

MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

A VILLAGE-BASED ORPHAN CARE PROJECT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2014



Dear Donors and Friends,

In the 1990s, Malawi was devastated by the AIDS epidemic, resulting in an estimated 900,000 orphans nationwide. The social structure was near collapse. But Malawi is known for its resilience, and this resilience spawned dreams of a brighter future. Among these dreams was Malawi Children's Village, a dream that became a reality in 1996.

Now in its eighteenth year, MCV has continued to evolve in meeting the needs of 2,500-3,500 orphans annually in a 38 village area. The initial focus was on infant survival. With the introduction of drugs treating HIV/AIDS and in partnership with Open Arms, a British-sponsored infant-toddler care program, infant survival went from 50% to 80%. As we realized that malaria was an even greater threat to pre-school children, insecticide-treated bed-nets were introduced

thanks to support from Kansas City area Rotary Clubs. The malaria case rate and death rate dropped by 80%.

Recognizing that education is critical, MCV began encouraging households to send all their children, orphans and non-orphans alike, to school. The overall school attendance rate increased from 45% to 85%. School-to-School projects strengthened the primary schools, and donations from all across the country provided stipends for secondary school tuition.

MCV found it would be better to actually operate a secondary school. With initial assistance from Solace International, Gracious Secondary School now serves more than 400 students annually, including 100 orphans. In addition, the Vocational School offers courses in carpentry, auto mechanics, and an acclaimed sewing program.

Individual donors and Rotary support

made it possible for orphan graduates to receive post-secondary training. MCV now lists a physician, three nurses, several agriculture specialists, numerous teachers and even a few politicians among its "alumni."

Along the way, community development projects have assisted the villages. With support from western NY Rotary clubs, 19 irrigation projects are going strong. Clean water now flows at the MCV campus and Open Arms, thanks to Engineers without Borders, S. C. Alaska Chapter.

During all this evolution, there has been one constant: the donors who have made the initial dream an on-going reality. We are in awe, because most donors will never visit MCV. Our donors truly exemplify selfless giving and for this MCV and its orphans are eternally grateful.

Tsalani Bwino,

Tom Vitaglione, Board President

THIS IS MY LIFE STORY

By Gerald Mulingo

My name is Gerald Mulingo. I am a third born child in a family of seven. I was born on March 12, 1982. I am a secondary school teacher by profession and I am currently teaching at Malowa Community Day Secondary School. I am also a graduate or one of the beneficiaries of MCV. Here is my account on how I came into contact

with MCV and how MCV benefited me. Here is my life story.



Gerald Mulingo - a graduate of MCV

I lost my father in 1994 when I was still at primary school. Since then, life became so hard for us since he was the only bread winner. My mother tried so hard to fill his shoes but all was in vain. I was just too young to be an orphan.

Through thick and thin, the heritage of my father's virtues of hard working saw me being selected to go to secondary school. Financial limitations due to poverty delayed my future a bit.

[Continued inside..](#)

“This Is My Life Story” Continued...

My single mom couldn't make it. The next four years were a dark age in my life, wasting and rotting at home doing nothing but lamenting my father's departure up until the “guardian angel” MCV through Ken Montgomery (one of the then MCV board members) picked me. I met Ken at a Presbyterian church in Mangochi. Coincidentally we chatted and upon hearing my story he introduced me to MCV. What a sigh of relief!

I revived my education dreams when I started form one under the auspices of MCV, after spending four solid years just staying home.

Since all obstacles to my academic path were loosened, I managed to get a highest score in Secondary School Certificate exams. I was therefore selected to go to Domasi College, where I did my Diploma in Education, majoring in Physical Education and minoring in History.

I would like to confess here that without MCV I just don't know what kind of a citizen I would be today. When I obtained my diploma, I saw it wise to dedicate myself and contribute something tangible to MCV. I therefore worked with MCV as a volunteer teacher at Gracious for a year before I joined the public service sector as a secondary school teacher.

As for my future plans, I first want to pursue my education especially in Physical Education up to Masters or

even PhD level. Who knows? The sky is the limit. It is my sincere wish to commit help to others when I do well. As of now, I have a huge responsibility taking care of my family from the little I get from my earnings, especially my mom, because she is too old.

I would be deadly wrong if I don't sincerely thank MCV, its staff, and its American supporters. In particular, I thank Ken Montgomery and Bob and Cindy Hunt for their relentless support and encouragement.

I am very grateful for what MCV is doing in my community. A lot of people are benefiting socially, educationally as well as technically from the institution through various activities aimed at improving their livelihood. MCV provides health services, food relief to the needy, water and sanitation, distribution of free seeds to poor farmers, and other commendable works. Many lives are being saved in Mangochi. Students are going to school because their stomachs are full, and many more citizens are becoming productive. MCV offers free education to the many underprivileged children because it believes in maintaining children's vitality. I am a living and precise example of this undertaking. As for the MCV graduates we are so many who are now responsible citizens. Some are working in NGOs while others, like myself, are in the public sector and still others are self employed.



Gerald in front of the classroom as a teacher today.

As for my personal experience with MCV, I have benefited a lot apart from education. I obtained a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) which shaped me for my future. RYLA training was offered to us by Bob and Cindy Hunt and I thank them very very much for equipping me with such wonderful leadership skills. Thus, wherever I go I do often hold a certain leadership position. I also learned how to produce a play/drama, and Chenjezi (my fellow patron) and I are now producing nice and wonderful dramas in the EDZI TOTO club.

How I wish!! Would someone please make my dream come true!! MCV is a hidden treasure, hammer and spanner for future developed and dynamic Malawi. How I wish this institution could spread to the other parts of Malawi. How I wish people of Salima could reap the same benefits people of Mangochi are abundantly yielding from MCV. How I wish! I will never, never give up until I succeed at last! Bravo MCV!!!



Farmers and staff gather for a picture at the festival. Irrigation efforts are essential in preventing the *Njala* (hunger) that can come from a lack of rain.

A Farm Festival: Seneca Falls and Clifton Springs Rotary Clubs continued their support by sponsoring the first ever MCV Farm Festival this summer - an idea of MCV graduate Dyson Magombo. Over 200 farmers attended to learn about irrigation techniques and test out new treadle pumps. There are now 19 productive irrigation sites in the MCV catchment area.

THE VILLAGES OF MCV'S VILLAGE-BASED CARE: CHIPOKA I

By Frances & Tom Vitaglione



Chief Chipoka, an imposing figure – five feet, eight inches and of “traditional build” – holds her granddaughter for the growth study weigh-in. She is one of only five female chiefs in the MCV area.

As longtime donors know, MCV is NOT an orphanage. It is a village-based orphan care project. This means that aside from the infants living temporarily at Open Arms - next to the MCV campus - the orphans and other vulnerable children supported by MCV live with their extended families or other care givers in one of the 38 villages in MCV's catchment area. Our “Village Profiles” series is designed to give our readers a bit of the flavor of each village.

Chipoka I: The official story is that several decades ago, the village of Chipoka grew so big that it was decided to divide it in two. (There are several apocryphal stories regarding the split, but these will be left for another day. As will the profile of Chipoka 2.)

A distinctive feature of Chipoka I is that the village chief is just one of five female chiefs in the 38-village MCV catchment area. She is an imposing figure - five feet, eight inches and of “traditional build” - but with a warm and disarming smile. She watches over almost 2,000 villagers like a mother

hen, and is particularly attentive to the care of orphans.

She wisely chose two excellent volunteers - Stanford Mangani and Beatrice Mwamadi - to facilitate the identification, placement and ongoing care of orphans within the village, all in coordination with the central staff of MCV. With support from the chief and MCV, the village volunteers oversee the care of 99 orphans in 51 households.

They make sure that 90% of school-age orphans attend school on a regular basis, one of the highest percentages among MCV's 38 villages. They are also attentive to the needs of preschoolers (and pregnant women),



Poverty amid luxury - Chipoka I fishermen in the foreground. The tourist resort Nkopola Lodge can be seen in the distance.

all of whom receive and use insecticide-treated bed-nets, eliminating malaria as a cause of death in these groups for the past four years! And growth studies in preschoolers show not only that orphans are growing as well as non-orphans, but also that both groups in Chipoka I are in the top tenth percentile among all the villages.

Chipoka I is on Lake Malawi and surrounds Nkopola Lodge, a premier tourist destination on the lake. Thus, the villagers have traditionally had more contact with “Europeans” than most others. Many have employment at the Lodge, and others have pursued carving and other crafts to take advantage of the tourist trade. In fact, Stanford is not only an acclaimed carver, but has taken on numerous apprentices, many of them orphans, as part of his dedication to improving the village economy.

Tourism has suffered in Malawi due to the troubles in Zimbabwe. Thus, even with its fortunate location, Chipoka I remains desperately poor. There would be no way for the village to care for 99 orphans without the assistance of MCV. And MCV could not help Chipoka I without continued assistance from generous donors. When we last saw Stanford, he said, “Please thank the donors for making life possible for our children. May God bless them as they bless us.”

Village Level Support: Donations of any size go to the direct support of villages such as Chipoka I. However, 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2014

By Ruth Nighswander

The past year has been a year of growth, but also one in trying to uphold the high standards of Malawi Children's Village. Gracious Secondary School now has 460 students. Florence, our outreach village coordinator and AIDS Educator is away getting her certificate in social work. The School-to-School project has built two teacher's houses at Maumi and another is projected to be completed in spring 2015. Teachers have received computer training and village volunteers - the back bone of the MCV program - were able to get new bicycles through a Rotary donation. We have had numerous volunteers who have taught, assisted in the villages, and worked on water projects. We thank them for having given their time and talent.

Without donations there would be no village house repairs, food, secondary school and university tuition, health care, bicycles for volunteers, or improved education to name just a few of the benefits MCV has been able to provide. We have donors who give both monthly and annually and we so appreciate your continued support. If you are a new donor, welcome to Malawi Children's Village. If you are sustaining again, thank you. Whatever and whenever you give is helpful to the orphans and other vulnerable children!

October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014

Revenue	
Direct Public Grants	\$8,650
Direct Public Support	\$137,722
Endowment	\$682
Stock Dividend	\$81

Total Revenue \$147,135

Expenses	
Supporting Services	
Business License	\$100
Bookkeeper	\$4,400
Tax Preparation	\$860
Bank Fees and Wire Costs	\$794
PayPal Fees	\$495
Newsletter & Thank You's	\$3,213
Insurance	\$1,341
PO Box Rental	\$342
Total Supporting Services	\$11,545

Program Services	
Grants	\$48,000
Designated Funds	\$50,778
Orphan School Tuition	\$15,200
Total Program Services	\$113,978

Total Expenses \$125,523

MCV Foundation has no paid staff and our board members pay all of their own expenses. As the activity statement above indicates, 91% of last year's expenses were invested directly in programs and support in Malawi.



Nettie, Ayami, and the rest of the Sewing crew pose in front of the new road-side sign

A Good Sign: Ayami, the MCV Sewing Project Supervisor, reports that Nettie Graulich's program continues to thrive at MCV. The program continues to receive large orders from local businesses - such as a recent 340 piece order from the Makokola Retreat (a local resort). And thanks to the new "Nettie's Sewing Workshop" sign alongside the Mangochi - Monkey Bay road, the project is beginning to get more drop in visits, including some tourists from abroad. The program maintains financial sustainability by selling the products that the tailors and trainees, mostly orphans, produce. Look for Nettie's annual report on the MCV blog to learn more.



Gracious Secondary School form four students pose for a picture before leaving on what has become the annual "senior trip" to Mua Mission - a cultural museum in Malawi.

Board Updates: The MCV Malawi and MCV USA boards welcomed new members in 2014. Karam Savjani, joins the MCV Malawi board following the departure of Sam Tembenu, who left the board after being appointed Malawi's Minister of Justice in June. Bill Schmidt retired from the MCV USA board, and we welcomed new members Jesse Kwiek and James Miller. Thanks to both Bill and Sam for their service to MCV! Full board lists and member profiles can be found at malawichildrensivillage.org/about



A new home constructed with the support of MCV in Bolera Village for a family that previously had no shelter

Donors and Friends: We hope that you were as proud as we were to read Gerald Mulingo’s story of resilience and success. His success would not have been possible without his dedication and hard work, and it wouldn’t have been possible without you! Success stories as remarkable as Gerald’s are not unique in Mangochi, Malawi. Your donations are making sure orphans have a roof over their heads, enough food to eat, a place to go when they are sick, even a high-quality secondary school to attend. Most importantly, you are allowing orphans to pursue their dreams and become role models in their communities. Please make a donation today and help others have the opportunity to share a story like Gerald’s.

Thank you. Zikomo.

MCV Board of Directors

Donations may be made online at www.malawichildrensillage.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 levels of major support:

_____ \$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!