

MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

A VILLAGE-BASED ORPHAN CARE PROJECT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2009



Dear Donors and Friends,

Has it been a year already since our last annual report? What a tumultuous year it's been that's seen dramatic changes – both in faraway places and where we call home. But one thing remains constant; the need for help in some of the poorest parts of the world and the generosity you have shown in helping to provide hope to those most in need.

As you'll read in this newsletter, it's been a momentous year at MCV. Our secondary school is now populated with four classes – your contributions continue to provide educational opportunities that are unavailable to the vast majority of orphans in the world. Our bed net program is showing remarkable success in lowering Malaria rates in our villages. We're making progress in our irrigation programs so that our villagers

can have security in their nutrition and sustenance needs for themselves and their families.

As exciting as all this is, like every organization we have issues and growing pains. We recognize that we can always be doing better; as such the board and our Malawi staff led by Executive Director Chakunja Sibale are working our hardest and with passion to ensure that we stay focused on our charter. You have been so wonderful in providing the much needed financial means to allow this project to grow and we take very seriously the trust you place in us to ensure your contributions are put to best use. We've had some cutbacks this year, as many non-profits, including us, have experienced a decline in donations. But we're operating smarter and always with the needs of our orphans first. We won't do anything that jeopardizes the

progress we've made for them.

We're asking again for you to renew – and maybe even increase – your commitment to MCV. We know your discretionary and charitable dollars are being stretched thin, but we hope you recognize what a worthwhile cause this is. As somebody recently asked me it dawned on me you may not all know this; almost 100% of your donations go directly to the orphan programs in Malawi. Less than 5% of our budget is spent on overhead and administration. We have no paid US staff and nobody on the board has ever been reimbursed or taken payment in any way for our efforts. When you donate to MCV, it's the kids who are the beneficiaries of your support.

So read and enjoy. But don't forget, this is all made possible by you.

Tsalini Bwino,

Ken Montgomery, Board President



Board member Mary Pomeroy plays with infants at Open Arms

Partnering for Success: Thanks to our partnership with Open Arms Infant Home, a UK based orphan support organization, a beautiful new orphan care and rehabilitation center has been built on our campus. It's a warm and loving facility where the most fragile orphans in Malawi are nursed back to health.

All staff that worked at the former MCV run center, now work for Open Arms, who operates the new center. Like the former center, which was destroyed by fire in 2007, the infants

will be cared for in the residence until they are healthy enough to return to their extended families in the village.

Back in the villages, orphans continue to be monitored by our network of village volunteers which remains as strong and committed as ever.

This July our volunteers were able to enhance their knowledge and skills thanks to a four day training titled "HIV Prevention and Living Well with AIDS" led by experienced HIV/AIDS education trainers Bob and Sandra True from Anchorage, Alaska.

Gracious graduates first class:

We are pleased to announce that Gracious Secondary School graduated its first class in 2009. Students have just finished writing national examinations, and we are now eagerly awaiting their results.

2009 also marks the first year that all sponsored orphans and vulnerable children attended Gracious. (Before the school was started, students were sponsored at various secondary schools around the country.)



The first class of Gracious graduates

While the growing school still has many needs including books, desks, etc., we are hopeful that the school will reach financial sustainability by 2014. Once the school is fully enrolled, with 400 students, school fees will cover teacher salaries and other costs.

The staff and students of MCV would like to extend their profound thanks to Jes Coyle and Jesse Fitzpatrick for volunteering as teachers during 2009. They will always be remembered for their valuable contributions.



Thanks to the school-to-school program fewer students are forced to learn outside, at the mercy of the heat, dust, and rain

Schools helping Schools: This past year has seen many primary schools benefit thanks to partners in the USA:

- Njereza received assistance for repairs and money for teachers' salaries (they hadn't been paid for three months!)
- Mauni got bicycles, books, desks, and repairs for teacher housing.
- Lwanga FP received a new latrine and books.
- Nasenga was able to complete their two block school where their FIRST students started this month.

- Mchoka Primary received new doors and chalkboards for classrooms.

- Samama had help painting from an Alaskan volunteer and new books.

Thank you to the following schools and groups for making this possible:

- Alaska: William Tyson, Scenic Park, Denali Montessori, Nunaka Valley, and Chugach Optional
- New York: Palmyra Macedon Rotary Club, Wayne County Interact & Rotary Clubs
- North Carolina: St. Marks Episcopal

College Scholarships: Sponsored orphans are studying in schools across the country thanks to the Rotary District 7120 Post Secondary School project:

Student Name	Field of Study	College/University
Adams Anusa	Nursing	Mzuzu University
Alexander Chilumpha	Nursing	Mzuzu University
Eunice Dziki	Education	Adventist University
Tony Gonani **	Community Development	Skyway Business College
Asyatu James *	Business Administration	Blantyre Business College
Austin Khomba *	Community Development	Staff Development Institute
Saidi Mmadi **	Electrical	Soche Technical College
Gerald Mulingo	Education	Domasi College
Rodrick Namangale	Medical	Mzuzu University
Felix Njedza	Nursing	Nkhoma College
Emmanuel Nthala	Education	University of Livingstonia

* Graduated in Spring 2009

** Graduating in December 2009



The sewing program, started by Nettie Graulich, already generates revenue.

Nearing Sustainability: A long awaited agreement of partnership between the MCV Vocational School and Technical Entrepreneurship and Vocational Education Training Authority has finally been completed. This means that the government of Malawi will begin sending and sponsoring students to the school.

It is our hope that this new partnership will dramatically raise enrollment, allowing the school to reach financial sustainability.

USING THEATRE TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS: WE HELP MALAWI



Students Hannah and Joseph perform before a crowd of onlookers in one of the 37 villages

“We HELPMalawi”, an outreach program at MCV that uses theatre for HIV/AIDS awareness, was started this summer to a magnificent launch. It included the involvement of 18 students from MCV’s Gracious Secondary School, two teachers, three outreach workers from MCV, a medical officer for on-site HIV testing, and a volunteer director from America. There was an abundance of pride and hard work within the team,

and thanks to that the 5,000+ villagers that were affected by the program had the chance to learn more about the deadly virus, how to prevent it and what to do if they had it.

“We HELPMalawi” has a very basic method of getting the message across. After reading an International Development Research Centre study about HIV/AIDS Which states “Drama and theatre are probably among the most effective and

appropriate vehicles for giving HIV/AIDS prevention messages to rural and poor urban communities in Africa which have limited access to modern media,” the main idea for the program was born. The program was centered around theatre and included two staged performances, one short comedy and one full-length drama, many speeches, poems, and songs about HIV/AIDS.

After the shows audience members from the village participated in discussion groups, encouraging them to think actively and take ownership of the awareness effort.

There was also an on-site HIV tester so that villagers had the chance to receive free testing and counseling. This was very successful, with well over 200 people tested so far, and over 4,000 condoms distributed.

Due to the success, Kyle Horne is continuing to direct the program from America, and shows will be performed year round. For more information about “We HELPMalawi” please go to www.whelpmalawi.org

TREASURER’S REPORT: YEAR END 2008

By Mike Horne

Although this has been a difficult time for most people and organizations through out the world, we have seen a small amount of growth at MCV. Grants have been obtained to assist the secondary and vocational schools towards the goal of offering boarding facilities to attract students from throughout Malawi.

For this past year our donations have been steady, with a small decline in the final quarter; 2010 will most certainly be more challenging, as the global economy continues to decline.

Thank you to all our donors, new and old who have given generously with their limited funds.

I am continually surprised as I travel throughout Alaska, especially in rural areas, by the number of people who have heard of MCV. It shows you how small the world is.

Revenue Gains 2008		
Contributions		\$220,475
Interest/fees		-\$4,180
Total		\$216,295

Supporting Services		
Admin Fees		\$1,531
Bank Fees		\$90
Tax Preparation		\$500
Newsletter		\$420
Office		\$1,035
Total		\$3,576

Expenses		
Grants		\$296,554
Support Services		\$3,576
Total Expenses		\$300,130

Net asset beginning		\$143,038
Net assets ending**		\$59,203

** As you know we do one major fund raiser per year and the ending balance shown is merely a reflection of the funds available for the start of the following year. We do not, nor have we ever had a surplus to carry over.



Mrs. Phiri on the campus of MCV — July, 2009

In Memoriam: Esnarth Phiri passed away this August. She had been an outreach worker for MCV for more than ten years, and positively affected the lives of countless orphans in all 37 villages. She will be dearly missed by family, friends in both the USA and Malawi, and by the many orphans she helped monitor and support.

SUCCESS WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF

MCV was started in 1997, to give the orphans in its 37 village catchment area the same opportunities to achieve their life-potential as non-orphans. Thanks to many donors, a dedicated Malawian staff, led by Director Chakunja Sibale have been very successful in this regard. The sections below show the tremendous results that have been achieved thanks to your donations.



Outreach workers conducting the 2007 survey of orphans

Fewer Orphans per Household:

In the early 1990s, the growing AIDS epidemic caused the deaths of enormous numbers of men and women of child-bearing age, severely stressing the social fabric of Malawi. Grandparents became the de facto orphan caretakers. Informal surveys of the 37 villages in 1996 and 1997 indicated that the average “orphan household” included between five and six orphans. Under these conditions, the outlook for the orphans was bleak.

One of MCV’s strategies has been the creation of incentives and supports to encourage more families to care for orphans. This has been a remarkable success. By 1999, the average number of orphans in households supported by MCV had dropped to 1.97 (2910 orphans in 1475 households). This success has been maintained. In 2007, the average was 1.91. Orphans now have greater opportunities for both financial and emotional support within the household.

Malaria Prevention: Malaria is the number one killer of children under age five in Malawi. MCV initiated a successful malaria prevention project in 2005. Malaria prevention education is now provided in the villages and all children under age five receive insecticide-treated bednets. Follow-up is provided to assure that bednets are in continuous and appropriate use.



Catherine distributes a bednet

Over 1,000 bednets have now been distributed, and the percentage of monthly malaria episodes in young recipients has dropped by more than 60%, a success rate that has been maintained for almost three years.

It also appears that infant deaths due to Malaria have dropped by more than 50%. This particular outcome will be studied more closely in the future.

Healthier Children: Given the level of poverty in Malawi, estimated at 70% of the total population and 90% in rural areas such as our service area, it is no surprise that a significant percentage of young children suffer from compromised growth and development. The reputable health survey conducted by the Malawian government estimates that about 22% of the children under age five in the Mangochi District are “underweight.” Children are underweight when their

weight-for-age is significantly below the standardized norms for Malawi.

A study was conducted in November 2008, to see if MCV’s orphans were growing and developing at a similar rate to non-orphans. In this study, the MCV Outreach Team, using a digital scale, took weight-for-age growth measures on 61 orphans (21% of all MCV’s orphans under age five, a good sample size) and 59 non-orphans (all under age five) in ten villages.

Using the standardized growth chart,

14.75% of the orphans were “underweight”; 15.25% of the non-orphans were “underweight”. Thus, by this important measure, orphans are doing as well as non-orphans, and both groups are doing better than the district average.

One hypothesis is that MCV nutrition and support services, including food distribution, seed allotments, nutrition supplements, and irrigation/agriculture projects, have positive effects on all children in the 37 villages.

School Attendance & Performance:

MCV encourages orphan caregivers to send their children to free government primary schools, by helping with clothes and supplies. Government surveys indicate 67% of all primary school age children in Mangochi District attend school; 76% of MCV’s orphans attended primary school in 2007.

MCV uses donations to pay for the



Emmanuel, a student sponsored at university by MCV, “pays back” by teaching at Gracious on his breaks

fees necessary to attend secondary school for orphans. In 2007 85% of MCV’s secondary school age orphans attended school, compared with a 31% average in the district. These orphans are performing tremendously as well.

At Gracious, 96% of the students passed the national 10th grade exam in 2007, and 100% passed in 2008, compared to a national passing rate of below 40% both years.



Village Volunteers celebrate after completing the HIV/AIDS Health Leader Training this summer

Donors and Friends: This past year has seen joy and sorrow at MCV; opening a new facility for infants and loss of both employees and others dear to the project. MCV's services remain critically needed and we are steadfastly dedicated to continuing to meet these needs. We could not do this without your assistance.

We recognize that the world has changed and these are difficult times. It is precisely at this time that your support is most needed. We hope that you will continue to work with us to give Malawian children the same opportunities availed to those fortunate enough to be born in the United States, nothing more and nothing less. The chance to live an educated, healthy, productive life should be a basic human right; MCV gives thousands just this chance.

Thank you, Zikomo.

MCV Board of Directors

Donations may be made by following the "Your help is needed" link at www.malawichildrens-village.com 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:

Alaska Community Foundation
 Malawi Children's Village Foundation Fund
 400 L Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99501

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 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. For your records, MCV's Tax ID Number is 16-1526805. Thank you for your generous support. Zikomo!

We'd like to say thanks to all of our recently retired board members - some of whom had been around since day one - for their years of hard work and dedication. To all former MCV board members: Zikomo Kwambiri!

Paweme: After a "lotta years" Tereza and I elected to stand down and not run for re-election to the MCV board. A difficult decision, one driven by the clear belief that MCV needs new and "younger" board members.

I am amazed when I look back over the past 13 years. What was built from the germ of an idea, a little cash, a link to a special place in Africa and a continuing commitment to the concept of the Peace Corps...the job you never finish. Our beginnings were truly modest. The first bit of money raised was from a few committed people and

the help of "Friends of Malawi". From those humble beginnings MCV has grown to encompass donors from the entire USA and beyond. MCV's supporters (mostly Returned Peace Corps Volunteers from Malawi on "day one") has grown to encompass people who never heard of Malawi, they just had "Warm Hearts" and wanted to help!

The annual budget currently exceeds our wildest dreams of yesteryear! The original location could be easily missed while driving north on Monkey Bay Rd. With today's campus, including

the Open Arms nursery, a secondary school, a trade school and more, one no longer needs to give specific directions, "it's just north of Mangochi, on the right...you can't miss it!"

This is all accomplished through the generous donations from folks like you in support of a germ of an idea, and the commitment of a lot of dedicated folks.

While we are leaving the board, we are not leaving Malawi.

We send our sincere thanks to you all!

Garry and Tereza Prime



MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

c/o Conor Brady
24 St. John's Place Apt 4
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Please send changes in your postal or email address to bradyco@gmail.com or to the postal address above

What does your investment in MCV really mean?

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

- \$10 can buy a blanket to keep as many as three children warm during the cold nights of July and August
- \$92 can support one orphan for an entire year
- \$100 can purchase anti-malarial medicine for 100 orphans
- \$250 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
- \$400 can build a home for a family caring for orphans



Mission: 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.

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Montgomery, President
Los Angeles, CA

Ruth Nighswander, Vice President
Anchorage, AK

Mike Horne, Treasurer
Anchorage, AK

Adrienne Leibowitz, Secretary
Medina, NY

Conor Brady, Brooklyn, NY

Cindy Hunt, Fairport, NY

Tom Nighswander, Anchorage, AK

Mary Pomeroy, Anchorage, AK

Bill Schmidt, Kansas City, MO

Tom Vitaglione, Raleigh, NC

Frances Vitaglione, Raleigh, NC