

MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

A VILLAGE-BASED ORPHAN CARE PROJECT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2012



Dear Donors and Friends,

As it continues its mission to provide for the needs of orphans in one of the poorest districts in one of the poorest countries in the world, Malawi Children's Village has had an eventful year. In spite of food and fuel shortages, as well as a currency devaluation that will help in the future but makes the present painful, MCV continues to improve the lives of more than 2,700 orphans.

MCV serves orphans and vulnerable children through a small core staff and a growing number of partners. These partners, to name a few, include Open Arms, which provides rehabilitative care for infants/toddlers; Engineers Without Borders, which just completed a safe water system; and of course numerous Rotary Clubs, without whose generous assistance the project would never have achieved such success.

We are delighted to report that there are fewer young orphans, indicating that AIDS prevention and early

treatment are finally having success. And MCV's malaria prevention efforts through education and treated bednets continues to reduce malaria cases and deaths in young children and pregnant women by 80 percent!

Great strides are being made in education as well. More than 80 percent of school-age orphans attend school regularly. The MCV vocational school has been acclaimed and supported by the government. Students at our own Gracious Secondary School continue to achieve test results far above the national average. A number of American school-to-school initiatives, continue to provide fiscal and moral support to primary schools in the area.

All of this is just part of the legacy of Chakunja and Faith Sibale, founding MCV directors who retired this year. It was Mr Sibale's vision that formed the basis and approach of MCV. We wish them well in their well-deserved retirement. We are pleased that Felix Chirombo, MCV Assistant Director

for a decade, has assumed leadership of the project without skipping a beat. He continues to be supported by an active and knowledgeable local board.

All this success would not have occurred without the continuous generosity of donors from across the USA. In American terms, the costs are relatively small - \$30 provides basic orphan care for a year and \$160 covers a year in secondary school - but in Malawian terms they are well beyond the reach of families.

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give". Though most of you will never visit Malawi, your generosity enhances the lives of orphans and restores hope to the 37 villages served by MCV. We invite all of you to become part of the continuing MCV dream through your donations and prayers. The dream can only become a reality with your help.

Tsalini Bwino,

Tom Vitaglione, Board President



On the most recent national Junior Certificate Exams Gracious achieved a 96% pass rate compared to a 56% rate nationally.

Gracious does it again: As the latest exam results (left) show, MCV's Gracious Secondary School continues to outperform most secondary schools in Malawi. And the consistently strong exam results are only one sign of the school's success. Several orphans that graduated from Gracious have qualified for top universities in Malawi where they now attend thanks to the sponsorship of generous donors.

FELIX CHIROMBO TAKES OVER AS MCV DIRECTOR

By Conor Brady & Tom Vitaglione

The local Board of Trustees recently appointed Felix Chirombo as the new MCV Director. He succeeds Chakunja Sibale, the founding MCV leader, who has retired.

“MCV has been improving the lives of orphans for almost 15 years”, said Mr. Chirombo. “I am happy to be given the opportunity to build on the success already achieved.”

Mr. Chirombo has been the MCV Assistant Director for more than a decade, and brings a wealth of experience to his new responsibilities.



Felix Chirombo, MCV's new director

The glowing words from Engineers Without Borders about Felix

Chirombo in the article on page three echo the sentiments of everyone that has had the pleasure to work with Mr. Chirombo on projects big and small. He has earned the respect of staff, colleagues in partner organizations, and government officials.

Felix has a Certificates in Computer Science and Rural Management Development, and has taken numerous short courses in administration. He lives in Namiasi with his wife Miriam, a primary school teacher, and their three children.

“I am grateful for the support of the local board”, said Mr. Chirombo. “I will do my best to earn the confidence they have placed in me.”

A RETURN TO THE BASICS

By Tom Nighswander



Village Volunteers continue to be the back bone of the MCV program. Of the 58 volunteers who attended the July 2012 meeting, 37 have been with MCV since its inception in 1997.

Meeting with MCV village volunteers is the best way to determine the impact of our programs and of the needs still facing our orphans and their villages. This inspiring group of village workers keep us grounded in reality by reporting the facts from ground zero. Here they are:

The great news..... they report a decrease in HIV/AIDS in the 37 villages; and consequently, fewer new orphans. This year's village survey confirms their observations. In 2002, there were 413 orphans under five in our 37 villages. Today there are 194,

more than a 50 percent decrease!

The not so good news....fundamental life sustaining needs are still in short supply. **POVERTY** is persistent. On most charts, Malawi is among the five most impoverished countries in the world. Its manifestations permeate the country, but most dramatically affect life in the villages. The voices of our village volunteers tell the story: “We need blankets for our village orphans.” (Winter temperatures in Malawi reach 40 degrees F.)

“We had poor rains this last season” which translates to “njala” (hunger).

“Some of our village orphan caregivers have roofs which are falling in”. The picture of the house of a caregiver and five orphans below speaks for itself.

MCV's programs led by the volunteers and fieldwork team help to address these basic, life-sustaining issues. Ten irrigation programs are helping farmers increase their crop production and avoid “njala.” Our fieldwork team continues to provide caregivers with blankets for orphans, plastic sheets that help reinforce roofs, school uniforms and supplies so that orphans can attend school. As always, we thank you for helping to provide MCV staff and volunteers with the resources they need to do this good work. Your support is vital to the project's success.



With your help, MCV can help reinforce the roofs of homes housing orphans such as this one.

EWB & MCV PARTNER TO DELIVER CLEAN WATER

By John Pepe

The water treatment system at MCV is complete and has been in successful operation, providing safe drinking water to students, staff, and Open Arms youngsters since July. The system design and development began in 2008-2009 as a partnership between the Engineers Without Borders USA South Central Alaska Professional Chapter, Solace International and MCV. Construction of the system, by MCV, Solace and Open Arms Staff, began in 2011 and the new underground piping, pump house, treatment building and elevated tanks were completed in June 2012. The system provides treated water to two



Members of the MCV - Malawi Board in front of the completed water treatment facility

elevated tanks supplying existing MCV facilities and one elevated tank at the Open Arms Nursery. EWB Alaska completed the system operational training of MCV and Open Arms staff in July and since that time has been in weekly contact with MCV director, Felix Chirombo, reviewing operational

data for the system. Thanks to Felix Chirombo, for his outstanding efforts during this project. His commitment and partnership has made this project a success. Also special thanks to Ron and Suzan Zamber (International Vision Quest) and Lil'Red Foundation for their continued financial support and commitment throughout the project design and construction.



One of the new elevated water tanks on the MCV campus

THE RESULT OF SUSTAINED ORPHAN SUPPORT

By Frances Vitaglione



"Our graduation was so wonderful and memorable in our lives...We are very grateful for your assistance that has made us what we are today."

Ten years ago, in 2002, Tom and I offered supplemental classes to the secondary school students of MCV who were home on summer break. Among our students, in their first year of secondary school, were the shy and well-behaved friends Adams Chande and Alexander Chilumpha.

They were hard working students who

graduated high in their classes four years later. They were determined to enter the medical field, following the example of then Director Chakunja Sibale (a clinical officer), and his wife Faith (a nurse).

Up to this point the boys had benefited from the MCV policy of paying the secondary school fees of

deserving orphans, through the generosity of donors.

They then sought and found a North Carolina donor who turned out to be as determined as they were. They were able to start nursing school at Zomba, where they did so well that they were selected to the government sponsored and subsidized nursing school at Mzuzu. They have just graduated, amid much joy, after three more years of hard work and the support of the faithful, determined donor.

The boys have kept in touch all of this time, telling us of their gratitude:

"Our graduation was so wonderful and memorable in our lives, we wish you were there to witness yourselves. We are very grateful for your assistance that has made us what we are today."

They are now equipped not only to find gainful employment but also to provide service to their fellow countrymen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2012

By Mike Horne (immediate past Treasurer) & Bill Schmidt (Treasurer)

2012 has been an exciting year for Malawi Children's Village Foundation. Donations have enabled the continuation of the outreach program into the 37 villages served by MCV, provision of health services to orphans and their caretakers, the malaria prevention program, and continued support of orphans through high school scholarships. To the donors who have supported MCV for years, we thank you again for your loyalty and commitment to a project serving some of the neediest people on earth. And to the new donors, thank you too, for without your help we would have been unable to meet our commitment this year.

The MCV Foundation Board would also like to thank those who traveled to Malawi and visited MCV. You have seen the project first hand, and can now serve as ambassadors to give testimony to the good works done by the staff at MCV, all Malawian, who serve children whose parents have died of AIDS, other diseases or who are unable to care for them.

Continued financial support is essential in order to sustain critical services. We know that there are many worthwhile charitable endeavors seeking your contributions; please remember MCV this holiday season, and how your investment will help some of our world's poorest and most needy children. Your support is essential and much appreciated.

Balance Beginning (10/1/11) \$32,316

Revenue	
Grants	38,980
Contributions	137,472
Endowment	606

Total Revenue 177,058

Expenses	
Supporting Services	
Bookkeeper	3,600
Tax Preparation	945
Bank Fees and Wire Costs	602
PayPal Fees	411
Newsletter & Thank you notes	891
Insurance	1,150
PO Box Rental	0
Business Registration	50
Total Supporting Services	7,969

Program Services	
Grants	82,250
EWB Water Project Grants	24,647
Designated Funds	57,110
Orphan School Tuition	21,000
Total Program Services	185,007

Total Expenses 192,976

Balance Ending (9/30/11) \$16,699

MCV Foundation has no paid staff and our board members pay all of their own expenses. As the activity statement above indicates, 96% of last year's expenses were invested directly in programs and support in Malawi.

MCV ESTABLISHES PARTNERSHIP WITH KOCH HILL CLINIC

By Tom Nighswander & Bill Schmidt



Sister Magdalena sorts through new medical supplies provided by Seneca Falls Rotary.

Most top management experts would agree that deciding what NOT to do is one of the important strategic decisions an organization can make. At MCV we're constantly assessing how we can best leverage our donor dollars to achieve our mission. After confirming that Koch Hill Clinic, just three kilometers up the road from MCV, provides excellent care, the local board and Director Chirombo decided to close our clinic indefinitely upon Faith Sibale's retirement rather than hiring another nurse, and to partner with Koch. MCV has contracted with Koch to provide health care services for the MCV children and any family members who are their guardians. In the last six months, MCV has sent 278 patients to the clinic for care.

This excellent facility, which has expanded in recent years is part of the mission of the Canossa Catholic Church. It is administered by a delightful Malawian nun who is also a nurse midwife, Sister Magdalena. She is supported by ten other nurse midwives and a medical assistant. It is a busy clinic serving over 2,300 patients every month.

The facility is located in the center of the 37 villages included in the MCV project. The alternative for health care is the Mangochi District Hospital 25 kilometers away.



Improvements continue at Nasenga School. Here, students pose in front of bricks for teacher housing. These students could not attend school before, because existing schools were too far away.



MCV's bed-net program has reduced malaria cases and deaths in young children and pregnant women by 80%.

Donors and Friends: MCV's leadership has changed since its founding in 1997. Some of the original US board members have moved on, and this year Chakunja and Faith Sibale have retired. Amazingly however, after 15 years, much stays the same: most of our village volunteers have been around since day one, and these volunteers along with veteran staff continue to transform the lives of orphans in the 37 villages served. Another thing that stays the same: we need your support! We ask that you follow the example of commitment the MCV village volunteers have shown to the orphans supported by MCV. Please make a contribution today. MCV staff and volunteers are ready to continue the success we've achieved over the last 15 years, but can only do so with your help.

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!