

MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

A VILLAGE-BASED ORPHAN CARE PROJECT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2011



Dear Donors and Friends,

In 1996, Malawi Children's Village was a pile of bricks and a dream. Malawi was in the throes of an AIDS-induced nightmare that had produced 800,000 orphans, who themselves were experiencing high rates of hunger and death. Attending school became an unaffordable luxury. Perhaps worst of all, hope was close to extinction.

The dream of MCV was to restore hope to orphans in 37 villages along the southwest shore of Lake Malawi. There were more than 4,000 orphans in these villages with an average of six orphans living in households headed by grandparents and others. The death rate from malaria alone was about 10%, and few orphans could even think about going to school.

The dream of MCV was the product of fortunate meetings of former Peace Corps volunteers and Malawians. Together they decided to develop a

village-based orphan care program designed to provide support to households willing to care for orphans. The combination of chief-appointed volunteers in each village and a small central staff became the core of that support system. Soon, a clinic was opened, a nutrition center established, and regular outreach visits began providing food supplements, clothing, health education and training in irrigation/food sustainability. Later, other support programs were established, and secondary and technical schools were opened.

Fifteen years later, much of the dream has become a reality. More than 10,000 orphans have received services (including 2,145 currently enrolled), households now have an average of less than two orphans, the death rate from malaria in young children has plummeted by 75%, and an incredible 78% of orphans are attending school!

While the Malawian staff and village volunteers have made all this happen, it would not have occurred without the continuous and generous support of hundreds of donors across the USA. Though most of you will never visit Malawi, your generosity is enhancing the lives of orphans and restoring hope to the 37 villages served by MCV.

Sometimes the question is asked: "What good is it to serve 10,000 orphans when there are over 800,000 orphans in the country." The answer is that we are called to do what we can, not to do nothing because we can't do it all. And the deeper answer is in the eyes of the orphans for whom hope has been restored.

We invite all of you to become a part of the MCV dream through your donations and prayers. The dream will not remain a reality without you.

Tsalini Bwino,

Tom Vitaglione, Board President

WHAT DOES MCV'S SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

By Conor Brady & Tom Vitaglione

Each one of the thousands of orphans that have been supported by MCV has an individual story. Many of these orphans are now enrolled in university or in the professional workforce as teachers, clinical officers, and administrators. Their stories are now giving hope to thousands more.



Jonathan enjoys a Coke while on safari with the Nighswanders.

Jonathan Mtaula lost his father when he was young, but was able to attend secondary school thanks to MCV donor support. Each school break he came to MCV to volunteer. Later, after attending post-secondary school, he worked for MCV. He has an aptitude for information systems, and designed MCV's first database. He also helped direct fund-raising DVDs and taught computer classes at the technical school.

Continued inside...

Continued from front: Jonathan is now excelling at the renowned Malawi Polytechnic Institute in Blantyre, where he is studying communications sciences. Upon graduation, Jonathan hopes to bring his skills back to MCV to help other orphans.

Mike Beston came to our attention in 2002 when he religiously attended supplementary courses at MCV, even though he had to walk daily more than seven kilometers from Njereza Village. He was especially interested in biology. He did very well in secondary school and, with donor support, he completed the health sciences curriculum at St. Luke's College. He is now a clinical officer at a church-operated medical center in Zomba. Mike is the first MCV orphan to become a health care professional.

Dyson Magombo had little hope after his father died. He is now thriving as an irrigation officer for MCV. If you missed it, Read Dyson's full story at www.malawichildrensvillage.org/blog



Dyson, a university graduate, oversees the Village to Village irrigation project.

And the list goes on and on...

- Annie Mponde is an accounts assistant at MCV
- Eunice Dzikiti, Gerald Mulingo, Emmanuel Nthala, and Samson Sondolo are teachers in various parts of Malawi
- Ali Mwachande is a finance officer for an NGO in Lilongwe
- Matius Millias is the coordinator of Islamic pre-schools in Balaka
- Charles Kauwa is a finance officer at St. Michael's School at Malindi
- Mike Kanjala is an irrigation officer in South Africa
- Baxton Chirombo is an irrigation officer in Lilongwe
- Tony Gonani is pursuing a career in politics
- Samuel Mtaula & Ezekiel Njirazafa are teachers in Mozambique...



Morris, Atupele, and Andrew graduated from Gracious near the top of their class.

The Next Class: MCV's list of successful graduates continues to grow. Several students are currently pursuing post secondary degrees thanks to the generous support of individual donors and the Rotary District 7120 Post Secondary Scholarship Fund.

Morris, Atupele, and Andrew are a few of the many bright orphans awaiting the results of their university entrance exams after graduating from Gracious Secondary School last year.

A STRENGTHENED MALAWIAN BOARD

By Conor Brady

In the spirit of the Peace Corps, MCV has always been a Malawian run project, assisted by international friends. MCV is a Malawian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) overseen by a local board of directors and administered by a fully Malawian staff. Financial support and oversight is provided by Malawi Children's Village, Foundation Inc. a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization run solely by a board of directors.

We are pleased to announce that during 2011 the local board of directors for MCV (the Malawian

NGO) was significantly strengthened with new membership.

- Peter Barratt, the new chair of the Malawi board is the manager of Leopard Match, Ltd. - one of the largest companies in Malawi. He is also a leader of the Limbe Rotary.
- Nelson Banda is former manager of Nkopola Lodge and is now running his own Nyanja Eco Lodge, both down the road from MCV's central campus.
- Paul Jones is the director of Emmanuel International, a faith-based NGO in Zomba.
- Henry Kangunga is a medical officer at the Anglican Hospital in Mangochi and is a long-time friend of the project.

- Sam Tembenu is a lawyer and former head of the Malawi Lawyers Association. He helped draft the original MCV lease as well as the original MCV Malawi Board by-laws.
- Tom Vitaglione, MCV Foundation President and Ruth Nighswander, MCV Foundation Vice President also serve on the Malawi board.

Like the US board, the Malawian board does not receive financial compensation of any kind. The newly strengthened local board improves the oversight of the project, and enables MCV Malawi to plan strategically for the future. As always, the MCV US board remains involved to ensure your donations are used responsibly.

By Matthew Wormer



Form I (9th grade) Gracious Secondary School students

Bells begin ringing at twenty past seven, but I can see students wandering towards school far before then. As I cook breakfast I'll hear them chatting and laughing, some of them having traveled ten or fifteen kilometers or more on their journey from home to Gracious. The luckiest have bikes. The rest walk. Yet there they are every morning, arriving forty or fifty minutes before first period.

I think that's what I like most about teaching at Gracious. I feel every day like I'm working with students who want to be here, who believe in education, who love to learn. They're cheerful and eager and enthusiastic – fun to be around. When I think back on students at my own high school (including myself!) I cringe, recalling the angst and the apathy and the

juvenile rejection of school as something that wasn't 'cool.' Yet we were the ones gifted with school buses and sports facilities and small class sizes, with graphing calculators and shiny new computers and brand new textbooks. We didn't know what it meant to lack. Here pens are a precious commodity. Paper is an expensive investment. It's heartbreaking to see, and even more so when I think about the difference in attitudes between these students and those back home.

This isn't to suggest that the students here are perfect. They misbehave and get rowdy, they skirt the rules and talk in class and forget to do their homework – just like students everywhere. But their fundamental relationship to education is different. I remember asking my students in early September, after a week spent grinding out grammar rules, lecturing on subjects and predicates and other abstract linguistic constructions, if they would like to take a break from grammar and spend some time reading a story from our literature book. My jaw dropped when they replied “no, we want to know how to speak English!” It turned out they didn't find grammar dull at all. They know it's important, and thus that's what they want to study. It was an eye



Matt, a volunteer teacher, on a trip with the Nature/English club

opening moment. I knew then that these were kids who honestly want to understand the subject material, who really do dream of an education. I have students approach me nearly every day asking questions and seeking help. “Sir, teach me to speak English” or “Sir, I want to know how to write compositions” or “Sir, how do I use full stops.”

All of this makes working at Gracious challenging, exhausting and sometimes frustrating – the fact that I can't speak Chichewa anywhere near as well as they can speak English (which isn't very well!) is an especially difficult obstacle to overcome – but it's also exciting and rewarding and full of happy surprises. It feels like I'm doing something important. And in the end I suppose that's the best thing about being here. It's work that's worth it, and that's saying something no matter where you are.



Florence poses on her new motorcycle which has allowed her to increase her visits to the field to assist orphans and educate villagers about HIV/AIDS.

Outreach gets a boost: Thanks to a generous individual donation, MCV was able to purchase a motorcycle for the MCV fieldwork team. Florence now uses the motorcycle to visit households caring for orphans in MCV's 37 villages.

As always, the fieldwork team is assisted by two village volunteers in each village. These volunteers make sure orphans and vulnerable children are in a supportive household, are having their basic needs met, and are attending school.

TREASURER'S REPORT: YEAR END 2011

By Mike Horne

Once again as in past years, 2011 has been a challenging year for meeting the orphan support goals set by Malawi Children's Village Foundation (MCVF). As 2011 comes to an end, the Board is happy to announce that we once again were able to support the orphans through high school scholarships, as well as MCV and its components, to the full amount we had estimated.

As always, we thank our past donors who have been very loyal to MCV, as well as new donors who have heard about the good work of MCV Malawi and give generously with their limited funds.

Some of you might have noticed that we now have a Post Office Box in Anchorage Alaska for donations and correspondence. In 2011 MCVF board elected to retain the services of a local Alaskan to act as book keeper. Donations will no longer be handled through the Alaska Community Foundation. This switch allows us to ensure thank you notices with MCV letterhead are sent to ALL donors regardless of the size of their donation. We were concerned under the previous system that many small donors were not being thanked for their generous donations.

The MCVF Board would like to thank all the folks who donated in 2011, including those that gave from their pocket, and those that had the chance to visit Malawi and MCV and give of their time.



The School-to-School Program's success continued in 2011. The new school at Nasenga now has 331 students. Alaskan schools have also raised money for books, supplies, teacher housing and much more.

Balance Beginning (12/1/10) \$420

Revenue Gains 2011
Contributions 177,626

Total 178,046

Supporting Services
Admin Fees (book keeper) 3,600
Bank Fees 530
Tax Preparation 950
Newsletter/Mailings 3,500
Office 825

Total Supporting Services 9,405

Program Services
Grants 129,000
Designated Funds 12,500
Orphan School Tuition 21,000

Total Program Services 162,500

Total Expenses 171,905

Balance ending (12/1/11)** \$6,141

**Revenues, expenses and balance ending are estimated to include the entire year including November. As you know we do one major fund raiser per year from December through January. In late November we send the December monthly support funds to MCV. This is the final payment for the year. The ending balance shown on the financial statement is merely a reflection of the funds available for the start of the following year based on our funds December 1st and does not include funds donated in December which will be used for supporting MCV for the following year. **

MCV & ROTARY IN MISSOURI PARTNER TO TREAT MALARIA

By Elizabeth Usovicz & Bill Schmidt



Catherine Shebani inspects a bed-net in the village. Her regular visits are key to the program's success.

According to UNICEF statistics, more than 110 Malawians a day die from malaria. Thanks to an ongoing partnership between MCV and Rotary International's District 6040 in Missouri, the villagers served by MCV have a chance to change that statistic. The partnership focuses on preventing and treating the disease. In 2009, 19 Rotary clubs in Rotary District 6040 Missouri supported the purchase and distribution of bed-nets in the villages - and results show that child and infant mortality has declined by 75% in the villages.

Treatment is equally important, and the Kansas City Plaza Rotary Club raised funds and received a District Simplified Grant from Rotary District 6040 to purchase 3,000 doses of malaria medication to treat women and children in the 37 villages served by MCV.

MCV's fieldwork team is actively working to spread the word about the bed-net program, and now is able to also refer women and children for malaria treatment.

Rotary District 6040 Missouri is also developing programs to support orphans' secondary education needs. You can help! For more information on MCV malaria and education efforts, contact Bill Schmidt at schmidtwill@sbcbglobal.net or Elizabeth Usovicz at eusovicz@kc.rr.com.



Two young orphan girls smile because they will now be able to attend primary school with new uniforms.

Donors and Friends: When Jonathan Mtaula, now a successful young adult, addressed the audience at MCV's tenth anniversary, his most moving words were simple:

"I once was a boy without hope, who now has hope."

Your donations are providing orphans with the basic needs we take for granted everyday: enough food to eat; a dry roof to sleep under; clothes to wear; help when they get sick; a place to go to school. Perhaps most importantly though, your donations are giving hope to the orphans of Mangochi, Malawi. The girls pictured to the left can now dream of one day being teachers, lawyers, nurses, or doctors; of being role models in their community. Please continue to make their dreams a reality by donating today.

Thank you, Zikomo.

MCV Board of Directors

Donations may be made online at www.malawichildrens-village.org/donate OR by filling out and submitting the form below with your check.

Malawi Children's Village provides a continuum of services for the immediate needs and the future opportunities of orphans and other vulnerable children, their families and villages of Mangochi, MW, focusing on current and emerging concerns including but not limited to: HIV/AIDS and malaria care and prevention, food security and educational attainment.

YES! I want to make a real difference in the life of an orphaned child.

Enclosed please find my gift of:

_____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ \$85
 _____ \$150 _____ \$300 _____ \$500
 Other (\$ _____)

Designation preference, if any:

_____ Wherever funds are most needed.
 _____ Gracious Secondary School
 _____ Other (Please fill in: _____)

Mail this form and donations to:

Malawi Children's Village Foundation
 PO Box 240547
 Anchorage, AK 99524-0547

Please make checks payable to:

Malawi Children's Village Foundation, Inc.

Please provide us with the following information: Dr. / Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. (please circle)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

May we send updates showing how your donation is making a difference? Yes / No (please circle)

Malawi Children's Village Foundation, Inc. is a designated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York. As such, your donation is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. MCV's Tax ID Number is 16-1526805. Thank you for your generous support. Zikomo!