malawi children's village

A Village-Based Orphan Care Project

2022 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER









President's Address

Moni Achimwene (Hello, Friends),

Reflecting on progress towards the accomplishment of goals is a good way to measure the impact of organizations. When retired Peace Corps volunteers founded MCV, 25 years ago, they understood the importance of addressing the emotional and educational needs of orphans, in addition to their physical needs. These remain MCV's goals, even after two and a half decades which is an incredible landmark for NGOs in Africa. MCV's success remains rooted in the culturally-sensitive structure of two volunteers from each of 39 villages, appointed by the head chief, who coordinate services for families raising more than 3,200 orphans today. Through the years the number of orphans has grown, along with the general population, and the services that MCV is able to provide.

Felix Chirombo, MCV's executive director, said, "A healthy family helps development of any community. Providing medical support and basic needs to orphans helps the children to grow healthy and manage their education studies well." Under Mr. Chirombo's visionary leadership, MCV continues to address the needs of orphans' basic needs, along with their education and preparation to be productive members of their communities.

Stories within this newsletter highlight some of the programs MCV is able to offer, thanks to the generous support from friends, like you. While the reasons we support MCV vary, collectively our gifts support the accomplishment of goals that allow growth and transformation - one life at a time.

Zikomo, James Miller, MCV Board President

Highlights of MCV's Accomplishments from MCV's Director: Felix Chirombo

- Building Gracious Secondary School, including recently constructing 8 duplexes for 16 teachers.
- Direct support to the families keeping orphans, including building and renovating houses, relief items to families impacted by natural disasters, etc.
- More than 100 graduates from different universities. More than 3000 students have acquired secondary (high school) education.
- New technical program: More than 120 have acquired different skills training which have led some to be employed or self-employed.
- Several families use enhanced farming skills learned from MCV, to sustain their families.
- More than 200 children now attend the CP/disabled clinic every year, with most of them achieving their milestones.

MCV Makes Their Own Concrete Blocks

Traditional houses in Malawi have long been made with mud bricks, or if one could afford it, wood-fired bricks. While baked bricks last much longer, they also require significant amounts of firewood, adding to deforestation and cost. Over the last few years, MCV has begun making their own concrete blocks. While the initial investment is a bit higher, the blocks last a long time, and can be made on-site, reducing the cost of transportation.



A GRACIOUS STUDENT: ZIONE'S STORY

By Vincent Sisya, MCV Deputy Director

Gracious Secondary School (high school) was established in 2006 with three main goals in mind: to provide a high-quality education to MCV's sponsored orphans and vulnerable children, to improve long term financial sustainability of MCV through the collection of school fees from students, and to establish one of the best schools in Malawi. This is one student's story.

Zione Muhamad is one of MCV's vulnerable children and has been sponsored since form one (first year) and she is now in form four, expecting to write her national examination in October. During her sponsorship she has been helped with tuition fee, school uniform, lunch and other basic school supplies.



Zione in her school uniform.

She is 19 years old and from a rural village, Nkali. She comes from a family of 8 people. She lives with her parents, who have no formal education and are without stable jobs or income. As a teenager she has always dreamt of becoming a medical doctor. Her parents cannot afford to pay the school fees for her and Zione thought her dreams to pursue school of medicine had come to halt however MCV emerged as a guardian angel and kept her dreams alive.

*'I have the passion to help people who are sick, I feel bad when people lose their lives because of medical complications. One day I will serve people around my community. I believe with MCV my dreams will come true because I will fight a good battle to score good grades which will take me to the university. Looking at my family status, I have never thought that I would reach this far with my school all my siblings are illiterate so are my parents. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel because the national examination am about to write unshackles many opportunities in life. I thank MCV for the wonderful and amazing job for sponsoring my education to this far because my parents cannot afford to pay the fees and other needs. School has taught me a lot of things including self-esteem, to be a good and responsible citizen '~**Zione***

MCV has helped Zione and many other orphans and vulnerable children reach their dreams and succeed in being able to provide for their families. To read more student stories, please subscribe to our blog on our website: malawichildrensvillage.org.

A VILLAGE VOLUNTEER'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE!

By Vincent Sisya, MCV Deputy Director

The village volunteers are part of the core program and have been in existence for the 25 years of MCV. In each of the 39 villages, where the orphans reside, there are 2 Malawian volunteers who assist the MCV field workers with information on who needs health care, orphans school attendance, any difficulties with food, housing etc. Their reports add to the village surveys and they work with the village chief. They are given a bicycle, MCV shirt, soap, and attend a monthly meeting which is a training session providing education on common village problems: like child care, alcoholism, drugs, mental illness.

Read the story of Stanford below, **a dedicated volunteer for the last 25 years!**

As a boy, Stanford Mangani, dedicated almost his entire life to charity work. A coincidence, he met MCV which complimented his desire to help other people. He started volunteering for MCV in 1997, and he is one of the pioneers of MCV programs.



Stanford with Ruth Nighswander interviewing a family in his village.

Because of his hard work and determination, Stanford is the Chairperson of the MCV Volunteers. Mangani is responsible for coordinating all the work done by the village volunteers. After joining MCV he was one of the members who suggested that MCV should focus on HIV/AIDS pandemic because it was the core reason which resulted in multitude of orphans around the catchment. He also recognized the need for sustainable food supply and encouraged the food security program.

He has witnessed and helped many children's lives be transformed for the better and become responsible citizens.

'I always tell the youths and other groups if you have been helped you are responsible to help your communities. I have seen many children who were hopeless turn to having hope. I have always dreamed of helping other people and always wished a good community for everyone especially the marginalized group.'~**Stanford**

MCV Special Needs Program Update

By Mary Pomeroy

When this program was a small idea in my head, as a pediatric Physical Therapist visiting MCV 14 years ago, little did I know what would develop. The program now serves 200 children a year! It continues to be self-sustainable within MCV, guided by Vincent Sisya, Assistant Director, and run on a daily basis by one of the Outreach Coordinators, Catherine Shaban.



A basic wheelchair now costs $300 but gives life.

The Special Needs program includes the Cerebral Palsy (CP) Clinic, Village-Based Program and Equipment Workshop. CP clinic happens at MCV weekly and four physiotherapists see up to 20 children daily. Catherine goes to the villages to see children and their families and helps identify new patients. All Special Needs equipment is made at MCV. Vincent noted "our biggest challenge has been sourcing materials for making devices, some prices have doubled." A wheelchair now can cost up to $300, however none have been made this last year. There is no insurance in Malawi to cover these costs. The fellow who makes the wheelchairs looked at one, took some bicycle tires and figured out how to weld metal together to create a wheelchair.



Trinity Mphito pictured smiling at her school.

Here is one patient's success story:

Trinity Mphito is an 8 year old patient at the Special Needs Clinic. She lives in the village of Mponda and has three siblings. When she was born, the doctors said her head was small and this has affected her overall growth. When she started going to physiotherapy at the MCV clinic in 2017, she couldn't walk or talk on her own. Her mother took her to the clinic every week, and in June 2022 she started to walk on her own! Trinity even goes to school now where she can play with all the other children.

Thanks for your ongoing support for MCV.

The Effects of Inflation in Malawi

By Tom Nighswander

Inflation is affecting all of us in the US, but in Malawi it is devastating. Especially hard hit are the villagers as most are subsistence farmers and have no to little income.

Items like bread, cooking oil, sugar, salt, tea and coffee must be purchased, and in a poor rainy season such as this last year, villagers must also buy maize. A typical family will eat maize twice a day, every day, and will use 75 kilos (1 1/2 bags) a month.

The prices for all of these commodities have risen between 85% and 200% over the last year (see insert). In June of this year a 50 kilo bag of maize cost $20! These prices are leaving many families without the ability to feed themselves.

Malawian resilience and stamina in the face of hardship has always inspired us, and now this is more true than ever. Through the treadle pump program and education on other irrigation techniques and farming methods, MCV is working to help families become food secure with sustainable methods.

Examples of price increases over the last year:

Bread: 162%

Maize: 185%

Cooking oil: 200%

Sugar: 85%

Rice 120%



MCV's Dream for the Future

A girl's dorm for 120 Gracious Secondary School students has long been identified as a goal of the MCV staff and board. Here is a rendering of our vision and dream.

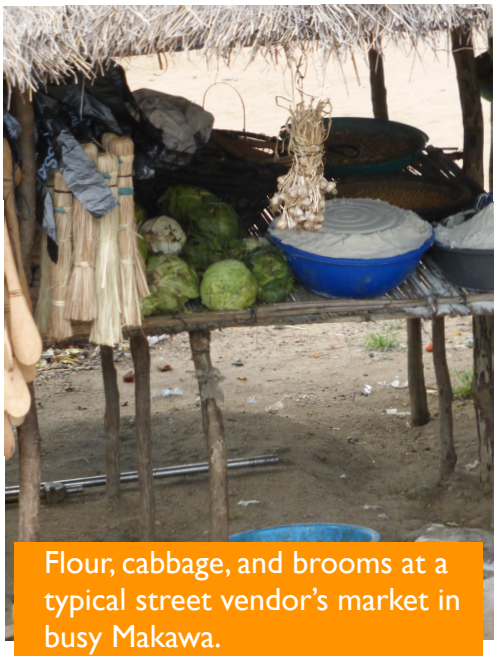
Watch the MCV blog for future updates!

VILLAGE PROFILE: MAKAWA

By Mary Pomeroy

MCV's mission is to support orphans and vulnerable children in 39 villages in Malawi. This is a profile of one of those villages, Makawa.

The bustling town of Makawa is a main trading center and large fishing village. It is located along the southwestern area of Lake Malawi. Makawa is located off the main road, so many businesses and small markets are continually busy. With the people trading and selling their wares, bartering is continual and quite the sight! There are straw brooms for sale, charcoal stoves and welding shops. Farmers sell their ground nuts, yams, tomatoes, onions or squash, each vying for a lower price than the duka (small store) next to them. Mounds of flour, rice, beans and tomatoes color the markets or side streets.



Flour, cabbage, and brooms at a typical street vendor's market in busy Makawa.

The tourism industry employs many people living in Makawa, as there are small cafes, covered with dried palm leaves and local hotels for travelers to rest. Fish (Chambo) are caught and sold along the road and seen drying on racks around family homes.

Within the town of Makawa there are 1,655 households with a population of 7,623 people. It is one of the largest villages of the 39 supported by MCV. There are 216 OVC (orphaned and vulnerable children) living in 104 households, all supported by MCV, helping the children to go and stay in primary and secondary schools, provide clothing and food, repair any homes damaged from rains or winds and provide medical care, as needed, in local health clinics.

Many houses line dirt paths or roads. Children are always seen playing with their hand-made toys from metal or string, bottle caps or wood. Soccer balls are made by bunching up plastic bags and wrapping whatever string the child can find, tightly around the bags.



A typical home in Makawa.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ruth Nighswander and Teresa Curran, MCV bookkeeper

Donors add to the **HOPE** of hard working Malawians with Malawi Children's Village. With inflation for July 2022 at 24.6% and food rates up 32.5%, your dollars go a long way.

Thank you for making thousands of lives better by assisting them in helping themselves. Thank you!

Financial Report

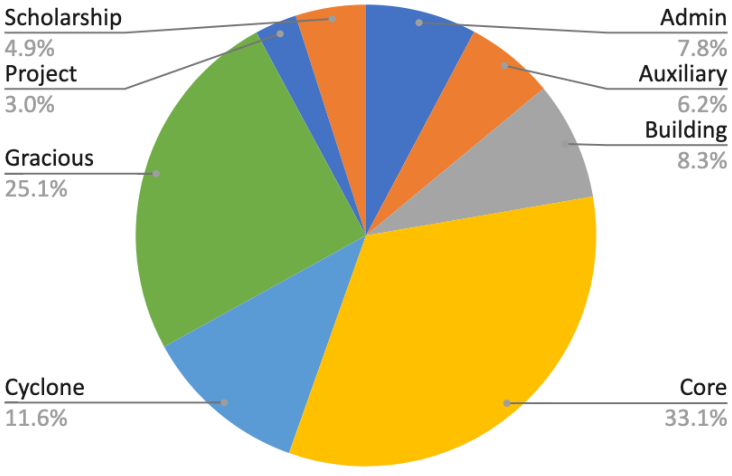
July 2021-June 2022

Total Donations: $409,030

Expenditures:

—Core Program	$104,322
—Building	$26,100
—Gracious	$79,065
—Projects	$9,305
—Scholarships	$15,567
—Auxiliary	$19,615
—Admin-USA	$24,515
—Cyclone Relief	$36,461

Total Expenses:	$314,950
Pending Distribution:	$24,515



Reminder: "Donating stock saves on taxes". Email info@malawichildrensvillage.org for more information.

MCV Foundation board members pay all of their own expenses.

MCV's New Technical Program: A Student's Success

In January 2022, the technical training program at MCV held a special pilot to expand technical training skills to the vulnerable youth in the MCV area. The program's goal was to give trainees without education, or a stable source of income an opportunity to gain the technical skills needed to obtain work and to provide for their families.

Shadreck Dzimbiri comes from a family of twelve siblings whose parents don't have a stable source of income. He dropped out of school before the seventh grade and his family was struggling to keep food at the table. However, Shadreck says he can now see a brighter future after being enrolled in the new technical program and will receive bricklaying training over the next three months.



Donors and Friends:

Thanks to generous donations, this year we were able to support:

-16 houses constructed, 23 houses repaired, and 200 bags of maize distributed as part of Cyclone Ana Relief.

-135 students sponsored to attend Gracious Secondary

-30 students gained new skills through the new technical program.

-207 bed nets were distributed to vulnerable children.

-1175 bags of maize were distributed to families experiencing food insecurity

-28 sets of farm supplies, 3 complete treadle pumps and 50 treadle pump diaphragms were supplied to help the sustainable farming/irrigation program.

-8 teacher duplexes for Gracious Teachers

MCV's success has been thanks to donors like you. You sustain the projects at MCV. Please donate today and help us continue to serve the orphans and vulnerable children of Mangochi.

Thank you. Zikomo

Donations may be made at www.malawichildrensvillage.org, using the QR code, OR by filling out and submitting the form below.

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, Malawi, 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: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Malawi Children's Village Foundation, Inc.

Designation Preference:

☐ Wherever funds are most needed.

☐ Other:_____

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 children's village

PO Box 240547
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0547
www.malawichildrensvillage.org

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

What does your investment in MCV really mean?

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

- $30 can buy a blanket to keep as many as three children warm
- $38 can pay for enough maize to feed a family for an entire month
- $200 can purchase anti-malarial medicine for 100 orphans
- $370 can send an orphan to secondary school for a year
- $320 can pay for a new roof for a family housing one or more orphans
- $1200 can build a home for a family caring for orphans

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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THE MISSION OF MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

MCV is a village-based orphan care project that provides health, social, and educational resources in 39 villages along the southwest shore of Lake Malawi.

Supportive Services

- MCV contracts with Mehboob 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

Partner Organization Services

- Open Arms Mangochi cares for sick or malnourished infants
- Together! ACT Now uses theater to spread the message about HIV/AIDS