

# SEEING THE WHOLE CHILD

## SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM | Malawi Children's Village

FEBRUARY 2023



**Seeing the Whole Child.** Several years ago I wrote about the diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy (CP) often being secondary to cerebral malaria or malnutrition, being a result of poor health awareness and/or lack of education. I am so excited to report that MCV has partnered with nearby Mangochi Hospital and are doing an "Integrated CP Management" approach with each child at the MCV CP Clinic. The team who oversees each child, besides the weekly Physiotherapist, now includes a Nutrition Specialist, Clinician and a Psychiatrist. The child is weighed from a hanging sling attached to a scale (pic on next page). "Seeing the whole child" means improvement of their nutrition and growth and provides education to the families about their child. The CP Clinic at MCV continues to expand and improve the awareness of children with disabilities, demonstrating their abilities to have the same dreams as other children and allowing many to go to school, who would not have been "accepted" before.



### SUCCESS LAST YEAR

- 362: Number of clinic visits
- 196: Number of total clients
- 85: Standing frames built
- 54: Cerebral Palsy Chairs built
- 34: Wheelchairs built
- 20 kg bags of maize to each family

### COSTS

- \$216: Tricycle Wheelchair
- \$162: Manual Wheelchair
- \$75: Accessibility ramps for schools or homes
- \$34: Wooden Stander
- \$34: Wooden Adapted Chair
- \$27: Walker
- \$27: School Uniform

### ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Donate online:  
[MalawiChildrensVillage.org](https://MalawiChildrensVillage.org)  
Designate for  
Special Needs Program

Write check to:  
"MCV Special Needs"  
Mail to:  
Mary Pomeroy  
10420 Lone Tree Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## SEEING THE WHOLE CHILD

### Mothers Tell Their Stories



#### NJERESA HOSPITAL CP CLINIC

With the integrated approach to the treatment of a child with CP, Developmental Delays or other disabilities, the CP Management Team also goes to Njeres Hospital. The picture above shows a child being weighed by a nutrition specialist. The clinician monitors overall health. The psychologist offers counseling to help families deal with the challenges that often come along with having a child with special needs and MCV provides maize, clothes, soap, and mosquito nets.

Mwenye's mother shares that he did not cry at birth so she thought he had malaria, but soon he was diagnosed with epilepsy with resultant left arm and leg paralysis. Now 12 and after 8 years of weekly visits to MCV's CP clinic he has started walking. "I am happy seeing my child walk; it is a blessing and a miracle. I would like to thank the supporters of the MCV CP Program." Additionally, there are times the family goes without food, so she appreciates MCV providing her family with food & soap.



Mphatso is 7 yrs old. He was born in his village with help from village elders. He fell ill 2 days after birth. Mom was worried, going to a village herbalist for help, but he wasn't improving. She was convinced by a MCV Village Volunteer when he was 2yrs old to go to the CP Clinic. During his 1st year of treatment, he learned to sit. She realized the CP program was helping him; At age 3 he began standing and at age 4 he walked. He now runs *his own way*. "I'm amazed and proud of my son. I never knew he would walk. I want to thank the people who've supported us and will be forever grateful."



The Special Needs Program is directly a part of the MCV's goals and mission to provide a continuum of services in the Mangochi area for orphans and other vulnerable children within 39 villages.

Clinic visits increased by 120 children. The Special Needs Program is sustainable with the Malawians adapting to the growing needs of the program and increasing awareness of disabilities as a strength to each family and community, not a challenge.

My husband and I will be returning to Malawi on April 5th for our 12th visit. Donations are accepted at anytime!! Know that many children with special needs are now going to school or are walking for the first time because you care.

Zikomo (Thank you), Mary Pomeroy

