



**malawi  
children's  
village**

## A VILLAGE-BASED ORPHAN CARE PROJECT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2018



### **Moni Achimwene (Hello, Friends),**

Malawi Children's Village became a reality because its founders' lives had been positively impacted by their experiences working as Peace Corps Volunteers with the welcoming and compassionate people in Malawi. Decades after their active service, they responded to the urgent need to care for the growing number of orphans with an action plan built within the context of the rich culture. The Malawian run, volunteer based core programs focus on partnering with the extended families that care for more than 3,000 orphans to provide for their basic health, social and educational needs.

Stability of these core programs, made possible by your financial

support, has enabled many ancillary initiatives through the years that further address the needs of those MCV serves. These include the development of a program to assist those with physical challenges, the creation of Gracious Secondary (grades 9-12) School, college sponsorship, development of a skills based training program, building houses for some of the families who take orphans in, and partnering with organizations on a variety of humanitarian projects aligned with our mission.

MCV has grown beyond the initial vision of its founders, while its focus remains the same. It is surprising to note that more than half of the funds sent to MCV this year were enhancements of non "core" programs, that are enhancing

MCV's impact. The stories shared in this newsletter provide a glimpse into the variety of ways we are serving vulnerable children and the communities that support them, in 39 villages along the shores of beautiful Lake Malawi.

The lives of thousands are positively impacted each year through MCV because a few dedicated people understood the overwhelming need and elected to take action. Their vision sustains and transforms lives today because you also elect to invest in the lives of those who need help, and above all else – creating hope for a brighter tomorrow. Together we are transforming lives and building brighter futures.

**Zikomo (Thank you),**  
James Miller, Board President

### **Nature English Club:**

This year 40 enthusiastic students in the club and their two sponsors, Peter Valani and Albert Jafali, visited Liwonde National Park. During this weekend day outing, they learned about the dwindling wildlife numbers, damaging effects of poaching, and the fragile ecosystem balance that exists in the park.

The club also recently received animal identification books and binoculars to better locate and identify insects and animals near and far.



Started by former board member Frances Vitaglione in 2010, the Nature English Club allows Gracious students to practice their English and grows awareness of local environmental issues.

## THE VILLAGES OF MCV'S VILLAGE-BASED CARE: THE STORY OF FUNDI FROM THE VOICE OF A VILLAGE VOLUNTEER

By Ibra Mtambo and Mary Pomeroy



Ibra, a village volunteer since 1999, stands on the left with Catherine, an MCV Outreach Coordinator.

*MCV supports orphans and vulnerable children from 39 villages in Mangochi, Malawi. Fundi is our 6th village to be profiled in this series. Read the others at [malawichildrens-village.org](http://malawichildrens-village.org)*

Since 1999, Ibra has been a volunteer for Malawi Children's Village. He has been caring for the people in his hometown of Fundi for nearly 20 years. As Ibra has grown older and is without a family, he has found one in the village people of Fundi who now care for him. Please read more about the village that Ibra calls home.

'Fundi is considered one of the smallest villages in the MCV catchment area. It has a population of around 600 people and village has grown over the years. With more village members, it means that more people are caring for one another and caring for themselves, like washing their clothes and keeping the grounds clean. When the village was smaller, this was not the case. There are 15 guardians in this village taking care of the orphans and vulnerable children.

I have meetings 1 time a month with all the guardians. I share with them what I have learned in the monthly Volunteer Meeting at MCV. There is much cooperation between the 2 volunteers in each village and all the guardians. With this cooperation, more children are going to school. Since village people are caring more for their own lives and families, the diseases are few. We also have hospitals near where people go to get help. People used to not go to hospitals and only use our local medicine doctors. The number of people with HIV/AIDS is reducing. They are getting better at taking their ARV's now. Less babies are dying from HIV.

What I like most about being a MCV Volunteer is that I am proud of caring for people who are guardians and the poorest. They are good people. As a volunteer, I never run into any troubles.' -Ibra Mtambo

Upon completion of this article, we received word from the director of MCV informing us that Ibra passed away in July. We are grateful for his dedication to MCV and his spirit remains in Fundi.

**Project Malawi** Three students, in the span of six weeks, generated a total of \$50,000 for MCV's scholarship initiative, the women's empowerment program, and the feminine hygiene project. Wow!

This last year, Caroline Matkom, a student at UW-Madison and a member of the student club, Project Malawi, became interested in helping MCV.

She met with several MCV board members to see what was needed at MCV. She and her student colleagues submitted a proposal to UW's Philanthropy Lab class, which gives annually to nonprofits. The MCV project received a \$15,000 grant that will be used to empower young women through the distribution of

reusable feminine hygiene products to the girls at MCV's Gracious Secondary School.

Caroline and her student colleagues, Eric Malamud and Calli Hughes, were then invited to submit a proposal to the national Philanthropy Lab competition. Their proposal allowed MCV to receive another grant of \$25,000. This grant will be used to provide scholarships for post-secondary education (college, technical schools, etc).

Finally, Caroline submitted another proposal to the national Panhellenic Council and was awarded a \$10,000 grant! This one will enhance the feminine hygiene project.

Thanks to Caroline, her student colleagues, the Philanthropy Lab organization, and the Panhellenic Council for supporting MCV. .

For updates on this amazing project, visit [www.malawichildrens-village.org!](http://www.malawichildrens-village.org!)



The 'Women's Empowerment' Club visits a local nursing school.

## GRACIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE AND A NEW DINING HALL

By Felix Chirombo

As the year is getting to an end, Gracious as a school is grateful to MCV foundation for the efforts and financial support of its lenders. Since its inception, the school continues registering a number of successes. The caliber of teachers it is possessing is worth commending. When teachers and books are needed, you are always there to help. No wonder every year the school sends students to university. Lastly, let me say thanks for the recent project that build the new eating/ dining hall. You know Gracious has lacked such hall since its birth. Your support has come at the right time in a way that it will assist us to enjoy as well as realize the benefits we have been missing. This hall will improve school hygiene greatly. This in turn,

will improve performance of our students. Students who eat healthy foods in a good environment will remain healthy, hence concentrate more during classes and more likely to remember what has been taught. On top of that, the hall will act as an engine for social interaction and learning environment. Learning in classroom is essential, but so is the interaction between peers outside classroom. It helps foster fundamental social values such as sharing, co-operation, respect to one another, tolerance, and good eating habits which they will use for the rest of their lives.



A packed dining hall at lunch time.

Finally, this hall will not only be used for eating but where need arises could be used for larger gatherings for all students and teachers, curricular and creative activities such as drama, music, debates among others. In a nutshell, we cannot manage to pinpoint every single success your support is doing to us. Nonetheless, know that your help is always appreciated, put in intended and good use. -Felix (MCV Director)

## VOLUNTEERING IN MALAWI: ONE FAMILY'S STORY

By The Cantor Family



Tilly Cantor helps on the roof of the mud brick home. The much needed home will belong to a local family who cares for orphans.

*At MCV, we are fortunate to have had several donors who have donated and volunteered their time to build a home for a family in need. Here is one family's story.*

'We'd done high-quality tours. Volunteering with Malawi Children's Village was an upgrade. In Malawi, we didn't zip past the picturesque

village. We immersed. We built a mudbrick home for an orphaned family in a village near MCV, with our twenty-something daughter and our local masonry instructor Redson. Day after day we watched life in rural Malawi flow around us. But as the only non-locals, we were the real tourist attraction: curious Malawians

— especially children — gathered to watch us acquire ancient building skills. Although communication was stilted, sometimes awkward, there was no lack of warmth. Children delighted in learning to use our camera, teenage girls gathered to groom my daughter's fingernails, and on one memorable morning an elderly woman came by to hug and thank us profusely — in her Chichewa language — for helping. Our daughter was struck by the community spirit and how little it took to help so much. Malawians raised each other's children. Parents struggled to cover the cost of school — total sums that are quite small in America — making our daughter realize that even she, earning practically minimum-wage, could donate enough to meaningfully help. Altogether a true introduction to life in a place so very different from our home in Alaska.' -The Cantor Family

Visit [malawichildrens village.org](http://malawichildrens village.org) to learn more and see other volunteer stories.

## MCV'S SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

By Mary Pomeroy



The Special Needs Program is in its 10th year at MCV! It is more successful than ever. Here a young boy uses a modified wheelchair to get around.

The saying “it takes a village to raise a child” is so true in these remote villages. The Special Needs Program started 10 years ago going from house to house to see children.

The Special Needs Program has evolved and expanded. It happened because there was a need. The Assistant Director, Vincent Sisya, oversees the Special Needs program. Catherine is in charge of the daily occurrences: organizing the Cerebral Palsy clinic each week, ensuring that equipment is made at the Workshop and traveling to the villages to directly see the families and their children in their homes to attend to their needs. There are three main components to the program:

**CEREBRAL PALSY CLINIC:** The clinic at MCV has an average of 17 clients per week and up to 30 on a busy week. A physio (Physical Therapist) from Mangochi Hospital attends each week to provide services to the children and/or order wheelchairs, walkers, adapted chairs/tables, standers as needed. The physio recommends assessments for surgery and follows up with post-surgery treatments. Many children have Club Feet; serial casting is provided at the clinic. Children with congenital leg deformities, or surgical amputations from snake bites or disease, require

prosthesis’. These children are evaluated and sent to one of the larger cities to have fittings for new limbs and return to the clinic for their “physio”.

### EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP:

The workshop keeps busy. They are continually fabricating wheelchairs, Tricycles (wheelchairs with a bicycle wheel out front, propelled like hand cycling), adapted chairs and tables, walkers and standing frames. Equipment is always being brought in for repairs.

### VILLAGE OUTREACH

**PROGRAM:** Catherine and sometimes the physio distribute clothes, supplemental food (Likuni Phala, a peanut butter paste for infants who are malnourished) and blankets. Uniforms are provided, as needed, for students with special needs that attend school. This year there were 34 College of Medicine students who stayed with families of children with special needs in the villages for their “learning-by-living” program.

The Directors note that it is hard to estimate over the past 10 years, but between 500-1200 children have benefitted from this program.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ruth Nighswander

Wow-Many thanks to our wonderful donors who make it possible to provide care to the orphans and their caregivers in rural Malawi!

MCV Foundation has no paid staff & our board members pay all of their own expenses.

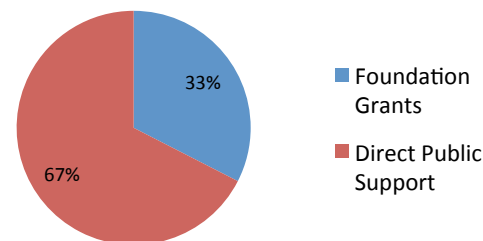
### Expense Report

Oct 1st, 2017- Sept 30, 2018

### Receipts

—Foundation Grants: \$85,837  
—Direct Public Support: \$178,047  
Total Receipts: \$263,885

### Receipts



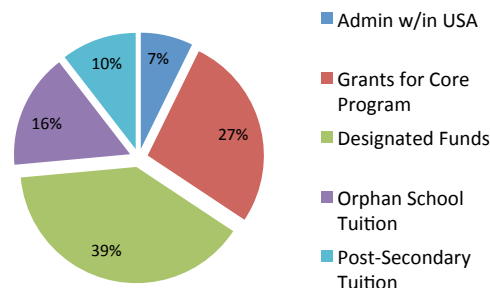
### Disbursements

—Admin in US \$13,971  
—Grants: Core Program \$52,032  
—Designated Funds \$75,424  
—Orphan School Tuition \$30,722  
—Post-Secondary Tuition \$20,133  
Total Disbursements: \$192,282

### Funds Pending Disbursement:

—\$71,603 (primarily designated grants)

### Disbursements



## UPDATE ON THE PAD PROJECT AT MCV

### Promoting health and education of young women

In Malawi, girls' school attendance drops dramatically in secondary school and a main reason is the lack of affordable menstrual products. The Pad project was set up to change this and empower young women to continue their education.

This year at MCV's Gracious Secondary School, a training and health education (which including STI and pregnancy prevention) was provided to the girls. Then each girl received a 'Pad Package' which included several pads and soap. This training will be repeated annually for new students and pads will be replaced at least yearly.



Student girls at the MCV Pad project training. They all received the 'Pad Package' afterward.

### Donors and Friends:

Thanks to generous donations, this year alone we were able to support:

- 3215 orphans
- 1458 households that cared for orphans
- 100 special needs children and their families
- 150 students with school scholarships
- 1000 bags of maize to help families care for orphans during the 'hunger season'

MCV's success has been thanks to donors like you. You sustain the projects at MCV. Please donate today and help us continue to serve the orphans of Mangochi.

Thank you. Zikomo

Donations may be made at [www.malawichildrensillage.org](http://www.malawichildrensillage.org) OR by filling out and submitting the form below.

*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:

☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation Preference:

☐ Wherever funds are most needed.

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

Malawi Children's Village Foundation, Inc.

Mail this form and donations to:

Malawi Children's Village Foundation

PO Box 240547

Anchorage, AK 99524-0547

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

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*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 support. Zikomo!*



PO Box 240547

Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0547

[www.malawichildrens-village.org](http://www.malawichildrens-village.org)

Please send changes in your address to [info@malawichildrens-village.org](mailto:info@malawichildrens-village.org)

## What does your investment in MCV really mean?

Here are a few examples of what can be accomplished with your support...

- \$18 can buy a blanket to keep as many as three children warm
- \$32 can pay for enough maize to feed a family for an entire month
- \$100 can purchase anti-malarial medicine for 100 orphans
- \$255 can send an orphan to secondary school for a year
- \$300 can pay for a new roof for a family housing one or more orphans
- \$800 can build a home for a family caring for orphans

## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS Malawi Children's Village Foundation, Inc.

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### THE MISSION OF MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

MCV is a village-based orphan care project that provides health, social, and educational resources in 39 villages along the southwest shore of Lake Malawi.

#### Supportive Services

- MCV contracts with Koche Hill Clinic to provide free healthcare to orphans and their caregivers
- Irrigation projects help provide food security in the villages
- The MCV Malaria Prevention Project distributes insecticide treated bed-nets to households with young children
- The MCV Fieldwork team visits villages regularly to monitor orphans and provide assistance to their caregivers
- Two village volunteers in each village keep MCV aware of orphans' needs and encourage caretakers to take proper care of orphans

#### Educational Services

- MCV's Gracious Secondary School educates paying students and sponsored orphans in grades 9 - 12
- The MCV Vocational School trains paying students and sponsored orphans in trades such as brick laying, carpentry, mechanics, and sewing
- MCV's School-to-School program supports government run primary schools
- Open Arms Mangochi cares for sick or malnourished infants
- Together! ACT Now uses theater to spread the message about HIV/AIDS

#### Partner Organization Services