



malawi children's village

2025 Newsletter



From Hunger to Hope: The Goat Pass-On Project

By Mike Russell, MCV-US Board

The Goat Pass-On Program continues to be a living symbol of sustainability, generosity, and community resilience. Despite challenges, including losses from illness and predation, the program remains strong and full of promise for the families it serves.

- Initial Goats Distributed: 128
- Losses: 18 (including theft, illness, and predation)
- Current Adult Goats: 128
- Kids Born: 26
- Pregnant Goats: 46
- Kids Ready for Distribution: 12

Forty-five kids have now been weaned and are ready to be passed on to the next cohort of beneficiaries! Through the dedication of local families and the care invested in each animal, young goats are passed on to new households—continuing the cycle of opportunity. Each participating family has pledged to return the first four offspring to the program by December 2025, ensuring that others in need will also receive this gift of livelihood and independence.



**Sustaining Families.
One Goat
at a time.**

MCV 2025 Impact- By the Numbers

By Felix Chirombo, MCV's Director

3,302

Orphans/Vulnerable Children supported

215

Orphans/Vulnerable Children supported are under age five

333

Children with special needs supported

37

Irrigation sites sustaining
15 families each

192

Bed nets to prevent Malaria

30

Students have completed the Vocational Skills training, with **30 more** about to graduate

550

50kg bags of maize, **30** bags of rice distributed to families in need

Special Needs Program: 2025 Update

By: Mary Pomeroy, MCV-US Board

Almost 300 children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) and other medical conditions have been seen through the Special Needs program this year. Wheelchairs, walkers, standing frames and adapted wooden chairs are provided to adapt to their needs in their village homes and at school. There were 9 children seen 17 years ago when our family first went to volunteer at Malawi Children’s Village. Eventually, MCV created the first independent CP Clinic in the area, supporting the 39 villages in the catchment area.

The need was there for these children to get the treatment and services necessary to become part of their families, villages and begin to attend school. Education and support provided to families has helped them understand the abilities that their child inherently has, instead of the disabilities that were apparent.

Every child deserves to be celebrated for their abilities and allowed opportunities to grow.



Chikundo: Village Spotlight

By: Vincent Sisya, MCV’s Deputy Director

Chikundo is one of the centrally located villages among the 39 communities where Malawi Children’s Village (MCV) operates. Home to 1,962 people across 416 households, it is a medium-sized village with a vibrant community life. MCV currently supports 90 orphans and vulnerable children in Chikundo through various programs. Among them, six students attend Gracious Private School, 69 are enrolled in primary school, and five children have special needs who receive additional care and support.

Situated along the shores of Lake Malawi, life in Chikundo is deeply influenced by the lake. Most families depend on subsistence farming and fishing for their livelihood. These products are traded at the village’s small but lively trading center—the heart of local commerce. Chikundo is also one of the more developed villages in the area, benefiting from piped water, electricity, and its location along a tarmac road, which connects residents to nearby markets and opportunities.

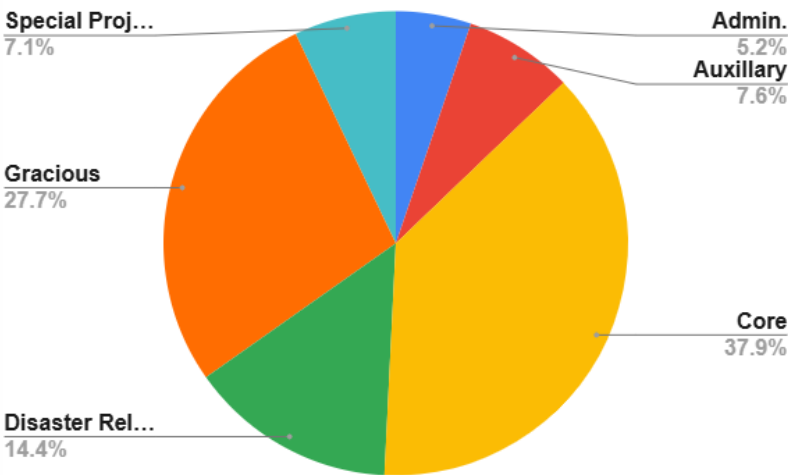
Financial Report July 2024-June 2025

By: Ruth Nighswander & Teresa Curran, MCV Bookkeeper

Gratitude and thankfulness are words heard many times daily at Malawi Children’s Village. On behalf of the volunteers, staff, students, preschoolers, and guardians, Zikomo Kwambili or Thank you very much! You are making a difference in the world!

Total Donations: 440,984
Expenditures:

- Admin Total: 24,286
 - Auxillary: 35,222
 - Gracious: 66,864
 - Scholarships: 32,876
 - Core Programs: 175,637
 - Special Projects: 128,193
- Total Expenditures: 463,078



Reminder: "Donating stock saves on taxes."
MCV- US Board members pay all of their own expenses.

Learn more at
malawichildrens village.org



Food Security Program

By Tom Nighswander, MCV-US Board

Food security is the number one issue in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Malawi. Subsistence farmers depend on reliable rains, usually December and January, to grow enough maize. Unfortunately, climate change has disrupted this pattern. Reliable rains have been disappearing for more than 12 years. Farmers have been growing maize on the same plots of land for over 100 years without fertilizer, leaving the soil worn out.

Every year, MCV has to stockpile as much maize as it could afford to distribute during the hunger (njala) season. This approach is not sustainable. With the help of generous donors, MCV was able to start a food security program.

Their recent report highlights the progress:

- Completion of the construction of a greenhouse.
- Installation of a submersible solar pump, which we are using to irrigate the nursery beds.
- Planted the following seedlings in the nursery beds, which will later be transplanted and given to local farmers:
 - 500 tomatoes
 - 3,000 cabbages
 - 4,000 mustard greens
 - 4,000 Chinese vegetables
 - 4,000 rape vegetables
 - 1,000 onions
- Farmers are being trained to make organic fertilizers and use water-saving gardening techniques.

The program's second phase has already begun. A second greenhouse is being built along with a solar water system and additional gardens to provide seedlings for more village farmers.

Your generosity is making a real difference in the lives of Malawians. You give us hope and remind us of the power of humanity!



Remembering Don Gray

Don and Joan Gray served in the Peace Corps in Malawi alongside Ruth and I. While we worked in health, Don and Joan taught and spent their school break with us in Nkhata Bay, working at the local district hospital. That time began a friendship that endured across decades and distance.

After the Peace Corps, Don taught chemistry at the National University of Lesotho, later returning to Malawi as the first headmaster of Gracious Secondary School at Malawi Children's Village (MCV) and serving on the MCV-US Board. His career continued at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he became a respected leader in philanthropy.

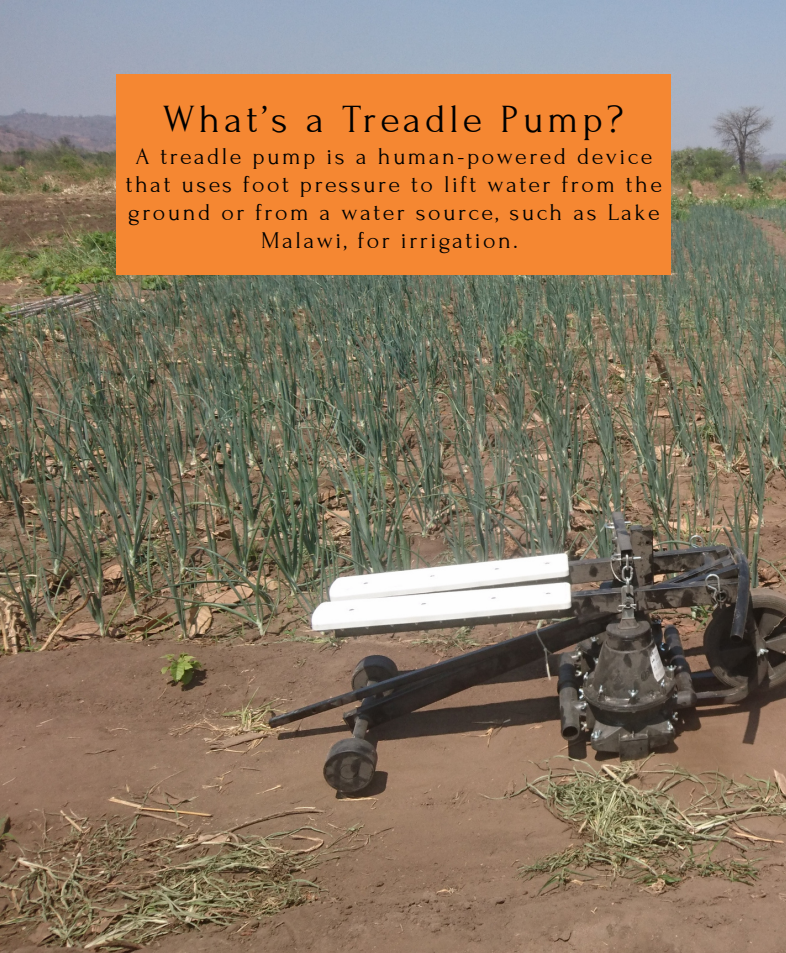
Don passed away peacefully in his sleep after years of declining health. His kindness, humor, and dedication to service touched many lives. His legacy continues through the MCV-US Board, where his former student Caroline Matkom and his niece Kim Gannon now serve.

His friendship, great humor, and his expertise are gone, but he will long be fondly remembered by everyone who was privileged to have known him and especially those of us for whom he was a friend.

-Tom and Ruth Nighswander

What's a Treadle Pump?

A treadle pump is a human-powered device that uses foot pressure to lift water from the ground or from a water source, such as Lake Malawi, for irrigation.



Treadle Pumps: Rotary Clubs Partner with MCV

By Elizabeth Usovicz, MCV US Board

From October to March, Malawi faces Njala — the “lean season” — when food supplies run low and farming families struggle. To help address this, Malawi Children’s Village (MCV) is partnering with the Rotary Clubs of Limbe, Malawi, and Kansas City Plaza, USA, through a grant from The Rotary Foundation.

The project provides farmers with treadle pumps, training, and maintenance support. These simple, foot-powered pumps allow farmers to irrigate crops year-round, often doubling their harvests.

MCV Executive Director Felix Chirombo calls the initiative “an entry point for small farmers to overcome food insecurity.” Working alongside MCV’s solar pump initiative and the contributions of the Rotary Club of Clifton Springs, New York, this treadle pumps project is one more example of ordinary people coming together to support the work of Malawi Children’s Village and make a difference!

Staff Spotlight: Head Teacher at Gracious, Raymond Kapito

Raymond Kapito, the Head Teacher of Gracious Secondary School, began his career after earning a Diploma in Education in 2005. He joined Gracious Secondary School in 2011, as a science teacher for mathematics and biology. His dedication led to a rapid rise through the ranks to head teacher in 2015, a position he still holds today. Under Mr. Kapito’s leadership, the school has seen outstanding overall performance and has become well known for producing top science results in national examinations. Mr. Kapito’s classes often consist of approximately 75 students. While the subject is challenging, students are pleased to be able to attend school and take his classes.

Enrollment at Gracious Secondary School is approximately 650 students, including 154 orphans whose tuition and lunch are covered by MCV. The quality education these students receive is significantly above the national average, as affirmed on national examinations, causing Gracious to be well regarded for more than just the quality of the faculty and positive culture.

In recent years, donors have generously supported the construction of eight faculty duplexes, which has eliminated faculty turnover. Prior to this, teachers would generally commute from Mangochi town by bicycle, a 30-minute ride one-way. In addition, the Visionary Girls Dormitory opened in 2025, providing lodging for 120 girls. These girls’ lives are significantly improved as they no longer need to commute to school, and being amidst peers allows them to develop friendships and focus on activities and homework, versus the significant number of chores they would be expected to do at home.



“A wonderful
teacher and leader.”

-Vincent Sisya, MCV’s Deputy
Director

Moni Achimwene (Hello Friends),

At first glance, the quiet work of a single bee gathering pollen may seem insignificant. Yet over time, as each bee contributes based on its abilities, the hive thrives -- producing something sweet, sustaining, and enduring. In much the same way, the stories in this newsletter highlight the small yet powerful programs, acts of service, generosity, and vision that, together, build a stronger community. Each article is a reflection of how individual efforts -- like yours -- combine to create lasting impact. Thank you for being actively engaged in sustaining and building opportunities through MCV.

Zikomo (Thank You)!

James Miller, MCV US Board President



Women Empowerment (WE) Program: Empowering Girls Through Education

Traditionally, girls in Malawi cared for the home—cooking over open fires, collecting wood and water, washing clothes, and tending to younger siblings. Even when they attended school, they were still expected to handle these chores, often without a quiet place to study.

MCV has helped change that reality. Because secondary school in Malawi requires tuition, MCV covers all fees for orphans. At Gracious Secondary School, enrollment is now evenly split between girls and boys among the 600 students.

The school's respected WE Club includes girls who rank in the top ten of their class (Forms I–IV, grades 9–12). Forty of these high-achieving students live in the new girls' dormitory on scholarships from the MCV Board of Directors.

MCV also provides sanitary pads to all girls—ending monthly absences and helping them stay in school. These young women now dream of continuing their education, pursuing careers, and ensuring their own daughters have the same opportunities.

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, 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:

- ___ \$1500: Build a home for a family
- ___ \$300: Send a student to school for a year
- ___ \$57: Feed a family for a month
- ___ Other

Please make checks
payable to:
Malawi Children's
Foundation



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!



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

Please send changes in your address to
info@malawichildrensivillage.org or to the postal address
above.

What does your investment in MCV really mean?

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

- \$45 can buy a blanket to keep as many as three children warm
- \$57 can pay for enough maize to feed a family for an entire month
- \$250 can purchase anti-malarial medicine for 100 orphans
- \$400 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
- \$1500 can build a home for a family caring for orphans

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Malawi Children's Village Foundation, Inc.

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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 Mehboub 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 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

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or go to www.malawichildrensivillage.org and click SUBSCRIBE.