



**malawi  
children's  
village**

## A Village-Based Orphan Care Project

2024 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



### SHARIF'S RED RACER

By Mary Pomeroy, MCV-US Board

When I first met Sharif 10 years ago, he was not going to school, crawling in the dirt at his home village. At 17 years of age, Sharif now independently zooms his red racer to primary school. He has missed a lot of school since he didn't have a way to get there. His wooden wheelchair had been too big for him to move, so occasionally his brothers/friends would push him to school. Sometimes his mom would carry him, as she knew education was important. After growing this past year, he could now maneuver it by himself. We spiffed up his wooden wheelchair, giving him new cushions and coverings for his "racer" and painted it bright red, his request. Upon delivery this year, we all clapped as he raced around and waved to us! Now he proudly races down the dirt road to beat his friends to school.

**To school he will roll!**



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

- Currently MCV supports 2,934 orphans and vulnerable children.
- 154 orphans/vulnerable children are sponsored to attend Gracious Secondary School. 150 students have completed the new technical training program quickly giving them valuable skills to earn a living.
- 500 bags of beans and 680 50 kg bags of maize were distributed to families in 2023 to help with food shortages.
- The Special Needs Program provided support to over 500 children in the Cerebral Palsy Clinic and built or repaired almost 200 adaptive chairs or devices.
- There are 37 irrigation project sites with about 15 families each. In addition to treadle pumps, solar pumps are now being used. These enhanced farming allows more than 500 families to benefit from increased crop yield.
- 120 goats were distributed to 40 families to kick off the 'Goat Pass-On Project' supporting more sustainable food sources
- MCV gave out 363 bed nets and 200 blankets to vulnerable children. Five homes were constructed, and 32 were repaired for those families keeping orphans.



## SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM UPDATE

By Vincent Sisya, MCV Deputy Director & Mary Pomeroy, MCV BOD Member

After 16 years operating, the Special Needs Program continues to grow and develop! Here are some of last years successes!

- Under the amazing guidance of Dr Bente, the Mangochi District Hospital team (physician, nutritionist, social worker and physical therapist) assesses every child at the Cerebral Palsy (CP) Clinic at MCV weekly. This collaboration provides comprehensive care for each child's needs.
- MCV has expanded their support for special needs students who are deaf, supporting 4 students at Mua School for the Deaf. There are only 3 such boarding schools in Malawi.
- The Palliative Care Association of Malawi, through Mangochi District Hospital, have donated 17 wheelchairs and 'tricycles' to MCV CP Clinic. A tricycle is a manual wheelchair, hand driven by handles that rotate a bicycle chain. This chain is attached to a 3rd wheel out in front of the wheelchair. For children who struggle with a manual wheelchair, a 'tricycle' is more efficient and easier for them.
- MCV is excited to announce that they have organized, together with Mangochi District Hospital, a Family Day at MCV. This Family Day is part of acknowledging and celebrating World Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day. MCV's Family Day will bring together those living with CP and their families, as well as supporters and organizations (such as MCV), who are all working together to secure futures for children/adults with CP. There will be activities including drama, traditional dances and stories told by the families of the children.

Thanks to all the MCV donors who continue to provide support to the Special Needs Program. Donations from your hearts touch many hearts in Malawi.



-Over 560 children have been seen this last year at our Cerebral Palsy Clinic.  
-Over 560 lives have been bolstered.  
-Over 560 families thank the generous MCV donors.

## GOAT PASS-ON PROJECT

By Vincent Sisya, MCV Deputy Director & Mike Russel, MCV Board Member



In recent and ongoing disasters (cyclones, drought, heavy rains) in the Malawian villages around MCV, the poor, as well as other vulnerable groups have consistently been disproportionately affected. These factors have resulted in food insecurity to families, especially those in villages where water is not available to grow crops.

**120 goats, 40 families: Creating sustainable solutions to food shortages.**

In September 2024, MCV initiated their Goat Pass-On program in the local villages to increase food security in the area. As part of the project, 40 vulnerable families were selected to receive 4 goats (3 does and one buck) for 120 goats total. The first offspring from each of doe will then be passed on to another family to start their own herd. These new herds will continue the passing on pattern to grow new herds. MCV has coordinated goat husbandry training in villages to make sure the goats receive proper care and nutrition. In addition, livestock provides food, as well as income which can be used to purchase food. Another reason for the poor harvest is the decline of the soil fertility and it can be replaced with the manure from the livestock.



## MCV VOLUNTEER, JOYCE

By Mary Pomeroy, MCV Board Member

The village volunteers are part of the core program and have been in existence for the 27 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. They are given a bicycle, MCV shirt, soap, and attend a monthly training session.

A volunteer for Chimatilo village since MCV's beginning in 1997, Joyce grew up there, raising 6 children and now 12 grandchildren. For 27 years, Joyce has met the needs of Chimatilo people: tending to the babies and elders, ensuring children become educated, escorting those who are sick to the local health clinic or hospital, providing bed nets from MCV for children under 5 to decrease the rate of malaria, and distributing maize, clothing, soap/oil, and other life-giving supplies to the most vulnerable families.

Joyce notes that with MCV's help, Chimatilo has seen many changes. Orphans are supported in their education through secondary school, one of the original tenets of MCV. The local schools have been upgraded. Vocational skills are offered. She sees a decrease in HIV/AIDS since villagers are willing to get tested and take necessary medicine. She attends a Volunteer monthly meeting at MCV where they provide the following information: medical issues (HIV/AIDS, cholera, skin diseases, malnutrition, etc), maternal/baby health care, pregnancy prevention options, learning about children's developmental delays. Joyce shares this information to people in her village, answering questions/ providing support. Joyce said, **"I love my full-time volunteer job. We are all very grateful for MCV!"**

'When the people in my village are happy, I am happy.'



## UPDATE ON GIRLS DORMITORY

By Tom Nighswander, MCV Board



The new girls dorm at MCV opened in October. 120 young women will be able to devote full-time to their academic work as the dorm will free them from the long commute and from chores associated with living in the villages. The building was appropriately named **'Visionary Dormitory'** and is only possible because of your generous donations.

## MCV AND THE PLAZA ROTARY CLUB: 23 YEARS OF COLLABORATION

By Elizabeth Usovicz,  
MCV Board Vice President

The Kansas City Plaza Rotary Club's partnership with the MCV U.S. Fundraising Board and MCV began in 2001 with a house concert fundraiser. Club members and MCV fundraising board members Bill Schmidt and Elizabeth Usovicz quickly realized that MCV's mission was aligned with Rotary's international service. Elizabeth, Bill and a small committee wrote a grant for a needs assessment for MCV, which became the club's first cooperative project in 2002. The needs assessment became multiple water and sanitation/gender equity latrine project for primary schools in the 39 villages served by MCV.

Today, the Kansas City Plaza Rotary Club is collaborating with MCV and the Rotary Club of Limbe, Malawi, on a grant-funded project to ensure food security and water equity for farming through treadle pumps and agricultural techniques training project. Stay tuned for more updates!

## VILLAGE PROFILE: SALUBENI

By Vincent Sisya, MCV Assistant Deputy

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

Children play freely in all villages. Salubeni is one of the furthest villages from MCV. It is very remote, not connected to the electricity grid, nor does it have running water. People drink water from a well.

It is one of the smallest villages. It has more than 90 households; 11 of the houses have OVC (Orphaned and Vulnerable Children) who are served by MCV. Two of the OVC children are Form Four students at MCV Gracious Secondary School.

The volunteers for the village are Benson Thambani and William Msusa. Benson has been a volunteer for 24 years, William for 4 years. Salubeni village primarily relies on rain-fed subsistence farming as its main economic activity. A small portion of irrigation farming is practiced along the stream that runs through the village. However, the changing weather patterns caused by climate change have severely impacted crop yields, leading to food shortages and hunger. The erratic rainfall and longer dry spells have made it difficult for farmers to sustain their livelihoods, heightening hunger and economic instability. Salubeni village is one of the pilot villages for the MCV Goat Pass-On program. It has four beneficiaries. We hope the goats will address this economic challenge.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ruth Nighswander & Teresa Curran, MCV bookkeeper

The word that comes to mind for this year is **CARING**. Despite crop failures and other challenges, the Malawian community came together to CARE for one another. Malawians have always shown extraordinary willingness to support their neighbors even when they themselves had little. Your contributions as CARING donors are making a significant impact. You are helping Malawians continue to support each other through tough times like inflation and drought.

**Thank you from Malawi, "The Warm Heart of Africa."**

### Financial Report

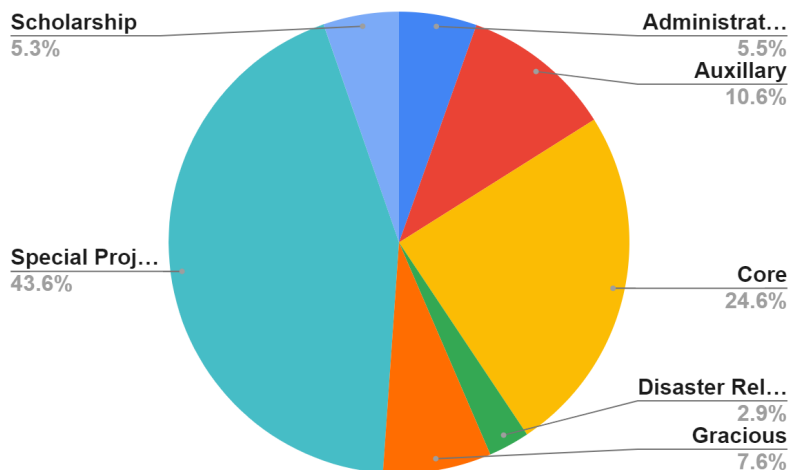
July 2023-June 2024

**Gifts for Operations & Projects: \$504,700**

#### Expenditures:

—Core Programs	\$105,788
—Disaster Relief	\$12,450
—Gracious	\$32,745
—Scholarships	\$22,889
—Admin-USA	\$23,512
—Auxillary	\$45,738
—Special Projects	\$187,749

**Total Expenses: \$430,871**



**Reminder: "Donating stock saves on taxes". Email [info@malawichildrensvillage.org](mailto:info@malawichildrensvillage.org) for more information. MCV Foundation board members pay all of their own expenses.**



Moni Achimwene (Hello, Friends),

A long-held fact is that two + two = four; however, donors’ gifts to MCV have achieved exponential results by leveraging the experience and relationships developed through the decades. MCV’s origin began with a few retired Peace Corps volunteers who decided to take action in the face of insurmountable needs presented by the AIDS epidemic that left orphans to be raised by extended families. More than 25 years later, the stories in this newsletter highlight the impact on the roughly 3,000 orphans and the 39 communities in which they reside, because of donors like you. With escalating weather patterns, food security has become an increasing concern. Each year the MCV staff support nutritional, emotional, agricultural and educational initiatives that focus on helping people who face evolving needs, building upon the successes of the past to provide hope.



Thank you for being people of action who make these stories possible. Your support is crucial to MCV’s success and has proven that two + two = more!

**Zikomo (Thank You), James Miller, MCV Board President**

Donations may be made at [www.malawichildrens-village.org](http://www.malawichildrens-village.org), using the QR code, OR by filling out and submitting the form below.

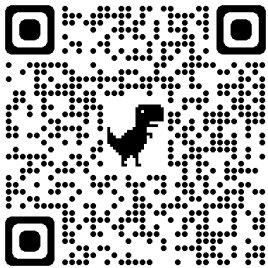
Malawi Children’s Village provides a continuum of services for the immediate needs and the future opportunities of orphans and other vulnerable children, their families, and villages of Mangochi, Malawi, focusing on current and emerging concerns including but not limited to: HIV/AIDS and malaria care 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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!



PO Box 240547

Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0547

[www.malawichildrensvillage.org](http://www.malawichildrensvillage.org)

Please send changes in your address  
to [info@malawichildrensvillage.org](mailto:info@malawichildrensvillage.org)

## What does your investment in MCV really mean?

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

- \$33 can buy a blanket to keep as many as three children warm
- \$53 can pay for enough maize to feed a family for an entire month
- \$200 can purchase anti-malarial medicine for 100 orphans
- \$407 can pay for a new roof for a family housing one or more orphans
- \$300 can send an orphan to secondary school for a year
- \$1200 can build a home for a family caring for orphans

## 2024 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
- Open Arms Mangochi cares for sick or malnourished infants
- Together! ACT Now uses theater to spread the message about HIV/AIDS

#### Partner Organization Services