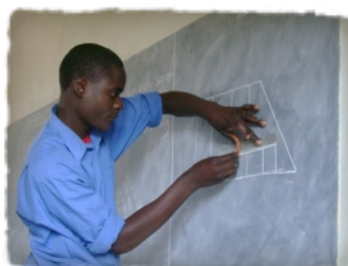


# MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

## A VILLAGE-BASED ORPHAN CARE PROJECT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2013



### Dear Donors and Friends,

Malawi Children's Village is now in its seventeenth year, an eternity in the fragile environment of Malawi, an environment in which good intentions usually succumb quickly. There are three key reasons why MCV successfully continues to provide village-based care for orphans in one of the poorest countries in the world.

The first is that the project was initiated in collaboration with Malawians. The all-Malawian staff responds to the needs of the 37 participating villages, and an all-Malawian local board of directors provides assistance and oversight. The second is a group of partners. To mention just a few: Open Arms, which provides rehabilitative care for infants/toddlers; Engineers Without Borders, which just completed a safe water system; and numerous Rotary Clubs, which provide generous assistance with irrigation, malaria prevention and primary school projects. And the very important third reason is that a loyal

group of donors – including most of you who are reading this newsletter – have faithfully provided the fiscal support to sustain the project.

Ninety percent of your donations go to the project and the villages where almost 3,000 orphans currently receive support. (Since the inception of MCV, more than 12,000 orphans have been served.) And your donations continue to make a real difference. There are fewer young orphans, indicating that AIDS prevention and early treatment are finally having success. Malaria prevention efforts through education and treated bed-nets continue to reduce malaria cases and deaths in young children and pregnant women by 80 percent. Growth and well-being studies show that MCV's young orphans are growing at the same rate as their non-orphans counterparts, and orphan teens have well-being scores equal to non-orphans as well.

Great strides are also being made in education. 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 results far above the national average. The School-to-School Program continues to provide fiscal and moral support to primary schools in the area.

This success would not have occurred without the continuous generosity of donors like you. 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.

An orphan who graduated some years ago and is now a teacher recently sent a note saying: "Thank you for giving me a chance at life. I pray that God gives you more than you have given me". That message is meant for all of you who have donated to MCV.

**Tsalani Bwino,**

**Tom Vitaglione, Board President**



Nettie Graulich's Sewing Project, at MCV's vocational school trains orphans to become skilled tailors while selling goods to remain financially sustainable.

**Did you know?:** When TEVETA (the Malawian government agency that evaluates vocational programs) visited the MCV Sewing Program in 2012, they were so impressed with what they saw that they remarked, "This is the best training program of its kind in Malawi." Look out for more news on the MCV Sewing Program, including Nettie's 2013 report on the MCV blog, [malawichildrensvillage.org/blog](http://malawichildrensvillage.org/blog)

# THE VILLAGES OF MCV'S VILLAGE BASED ORPHAN CARE

By Frances Vitaglione



Level eight teachers, students, & MCV Village Volunteer (far right) from Njereza, one of the 37 villages supported by MCV, and the first village in our profile series

Rural Mangochi District, along the southern shores of Lake Malawi, is composed of villages engaged primarily in subsistence farming and fishing. Village populations are family based to a large extent. Up until the mid 1990's any child who lost parents was taken in by extended family, thereby making the concept of "orphan" somewhat rare. But this excellent system of absorbing orphans broke down under the weight of tens of thousands of orphans created by the

AIDs epidemic.

Malawi Children's Village tried to revitalize the extended family fostering approach by providing important support to families willing to take in an orphan in their village. An orphan in place in their own village has a sense of family, of home, of who his or her people are, and is raised within their own cultural milieu.

This approach has worked well for 15 years in our 37 village catchment area. Now grandmothers previously dealing

with four to six orphaned grandchildren have only one or two, and orphan care is spread out more evenly in the villages.

An orphan fostering family receives blankets for the cold season, infant nutritional supplement, school uniforms for primary school students, seeds for planting in times of impending famine, treated bednets for pregnant women and young children, AIDs and health counseling, and most valued of all, free access to the Koche Health Clinic for the whole family.

MCV has the full cooperation of the village chiefs who appoint two village volunteer liaisons with MCV whose job it is to identify orphans as they occur, place them with foster families, monitor their progress, and link the orphan and family to assistance as needed.

In order to give our donors a bit of the flavor of each village we will be offering profiles of each village in our new series "Village Profiles" on the MCV blog. The profile of Njereza Village below is the first installment in our series.

This profile first appeared on the MCV blog [malawichildrensivillage.org/blog](http://malawichildrensivillage.org/blog) on October 20, 2013.

**Njereza Village** is located further from the shore of Lake Malawi than many of the other villages in the MCV catchment area. It is 12 kilometers from the road, over near the hills. Instead of crops being damaged by hippos coming out of the water, here the crops have been damaged by elephants from the hills. (Recently the WWF paid to have the elephants gently removed to a large nature reserve elsewhere.) Most of the people are subsistence farmers, far away from fishing opportunities and far from the commerce available near the main road.



The teachers of Njereza Village's Primary School, where MCV's School-to-School Program has funded the construction of classrooms and offices

The village's small primary school had three teachers for 300 students in three grades and two classrooms until 2005. Now they have six classrooms, a principals' office, seven teachers, boys and girls latrines, and 594 students in eight grades. All of this improvement was made possible by US donors.

In spite of the long, hot walk from the village to the main road, several of our high school age orphans have made the trek to MCV to attend summer school classes and do volunteer work at MCV.

Graduates have gone on first to secondary school, then to agriculture



college, teacher training, medical school and other post high school education, all with the help of donor funds.

Health and education are the only tickets to a better life in Malawi and everyone knows it.

Three years ago high winds peeled up and destroyed the corrugated metal roof of a two classroom block. And even in spite of the rain pouring into the classroom during the rainy season, the students determinedly squeezed into a dry corner to get the benefit of schooling. Money has now been raised to repair the roof. In the villages the rain and wind regularly dissolve and blow apart some of the humble mud walled homes.

At MCV we are always trying to



Njereza Village's Chief and his wife. MCV works collaboratively with village headmen to support orphans.

develop a real rainy day fund.

In Njereza Village MCV supports 89 orphans in 36 households. Of these orphans 81 are school age, seven

receiving MCV scholarships to attend Gracious Secondary School and the remaining 74 primary school students receiving school uniforms. Also 22 households received treated bednets and 15 households needed other MCV support such as blankets, infant nutritional supplement, etc.

Two village coordinators, appointed by the chief, serve as liaisons between the village and MCV, to assist with mediating MCV programs to the villagers. They provide small sick orphans with bike transportation to a clinic, report on their health and school data, assist with malaria and AIDS education, come monthly to MCV for training, and most of all keep an eye on the general well-being of the orphans at Njereza.

**Village Sponsorship:** We are doing everything we can at MCV to give village orphans a chance at a decent life and in so doing to have a positive ripple effect in each village. We expend between \$1500 and \$2500 annually to support each of the 37 villages of varying sizes.

Donations of any size are most welcome and go to the direct support of villages such as Njereza. However, if you or your group are in a position to sustain a village for an entire year, we have three levels of major support:

**Ng'ona** (crocodile) \$1500 level would sustain a small village

**Mvuu** (hippopotamus) \$2000 level would sustain a mid-sized village

**Njobvu** (elephant) \$2500 level would sustain a larger village



If you are able and willing to give a major level of support to sustain a village such as Njereza, in addition to our heartfelt thanks, you will receive an animal themed certificate acknowledging your gift.



A local project, MCV is overseen by the MCV Malawi Board.

### A Message from MCV Malawi :

The MCV Malawi Board admires the work of the staff as it strives to meet the needs of orphans and their caretakers under very difficult conditions. And we are impressed with the loyalty of donors who have ensured the success of the project for more than a decade. We are grateful for your support. We remain

dedicated to making MCV as efficient and effective as possible.

Sincerely,

Peter Barratt  
MCV Malawi Board Chair

**Peter Barratt** is the manager of Leopard Match, Ltd. - one of the largest companies in Malawi. He is also the leader of Limbe Rotary.

## TREASURER'S REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2013

By Bill Schmidt

Once again, the generosity of MCV's donors, both those that have contributed since day one, and those that have recently joined on in support, has allowed the MCV Foundation Board to meet our commitment to MCV Malawi. Our local board of directors and staff have continued to produce amazing results for the orphans and vulnerable children of Mangochi, Malawi. One of the poorest districts, in one of the poorest countries in the world. Thanks to your support, the MCV project has not only been sustained over the last 17 years, it has grown and prospered.

Despite that growth however, we remain a small, donor driven organization. We do not receive large grants or government contracts of any kind. We've become more financially sustainable with the revenues from income generating activities our project has undertaken, such as tuition from our schools (secondary and vocational) and income from the products produced and sold by our carpentry and sewing programs. Caring for the most needy children in Malawi will never be sustained by these projects alone however. Your continued financial support is essential in order to achieve our mission. Please remember MCV this holiday season. Your support is essential to our success and much appreciated.

October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013

Revenue	
Direct Public Grants	\$10,881
Direct Public Support	\$143,434
Endowment	\$626
Fundraisers and Non-Gift	\$5,486

Total Revenue	\$160,427
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Expenses	
Supporting Services	
Bookkeeper	\$4,200
Tax Preparation	\$840
Bank Fees and Wire Costs	\$489
PayPal Fees	\$720
Newsletter & Thank Yous	\$3,542
Insurance	\$1,242
PO Box Rental	\$330
Total Supporting Services	\$11,363

Program Services	
Grants	\$50,000
EWB Water Project Grants	\$1,500
Designated Funds	\$35,205
Orphan School Tuition	\$11,600
Total Program Services	\$98,305

Total Expenses	\$109,668
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MCV Foundation has no paid staff and our board members pay all of their own expenses. As the activity statement above indicates, 90% of last year's expenses were invested directly in programs and support in Malawi.

## DONATING APPRECIATED STOCK TO MCV

By Dunham Smith



### Donating stock saves on taxes

About ten years ago, I saw a piece on NBC news about "People who are making a difference" featuring MCV Co-founder Kevin Denny. I contacted him, received information about MCV, was impressed, and started donating. I have continued each year and watched as they have grown and prospered and continue their grass roots mission of helping Malawi's children. To me, this type of small organization, run with little fanfare or overhead, is making a huge difference in the lives of those that need the most help. I think they are accomplishing more with limited funds than some of the large national charities.

Seven years ago, my wife and I started donating appreciated stock directly to MCV. We have realized a tax deduction and saved some capital gains taxes by not having to sell the stock first and remit the funds to MCV in cash. They have made the process easy and seamless. All I do is inform my broker in writing to transfer shares directly to MCV's account at Wells Fargo Bank and include transfer instructions. You can call your broker to find out what information is required in the letter, get a Medallion Signature Guarantee (similar to a Notary seal) at your local financial institution, and off goes the stock. It's simple and easy and can make such a difference in the lives of Malawi's youth. I recommend this way of giving back. And with the stock market near all time highs, it might be the best time to do it to get maximum tax benefits. For more transfer instructions contact [conor@malawichildrensillage.org](mailto:conor@malawichildrensillage.org)



MCV's Gracious Secondary School completed its 8th successful year in 2013. 326 students were enrolled during the last academic year, 76 of which were orphans or vulnerable children sponsored by MCV. The school's results continue to rank among the best in the nation.





Ellaton Siyabu, a sponsored orphan, and Gracious graduate is now pursuing his dreams at Mzuzu University

**Donors and Friends:** As a secondary school student in 2007, orphan Ellaton Siyabu asked his teacher, “how do I become a hero of mathematics like you?” Today, thanks to his hard work, and the support of generous donors, Ellaton is pursuing his dream. Your generous donations not only paid for Ellaton’s school fees, they likely also improved his life in other ways. Your gifts may have improved his primary school, reduced his risk of contracting malaria, or allowed him to visit the clinic when he was sick. Or perhaps they helped fix his house after a rain storm. His success is success we can all be proud of. Please help us make the dreams of other orphans come true by continuing your support with a donation today.

Thank you, Zikomo.

**MCV Board of Directors**

Donations may be made online at [www.malawichildreenvillage.org/donate](http://www.malawichildreenvillage.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

**Village sponsorship levels:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1500    \_\_\_\_\_ \$2000    \_\_\_\_\_ \$2500

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to subscribe to the MCV Blog via email?** 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!*