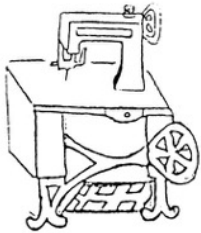


## Malawi Children's Village Sewing Project

### Nettie's report: Update 2017



This year my report is a picture story. The yearly reports are to show you how the project continues to make a difference in many peoples lives and how your contributions over the years help us do so much more than just being a sewing project.

All year long Ayami, the Sewing Project Manager, keeps the program running at the highest level. I visit every year for 3 months and leave, always knowing that the project is in excellent hands.

A note to Ayami from a contributor to our program:

*We are honored to contribute. We salute you. You are the heart and soul of the sewing project. Please tell your whole team that we are delighted with the success you have had.*



Ayami in his own words:  
*I treat my trainees as my sons and daughters. I try as much as I can to be open to them for easier presentations of their problems. I believe that treating others with dignity is one of the keys to successful relationship. With the years and experience that I have gained from the project, I teach my trainees some conflict resolution skills. Whenever there is a conflict among them it is solved peacefully.*







We found a new supply of colorful fabrics while at the bus station in Blantyre. Surrounded by all the vendors, we bought through the window of the bus until we ran out of money. Last year fabric shortage was a big problem, this time we have plenty of options.

Earlier in the year at harvest time, when the price was right, we bought a big supply of maize to distribute at the end of the year, when most families run out of food.

Some of the roof in the workshop was replaced with transparent sheets, now we have much more light.



Ayami needs good transportation, we passed his small motorcycle on to James, the teacher, who comes from very far away. We bought a heavy duty motorbike for Ayami. With all his responsibilities, this bike was a necessity.

James, the teacher and assistant manager, built an extension on his brick house - a tailoring shop in the village for him and his brother.



All the kids have a bicycle to commute to work and a treadle sewing machine at their homes to make extra "freelance" money.

We encourage self sufficiency and handed out watering cans and seeds to our trainees who have a piece of land, to grow vegetables for the families.



Every year we plant trees. The mango trees from 3 years ago are now 5' tall with a thorny barricade so that goats cannot destroy it.



Rocket stoves use less firewood.

When the rainy season starts the kids get maize seeds and fertilizer to ensure food security.







Isak got a house built and Mariam had her roof repaired. We always address basic needs.

Grace has spina bifida, but she can use her legs to run the sewing machine. Special arrangements have been made for her to attend the program. Bicycle taxi brings her and picks her up daily. A wheelchair is provided to help her get around.



Our biggest ongoing problem is the shortage of electricity in Malawi, not just for hours at a time, but for many full days. With no power, we cannot use the industrial machines. We sew what we can on the treadle machines and do hand sewing.

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Relationship with our South Africa-based graduates and their relatives:

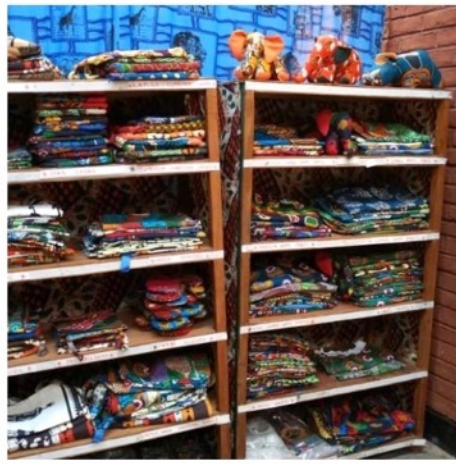
Our program has more than 30 skilled graduates who are currently working in South Africa, where opportunities are so much better. We always consider them to be part of our family. Ayami communicates with them often to monitor the progress they are making in their lives, and to offer valuable advice. These graduates are where they are today because of the sewing project. Ayami visits their relatives in the villages. The main reason for keeping these relationships is to make sure that the kids and their families continue to meet their basic needs. The boys have a good life in SA and continue to send money home to benefit their families. For example, Abdul's family now has a permanent brick home with an iron sheet roof.



Shaybu was in SA for 6 years and became very ill. He has a mother who is ill and a younger brother in school and he could no longer work and provide for them. We brought him back home and got him on the right medication. He is doing much better now and we hope he can go back to work soon. Our program provides medical help wherever it is needed for anyone in the program.







## OUR NEW SHOP

The handcrafts have become our main source of income. We have the best retail stores in the country as our wholesale customers. Our shop was just a corner of the work-room. A dream came true for me this summer - we added an extension to the building. All involved love our sewing program and worked hard to get it all done before I left.

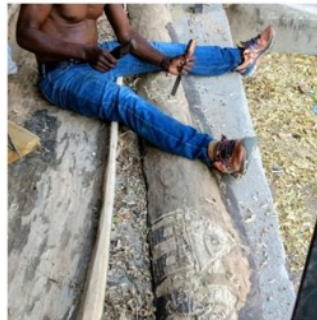
A 4' canoe became a beautiful display piece. We now have a beautiful shop to display our handcrafts for our wholesale and retail customers.

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Reports from pervious years can be found at [malawichildrensvillage.org/sewing](http://malawichildrensvillage.org/sewing)

