



**malawi
children's
village**

A VILLAGE-BASED ORPHAN CARE PROJECT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017



Dear Donors and Friends,

Malawi Children's Village has celebrated its twentieth anniversary! In 1996, MCV was a pile of bricks and a dream. Malawi was in the throes of an AIDS-induced nightmare that had produced 800,000 orphans who were experiencing high rates of hunger and death. Perhaps worst of all, hope was close to extinction.

The dream of MCV was to restore hope to orphans in 38 villages along the southwestern shore of Lake Malawi. There were more than 4,000 orphans in these villages with an average of six orphans living in households headed by grandparents and others. The death rate from malaria alone was about 10%, and few orphans could even think about going to school.

MCV was the product of fortunate

meetings of former Peace Corps volunteers and Malawians. Together, they decided to develop a village-based orphan care program designed to provide support to households willing to care for orphans. The combination of chief-appointed volunteers in each village and a small central staff became the core of that support system. Soon, a clinic was opened, a nutrition center established, and regular outreach visits began providing food supplements, clothing, health education, and training in irrigation/food sustainability. Later, other programs and partnerships were established, and secondary and technical schools were opened.

Today, twenty years later, much of the dream has become a reality. More than 15,000 orphans have received services (including 3,000 currently enrolled), households now have an average of only two orphans, the death

rate from malaria in young children has plummeted by 80% (due to treated bednets), and almost 85% of orphans are attending school!

While the Malawian staff and board have made all this happen, it would not have occurred without the continuous and generous support of hundreds of donors across the USA whose generosity is enhancing the lives of orphans and restoring hope to the 38 villages served by MCV.

While we cannot serve all of Malawi's orphans, we are called to do what we can, and you are making that possible. We invite all of you to become part of the MCV dream through your donations, well wishes, and prayers. The dream will not remain a reality without you.

Tsalani Bwino,

Tom Vitaglione, Board President

Nature English Club: Faculty sponsors Peter Valani and Albert Jafali have 40 enthusiastic students focusing on environmental conservation.

During a field trip to Lake Chilwa they learned about the deforestation of the lake edges, the siltation and drying of the lake and the decreased wildlife diversity. They are hoping to visit Liwonde National Park and to Maldeco Fisheries near MCV in future terms. They are also planning a tree planting program and the production of an annual newsletter with poetry and articles written by students.



Started by board member Frances Vitaglione, the Nature English Club allows Gracious students to practice their English, and supplement their regular classroom learning with trips that focus on environmental issues.

THE VILLAGES OF MCV'S VILLAGE-BASED CARE: MTIMBUKA

By Mary Pomeroy and Frances Vitaglione



Volunteer Mike Horne and TIAN (an MCV partner organization) built this home for a Mtimbuka family in which some members have albinism. MCV helps ensure vulnerable children in the village have housing, education, and healthcare.

MCV supports orphans and vulnerable children from 38 villages in Mangochi, Malawi. Mtimbuka is our fifth village to be profiled in this series. Read the others at www.malawichildrensvillage.org

Mtimbuka has a population of 1,682 people, with 98 orphans supported by MCV. As in most villages, the people living in the village are mostly subsistence farmers. Following harvesting of the corn, referred to as maize, it is common to see the women breaking off the kernels into their woven baskets. These kernels are then dried on large woven mats in front of their homes before going to the nearby mill for grinding into flour. This maize flour becomes the sustenance for their daily meal of nsima and boiled leafed vegetables. Nsima is maize flour cooked to the consistency of a stiff porridge so that it can be picked up

with their fingers, carefully rolled into a ball in the palm of their hand and then dipped into the vegetable broth. It is quite an art to rotate this maize meal porridge into a uniform ball.

Treated Malaria bed nets are provided by MCV for children under five years of age in the village to help prevent the consequences of this devastating disease. In addition, as with all villages, MCV pays for orphans to visit the health clinic when necessary, and helps support families with housing and food support as needed.

To help achieve its mission, MCV ensures all orphans and other vulnerable children have access to education. School uniforms are provided for the 86 children that are school age. Most children attend Koche Primary school, the nearest government run primary school.

Koche is a large school, and several children from outlying villages attend the school as well. In addition, three students from Mtimbuka are being provided scholarships to attend Gracious Secondary School at MCV. There are also five students attending other secondary schools in the area.

In addition to the 98 orphans in the village MCV also supports other vulnerable children, such as people with albinism. Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment in the skin, hair, and/or eyes. People with albinism in Malawi (often referred to as albinos) need to be checked and monitored as the hot sun affects their eyes and skin without adequate protection. People with albinism in Malawi can also face significant social stigma and in some cases violence from other community members. For these reasons, children with albinism are considered vulnerable and are supported by MCV to ensure they receive medical care, housing, and education.

The Village Volunteer's comments about his village include: "I am happy to see that through my help more orphans have been educated and are working in different organizations. I like my job mostly when I get involved in helping building houses for orphans, elders and also when I help in taking orphans to hospital when they are sick. The program of building houses for people is a very important service and people are very thankful in my village seeing houses built for the needy."

WE Club: The Nature English Club isn't the only club at Gracious. The Women's Empowerment (WE) Club continues to support female students with extra tutoring and support to ensure they succeed. The club now has 56 students. Students receive extra tutoring, attend lectures and debates, and recently took a trip to Malawi University at Cholo. All Form IV (12th grade) WE Club students passed the most recent MSCE examinations.



WE Club t-shirts read "Girls' empowerment through education."

MCV'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

By James Miller

I was honored to be in Mangochi with my family on July 1, 2017 where several hundred people, including the Mangochi District Commissioner and chiefs from the 38-villages served by MCV, gathered at the beautiful campus to celebrate MCV's 20-year anniversary. A tour was provided of Gracious Secondary School as well as displays highlighting key programs, including education on health, nutrition and food sustainability, that are provided to the 38 villages. From these villages, dedicated volunteers successfully focus MCV's efforts to support families caring for orphans and vulnerable children.

The formal stage for the dignitaries was flanked by two large tents with chairs that were all occupied, creating



The celebration stage at MCV.

an impressive forum not typical in Malawi, which underscored the importance of the occasion. The program included comments from the Mangochi District Commissioner, head chief, Seneca Falls Rotarian, local and USA board members, head village volunteer, MCV / Gracious alumni, as well as singing and traditional dancing.

Here is an excerpt from the words that I shared in Chichewa (translated):

“My father, a pastor, recently told me that all people who are alive have troubles. Yet, our troubles become easier to bear when we care for one another and take action. MCV cares. You care. You take action. I have never met nicer or happier people than in Malawi.

Together, we make a difference and provide hope. Hope, caring and education are what will change the future for our children.

Peace and hope be with you always, even in the midst of challenges that remind us that we are alive.

To the Malawi board, the MCV staff and teachers and to the volunteers from every village:

Thank you for all that you have done.

Thank you for all that you will do.

You make a difference.

You are MCV.”

WHY NOT HELP EVEN MORE?

By Ruth Nighswander



Thanks to Dick Keenan's efforts this family and nine others have new homes. Fundraising for MCV can be one of the most meaningful ways you can help.

Dick Keenan, a retired attorney, wanted to support MCV by being in Malawi and doing something useful. He also wanted to give his nephew, Ryan, an experience to appreciate another culture and see how their lives differed or were the same. Giving \$750 (through family and friends) to help

build an orphan house seemed like a small part. Why not help even more? To make a larger story smaller-he and Ryan went onto GoFundME site and soon had enough money to build 10 orphan houses and buy laptops for all 13 teachers at Gracious Secondary School. The first house they helped

build (pictured) is in honor of his mother and has a plaque saying: “Mulungu akudalitsen nyumba iyi ndi onse okhala m'mwemo” May God bless this house and all who enter. What a blessing to this orphan family!

[Would you like to help even more?](#)

MCV would not be the success that it is today were it not for dedicated volunteers such as Dick Keenan who have helped us reach out to others in support of MCV. We're happy to announce that on the new malawichildrens-village.org we can now set up custom donation pages for your crowd funding projects.

Your custom webpage will be designed specifically for your fundraiser. The set up is simple and you can help choose the photos and text. You can even add videos if you'd like. The donations will be routed directly to MCV so all gifts will remain tax deductible. Hosting a fundraiser at a school? Running a race for MCV? Want to add MCV to your wedding registry? We'd love your help!

Visit malawichildrens-village.org/fundraising-for-mcv/ to see an example fundraising page.

MCV'S NEW SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

By Mary Pomeroy



The Special Needs Program at MCV is dramatically changing the lives of girls like Atuwani, pictured here with a group of school friends.

Change one life at a time ... Winnie (post-polio) walked on hands and feet for over 30 years: she now has a wheelchair. Benito (age 12), living with a rare neurological condition, has returned to school on an adapted rolling cart, now uses a modified platform cane to take a few steps, and has able support at school. Mayankho lost his leg to a snake bite, but now has a prosthesis to walk to school and run with friends. As a teenager, Grace crawled around her village: following surgery and physical therapy, she walks with a walker.

For 10 years my husband and I have been involved with MCV. My training as a pediatric physical therapist has offered a skill which has evolved into a program for children with special needs, providing wheelchairs/walkers and other adapted equipment and offering transportation to the local hospital in Mangochi for “physio” (PT visits) for the infants / children. Now in its tenth year, the Special Needs Program is now fully integrated into MCV operations. As with other programs at MCV, the program provides village-based care to orphans and other vulnerable children in the 38 villages. It provides health resources for families with infants/children (and for the children themselves) to become more mobile to

attend school or to participate in family or village activities. Last year, the program became an official part of MCV. Here's how the program has grown and changed:

Village-Based Care: Outreach Volunteers from MCV have been trained to talk with the families, offering needed services. The “physio” at Mangochi Hospital offers advice and will go to a village to see families unable to travel.

Equipment Workshop: Mobility equipment first built at a Malawi prison workshop is now made at MCV's Vocational Program. The MCV Welding and Carpentry programs make repairs and modifications. The vocational curriculum now includes building and installing access ramps and adapted bathing areas at schools and homes. More than 55 wheelchairs, 100 walkers, and 200 chairs and standers have been built.

Cerebral Palsy (CP) Clinic: Until two years ago families were provided kwacha (local currency) as fare to a weekly CP clinic at Mangochi Hospital; now MCV has provided space for the clinic. The physio/PT from Mangochi comes weekly to serve 25-30 families waiting under the mango tree; there are about 1,200 patient visits annually.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ruth Nishwander

Twenty years! As they say “we’ve come a long way, baby”. That “we” includes not only staff and board members, but donors who have stood by through a growing process, assisted with extra food during famine, helped re-roof houses and schools after storms etc.

MCV is strictly donor driver, no government grants or contracts. Orphans are expected to attend school and graduate. “Giving back” is encouraged so they might help others in the community.

As a donor you are greatly appreciated no matter what the donation. We applaud your generosity. Thank you!!

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

Revenue

Direct Public Grants	\$41,697
Direct Public Support	\$177,169
Other Types of Income	\$100

Total Revenue \$218,966

Expenses

Supporting Services

Accounting	\$1,500
Bank Fees	-\$92
Bookkeeping	\$4,400
Business Expenses	\$50
Insurance	\$1,408
Newsletter and Mailings	\$3,690
Online Fees	\$723
PO Box Rental	\$356
Postage, Mailing Service	\$376
Supplies	\$12
New Website Development	\$3,000
Wire Costs	\$585
Total Supporting Services	\$16,009

Program Services

Grants	\$51,900
Designated Funds	\$62,886
Orphan School Tuition	\$24,799
Total Program Services	\$139,585

Total Expenses \$155,594

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

MCV AND ROTARY

Thank You to Rotarians for Twenty Years of Partnership

Since Malawi Children's Village's formation in 1997 through the present, Rotarians have collaborated with MCV to make a difference in children's lives. Rotarians throughout the world, including Rotary clubs in Limbe, Malawi, Kansas City, Missouri, Fairport, New York and Palmer, Alaska, have collaborated with MCV on projects that have saved

lives, improved maternal and child health, promoted sanitation and provided educational opportunities. Hundreds of Rotarians have made these projects possible through their contributions to and grants from The Rotary Foundation. Rotarians are people of action for MCV. Zikomo, Rotary!



Twenty years later MCV's Village Volunteers continue to connect orphans and their care givers to vital services.

Donors and Friends: How is it that MCV is celebrating twenty years, when so many other NGOs have come and gone? The answer is not simple. MCV's longevity is due to the project's support from the local chiefs and the reliance on the Village Volunteers; also to the dedicated staff and board members - both past and present; and to the sustainability of income generating activities such as the MCV Sewing Program. Perhaps most of all however, MCV's success has been thanks to donors like you. While other NGOs rely on large grants that cause windfalls in one year and deficits in the next, MCV has always relied on a simple model of financial stability: We send out this annual newsletter and every year donors respond. You sustain the project. Please donate today so that MCV can continue to serve the orphans of Mangochi.

Thank you. Zikomo.
MCV Board of Directors

Donations may be made at www.malawichildrensivillage.org 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:

☐ \$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!



**malawi
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PO Box 240547

Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0547

www.malawichildreenvillage.org

Please send changes in your address to info@malawichildreenvillage.org 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...

- \$12 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
- \$750 can build a home for a family caring for orphans

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS Malawi Children's Village Foundation, Inc.

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WHAT IS MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE?

MCV is a village-based orphan care project. MCV supports orphans and vulnerable children living with their extended family through a variety of programs.

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