

Summer NEWSLETTER

Goat Project Brings Hope Against Food Insecurity

MCV recently obtained funding to support food security, which is becoming an increasing need due to changing weather patterns and depleted soil nutrients. One of the initiatives is the Goat Pass On Project. Forty families supporting orphans were provided with four goats each, one male and three females. The goats provide manure for fertilizer, nutritious milk and offspring to the herd over time. The recipients are responsible for "passing on" the first two female kids to another designated family.

Manure from goats, versus chickens, is a preferable option for organic fertilizer because goats eat grass that is readily available, whereas chickens require products that must be purchased. The difference between crops grown with fertilizer versus those without is highly noticeable. In a society where you eat what you grow/raise, fertilizer plays a big role in the health of your family.



The pride of ownership and hope the gift of goats provide to their families is rewarding!

Education, Health, & Hope: MCV's Expanding Reach

Malawi Children's Village's impact within the 39 communities it supports expands beyond the orphans and the families who care for them. MCV has made an effort to expand complimentary programs to assist these families over the last 25 years. Education is a key to helping these families succeed and includes the importance of mosquito nets, safe drinking water, nutrition, mental health, and new farming techniques.

MCV has grown its access to education opportunities for vulnerable children, increased access to the Cerebral Palsy clinic held at MCV each week, and helped families learn about and start innovative food security options. These are just a few examples of how MCV has grown and evolved in its programs and impact to meet the needs of the community. Donors, like you, have supported new initiatives with heartwarming generosity, for which we are thankful. Our sincere thanks to all donors, for every gift truly matters and enables MCV's comprehensive impact! – James, MCV Board President



Stitching a Brighter Future: Handmade in Malawi

Sewing is a skill that can last a lifetime and bring a steady income to those who build their businesses. At MCV you will find students learning these skills through one of the skills training programs.

We were excited to walk into the MCV Sewing Workshop on our latest trip to MCV. Ayami, who was trained by Nettie Graulich, and his students were hard at work on many different items including various sizes of bags and purses. I went to scout out the very colorful showroom where they have many well-made items crafted by students, who are orphans served by MCV through its various vocational programs. I walked away with several items in hand and was happy to learn they now take credit cards.

Throughout Malawi and even the Lilongwe Airport gift shop, the signature bright African patterns and the tag that reads 'Handmade in Malawi' on products make it clear that MCV's Sewing Project reaches well beyond MCV's 39 communities. -Colleen



Hope and Hospitality: Fajah's Story of Resilience

'Hello, I'm Fajah. I was born in 1994 into a family of nine boys and two girls. I am the ninth born. I was born in the northern district of Nkhata Bay, Malawi which is a popular tourist destination along Lake Malawi. Growing up along the tourist area made me to want to study tourism management. I am proud to hold a certificate in hotel and tourism which I obtained in 2018. I joined Ra Riviera lodge in 2018 as a waiter and that is where I am working till now.

My journey as a youth has not all been rosy. I grew up in a family faced with life struggles, but my parents instilled in us hope and resilience. My parents were able to support me throughout my primary education which is free in public school. After I excelled in my primary education, I was taken as a sponsored student to study at MCV's Gracious Secondary School. I graduated at Gracious Secondary school in 2016.

My goal for now remains delivering exceptional service and creating memorable experiences for guests. My ultimate goal is to secure a stable, and well-paying job that will enable me to support my family and my siblings.

I would like to thank MCV, without their support I would not have managed to live the life am living now.' -Fajah Landwell



A Welcome in Song: The Heart of MCV's Village Volunteers

I recently returned from my first visit to Malawi and the MCV campus, where I was deeply moved by the remarkable kindness, gratitude, and perseverance, of the people. One of the most touching experiences was meeting the 39 village volunteers (78 people) gathered at MCV for their monthly update. As we approached the meeting place, the sounds of joyful clapping and singing echoed through the air, celebrating the arrival of visitors and the simple fact of their unity.

After each board member shared a few words, the volunteers once again erupted in song and dance, enthusiastically inviting us to join them. Our presence served as a poignant reminder to them that they are not forgotten, that people in the United States recognize their needs, and are committed to donating funds to support food security, healthcare, education, and other essentials for the neediest in their villages. As the meeting concluded, we had the pleasure of announcing that each volunteer would receive a 110-pound bag of maize that day. The news was met with cheers of joy. At the approximate cost of \$57 per bag, with funding from a church in Anchorage, this provision could significantly help sustain a family for a month. Remarkably, most of the volunteers, predominantly women, chose to carry the heavy bags on their heads for the long journey back to their villages, with some also carrying children on their backs.

This experience not only highlighted the profound challenges faced by these communities but also the incredible resilience and spirit they possess. Kim Gannon, MCV Board



Transform Lives With Every Gift

- \$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

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