

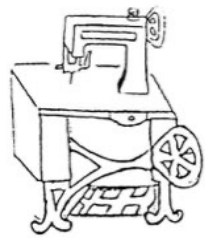


**Nettie and Ayami, the project manager**



## **Malawi Children's Village Sewing Project**

### **Nettie's report: Update 2023**



In 2001 I read that one reason that children in Malawi do not go to school..... is because they do not have a shirt to wear. Having lived in Malawi from 1964 to 1967, I always knew that one day I wanted to go back and do something. That was all I needed to hear, I had a reason.



The Sewing project at MCV was started in 2002. That summer we made shirts, skirts and shorts for the children, and Nettie's Sewing Project was born. Annually, I would return for several months during my summer breaks from the University. The Sewing Project became a free training program for older teenagers, orphans and children who are vulnerable and under the care of Malawi Children's Village. Over the years we started production of many different items for sale in order to create jobs for the experienced trainees to earn an income.



I have shared my reports for you to see our progress over the years. Now fast forward as Covid changed many plans, and we had to close all production and training for 6 months. We decided after reopening to continue with training so that we would have very well-trained tailors when sales to our customers started up again. The outcome has been fantastic. The Lilongwe airport opened up again and started selling our hand-crafts in their departure hall. This has been so successful that a whole store is now dedicated just to our products, and orders are now increasing monthly.



Display at the airport

We are fortunate that beautiful colorful African prints are available for us to purchase at the Lilongwe market. After delivery, Ayami can go right to the wholesaler to stock up to continue our production. Steady work and pay for all our tailors, it is a dream come true. We are known for our very high quality work, our tailors are my heroes and Ayami, the workshop manager, keeps everything on track.



Samples of handcrafts

I have always said that our program is a lot more than putting pieces of cloth together. It is a total education experience. The workshop is open 5 days a week from 7am to 5pm, and we provide bicycles for transportation. Our trainees come from very poor village backgrounds and once they are in the program they are taken care of all around. We provide lunch daily and assure that they have good housing conditions. We also provide maize (corn, a staple in the Malawi diet) for their family to use during the hunger season, from November until March, when the new harvest becomes available.

We now have a formula to mix our own fertilizer to have a better yield, just hoping for a good rainy season.

As I am writing this, the latest news is coming in. The Malawi kwacha currency has devalued by 44%, that means a lot of consequences. Never a dull moment, we will have to adapt.

**Nettie Graulich**  
**208 Fern Street, #406**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33401**  
Tel: 561-777-2330

EMAIL: [nettiegraulich@yahoo.com](mailto:nettiegraulich@yahoo.com)

Reports from pervious years can be found at [malawichildredivillage.org/sewing](http://malawichildredivillage.org/sewing)

Here is a picture gallery to show off our activities this year!



**The whole group pitches in to build a roof**

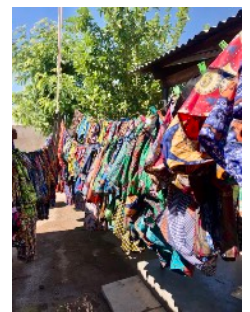
**OLD HOUSE**

**NEW HOUSE!!**



**Treating the maize for storage. 123 bags!**

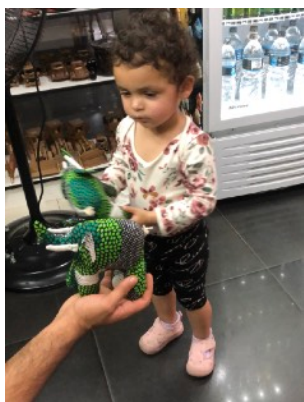
**Mixing our own fertilizer**



**Washing all of the fabrics to prepare for production**



**Working together on a new design. The rhino!**



**Witnessing one of our airport customers as I am heading home**



**A grateful parent of one of our graduates**



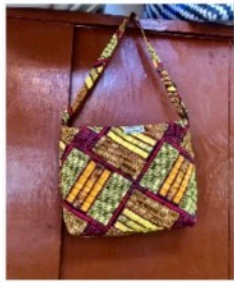
**One of our students, Kenny, with his sewing machine at home. This gives him an opportunity to make additional money working from home.**





**Buying fabrics at the Lilongwe market**

**Production and the results!**



**Name:** Quilted briefcase with adjustable strap  
**Description:** 17inch x 14inch  
**Price:** MK17,000



**Name:** Quilted shopping bag  
**Description:** 18inch x 14inch  
**Price:** MK14,000



**Name:** Large quilt bag  
**Description:** 13inch x 12inch  
**Price:** MK17,000 Each



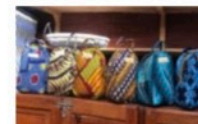
**Name:** Medium quilt bag  
**Description:** 11inch x 9inch  
**Price:** MK 14,000 Each



**Name:** Small quilt bag  
**Description:** 8inch x 7inch  
**Price:** MK11,000 Each



**Name:** Quilted N bag with shoulder strap  
**Description:** 10inch x 8.5inch  
**Price:** MK9,000



**Sample page from our product catalog**

**Group hug!**



