Madhavi was part of a PATH pilot project to get water filters into rural homes in India through women’s microfinance groups.



“Things are much better for us now,” says Madhavi with her new water filter and daughters Mani (left) and Anjana.

Water filters can cost as much as a third of a family’s monthly income. Through her village microfinance group, Madhavi was able to take out a low-interest loan for a filter, which she paid back in six months.

“Being able to take loans feels good because you’re able to plan and repay slowly,” says Madhavi. She adds, “Things are much better for us now.”

### Better design, better health

The microfinance model was even more successful in Cambodia, where we combined it with a better-designed version of a locally available, but underused, water filter. To come up with the new design, we turned to our primary collaborators and most powerful teachers: the people we serve. We spent time in families’ homes, watching how they prepared and stored water and learning about their needs and desires. As a result, sales of the new water filter have soared.

With your support, we’re extending the model to latrines and cook stoves. From clean water to improved sanitation to cleaner air, you’re helping to create healthy homes for active children like Mani. ●

## After tragedy, a mother’s mission continued from front page

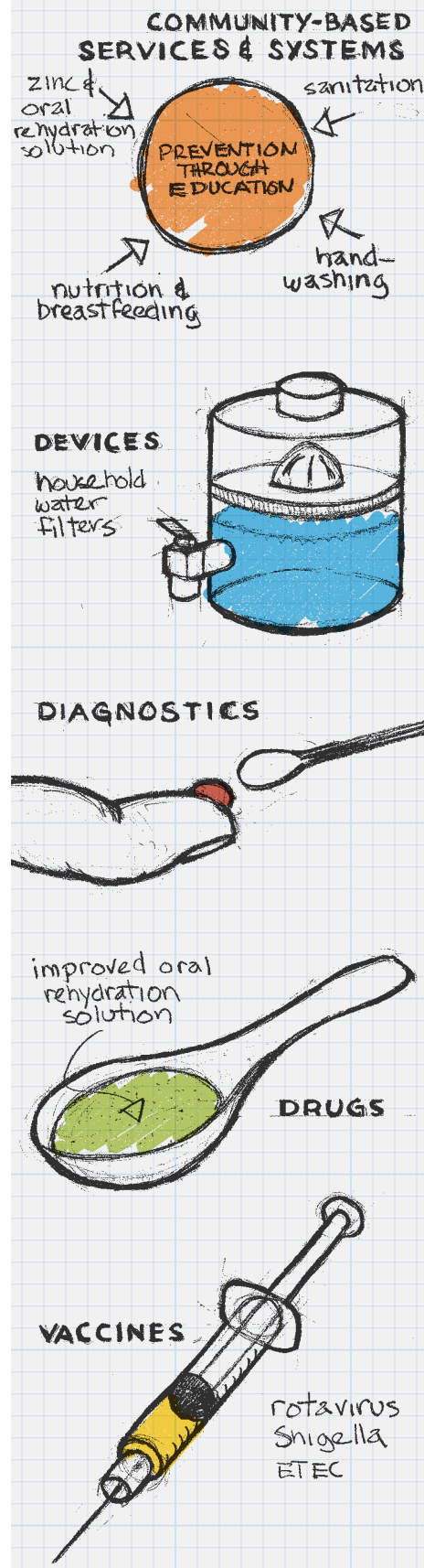
### A pledge for parents like Jane

Now, we’re joining a global pledge to save 2 million young lives from diarrhea and pneumonia by the end of 2015. “PATH is committing to a strategy that ensures these innovations get to scale and that our investments—of time, effort, and financial resources—pay off,” says Steve Davis. “More important, we’re committing to a world where no parent will have to bury a child

because of diarrhea or pneumonia that could have been prevented.”

We have the tools and, as results in Kenya show, the expertise to achieve our goal. With support from donors, we’re launching a coordinated approach—combining nutrition, water, sanitation, vaccines, and treatment—in Cambodia. With your help, we’ll take these tools to Ethiopia and India next. For the sake of mothers like Jane, we hope you’ll join us. ●

## PATH’s blueprint for tackling deadly diarrhea





## Women-initiated contraceptives are \_\_\_\_\_

Safe love. Sexy. A woman's bargaining power. Freedom. *For everyone.* Those are a few of the answers submitted to our "Female Condoms Are \_\_\_\_\_"



film contest. The contest drew nearly 30 short films from 12 countries and raised the profile of a technology that offers protection against unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The winning film, *Female Condoms Are My Power, My Protection, My Pleasure!*, follows a radiant young

woman in Mozambique as she encourages her peers to take control of their lives. (Watch it at [sites.path.org/rhtech/female-condom-film/](http://sites.path.org/rhtech/female-condom-film/)).

Thanks to help from our donors, PATH has designed comfortable, easy-to-use, and affordable contraceptives to fit a range of women's needs. Our Woman's Condom is now being manufactured in China, and an injectable contraceptive in our Uniject™ injection system will soon be available in Africa (see page 4). In June, we celebrated the launch of our one-size-fits most (no doctor's fitting required!) SILCS diaphragm in Europe—a first step toward introduction in developing countries.

## Thank you for another successful Breakfast!

Our tremendous thanks to the 700 people who joined us in May for the 2013 Breakfast for Global Health and raised almost \$700,000 for the Catalyst Fund! If you missed the event, you can watch our "sizzle" reel at [www.path.org/donate/breakfast.php](http://www.path.org/donate/breakfast.php). The short video captures the highlights, from the announcement by PATH president Steve Davis (right) of our commitment to help save 2 million young lives to an after-event interview with Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



## Your support is more than money

It's fuel for the dream of an equitable world. We've gathered stories of the power of your support in our *Report to Contributors: Driving Transformative Innovation*. Find out what we've achieved together at [www.path.org/report-to-contributors/](http://www.path.org/report-to-contributors/).

## Planning for the future

What legacy will you leave for future generations? We invite you to join PATH Futures, a circle of individuals making a long-term commitment to a world where health is in reach for all. By making a bequest to PATH, you'll help sustain our work and create a legacy of health for families around the world. Find out more at [www.path.org](http://www.path.org), or contact Heidi Peterson, director of major gifts and planned giving, at [hpeterson@path.org](mailto:hpeterson@path.org) or 206.285.3500.

## PATH'S MISSION

*is to improve  
the health of people  
around the world by  
advancing technologies,  
strengthening systems,  
and encouraging  
healthy behaviors.*

### Board of directors

Dean Allen, USA (treasurer)  
Phyllis Campbell, USA  
Alex Chika Ezech, PhD, MSc, Nigeria  
George Gotsadze, MD, PhD, Republic of Georgia (chair)  
Eivor Halkjaer, Sweden (secretary)  
Vincent McGee, USA  
Woodrow Myers, MD, MBA, USA (vice chair)  
Kevin Reilly, MBA, USA

### Sign up for email from PATH

To receive regular email updates on PATH's projects, the impact of your support, and the latest and best ideas in global health, send an email request to [development@path.org](mailto:development@path.org) or sign up online at [www.path.org](http://www.path.org).

### Contact us

For information about upcoming events, contact [events@path.org](mailto:events@path.org).

For questions about giving opportunities or to give feedback, contact Catherine Endicott, Development officer, at [cendicott@path.org](mailto:cendicott@path.org) or 206.302.4564.

Donate at [www.path.org](http://www.path.org)




PO Box 900922  
Seattle, WA 98109 USA

T 206.285.3500  
F 206.285.6619

info@path.org  
www.path.org

Please let us know if you would  
like to add someone's name to our  
mailing list or if you would like  
your name removed.

 Printed on recycled paper.

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Seattle WA  
Permit No. 600

## Making a Difference

### Simple—and lifechanging

“My story,” says Dr. Jon Younger, “is of a decision to support a PATH project that I felt very passionate about and what happened when it hit a roadblock.”

For Jon and the other family members behind the Frankel Foundation, “family planning is a foundation for eliminating poverty, improving education, and improving life experience.” So the foundation decided to support what Jon calls “a simple, smart, significant idea”—an injectable contraceptive in the PATH-developed Uniject™ injection system.

Effective, long-lasting, and private, injectable contraceptives are popular in Africa, but they can be hard to access in places that require highly skilled health workers to administer shots. The simple-to-use Uniject™—a short needle attached to a small bubble of plastic—

could make it easier for village health workers to deliver the contraceptive to women where they live.

The Frankel Foundation was among the early supporters of the product, which is now known by the brand name Sayana® Press. Then, in late 2011, Jon learned that the production of the first trial batch of Sayana® Press was halted because of a funding gap.



Family planning “is a fundamental human right,” says Jon Younger, a Seattle physician and PATH supporter.

For Jon, that made the project even *more* interesting. “Once PATH brings a pilot project to fruition, there is great access to support,” he explains. “But at the beginning or when a project is in trouble—that’s when we felt that we could really have a huge impact.”

The Frankel Foundation’s gift was catalytic. PATH was able to commit the cornerstone funding for the trial run. With Sayana® Press in production, PATH and major funders announced a new initiative: within four years, we will bring up to 12 million doses to women in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Says Jon, “As donors, we do the easy part, but to help make a project like this successful is really fantastic.” ●

**INSIDE**  
After tragedy,  
a mother's  
mission