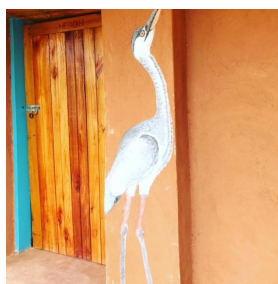


Our Vision: A healthy, educated, self-sufficient community in Malawi

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SAM'S VILLAGE ACCOMMODATION BLOCKS



The Bird and Animal Blocks have now been completed! Many thanks to Kira Palmer and her friend Melisa Altay who went over to help paint and prepare them. Kira took 6 local volunteers (left) who wanted some training in signwriting and painting and after 4 weeks, they received their certificates along with many skills which we hope will enable them to find some work painting shop fronts in our area. Each block is themed and the rooms named after a bird or animal. The tailors and trainer helped make the bedding and curtains (above). The cycle group were the first to stay in them when they arrived after their 500km challenge (see back page)



Photos left to right:
Tailoring Workshop
Ruth Desmond the trainer
Gloria Kachule proudly wearing her dress she designed and made
Magdalena Hadiwelo learning new skills

TRAINING Ruth Desmond is our Tailoring trainer and has been inspirational in teaching 12 people all the skills needed to be a tailor and empowering them to become self-sufficient. They graduate on July 17th and currently are all on track to receive their certificate from TEVETA, who are the accredited arm of the Government for vocational training. We are very thrilled to announce that we have just signed our contract to become International Partners with UNESCO who will be funding bursaries for the next 18 months to train 150 marginalized people in different vocational skills. We are specifically focusing on a minimum of 50% women attendance. We are following the STEP programme (Skills and Technical Education Programme) and as an aside, if you click on the video here www.stepmw.com you will find their single which has been no 1 in the Malawi charts for 6 weeks! **Below** cooks preparing meals for the trainees; permaculture gardens being watered to provide vegetables for the kitchen; more tree seedlings; Takondwa and Chimwemwe best friends; finishing off the new water tower to provide more water.





Alfred Kachere

HEALTH

Alfred Kachere (left) has been doing really well. We gave him a loan last September of £80 and he has made his final payment in June. After starting a small shop next to his house, selling some very basics of salt, soap and oil, he has now moved to a rented shop next to Chikuyakuti School and is selling many more items including fabric, batteries, lotions, drinks etc. We stopped to buy some fabric and locks for Sam's Village. He now wants another loan so he can build his own shop rather than rent. If anyone would like to support him with a loan of £80 please make contact with us.

We met Dickson (left) at Kafutwe School. Last year he went through a number of operations to resolve a shin bone sticking out of his leg! He is now happy to be back at school with his friends.

We put 7 Bicycle ambulances back into our area with newly formed all-female committees. We have just received funding for a further 2 from Rotary Club Burnham Beeches. Our grateful thanks to them for providing this much needed resource. We went to visit the BA committee at Chibwata (top right). The majority of the bicycle use was for people with malaria and pregnant women.

Thanks to Preet Legha who contributed funds to put a door on Farris's room to keep her safe (below) .

She is now getting a food package and other items of need on a monthly basis. If anyone would like to specifically sponsor one of our people with disabilities, you can make an enormous difference by donating £10 per month which will provide them with food, clothing and transport to health facilities.

www.africanvision.org.uk



Dickson



Mtisunge



Sungeni Kumbileni



Chibwata BA committee



Farris

STAFF

We sadly have said goodbye to Gift Banda who has been with us for 8 years. His last role was for M & E (Monitoring & Evaluation) and due to poor health, he decided to step down in April. His role has been taken over by Wezie Gwaluka with assistance from Atupele Mkulichi (below). We would like to thank Gift for all his work with us over the past 8 years, wishing him well for his future and a speedy recovery from his health issues.

In April, Ruth Katchere (below) joined us to support Eric Munthali in the Finance Office. She has fitted in really well to the team and seen modelling the team hat during the Landirani Fun day to celebrate our anniversary (below)!

We welcome on board Atupele Mkulichi who started with us in May. She is predominately a PA to Duncan Chiyani but also assisting Wezie in her role of Education Manager and M & E support. We welcome both Ruth and Atupele on board and look forward to working with them.

Julie Ndalama and Wezie Gwaluka were joint 'Staff of the Month' in April for all their timely reports, good finances and professional manner. Chikondi Kanambo was made 'Staff of the Month' for May as he has been doing an amazing job, monitoring and supporting the new training programme at Sam's Village. His role has now changed from Librarian to Training Administrator and Office support. We have a brilliant team and it is always a struggle to decide who is the staff of the month as they all do great work!



Atupele Mkulichi



Chikondi Kanambo



Ruth Katchere



Julie & Wezie as staff of the month

EDUCATION

Evelyn Dongolosi (right) graduated in February as a nurse. We are following her progress and after taking some further exams, she is now waiting for the Government to place her in a hospital. Kettie Semphere (right) graduated in April as an Engineer. Kettie was supported through her Secondary Education by AVM and managed to get support through university up until her final year when AVM stepped in to help her finish her studies. Congratulations to them both and we wish them all the best for their future and hope they will be able to support their extended families. We currently have 4 university students still in need of sponsorship at £80 per month. Please find a way of helping them change their lives!



Evelyn Dongolosi



Kettie Semphere



Cholera prevention

Libitina Chikuse (right) graduated from Secondary last year and is now working at Namanyanga School as a Teaching Assistant, paid by their partnership school Coombe Hill Infants. She hopes to become a teacher.

We had a Cholera scare earlier in the year and due to generous people who donated money to us, we provided training on prevention and also supplied water buckets with taps to encourage good hygiene.



Libitina

Our School Partnerships took place over May & June with the theme of 'Expressive Arts'. It was a very busy 3 weeks managed by Eileen Speak, Gaynor Cook, Wezie Gwaluka and Sarah Parsloe (below) and joined by 4 partnership school teachers. It was combined with distributions to 650 orphan and vulnerable children which included much needed female underwear this year. They were given hand-knitted jumpers, blankets and hats. It is now very cold at night in Malawi, getting down to 6 degrees, so sleeping on a cold mud floor is difficult. The clothing gives them warmth as well as comfort that someone in the UK has knitted it with love. We have many knitters in Kingston and Bishop's Castle who provide these for us.



Distributions of handmade blankets, jumpers and hats



Displaying some art work from The Mall Prep School



Chitsime School receiving exercise books



Chitsime School excited to receive pencils!

VOLUNTEERS

Jeremy Thorn returned for his second year and volunteered with us in January for 2 months. He focused on supporting our staff with further training to increase their productivity.

Heather Cummins (below) and Brian Shindler (below) stayed on after the cycle challenge to volunteer at Sam's Village and the Maternity Unit. Heather made curtains and helped clean up the delivery room and Brian helped in the permaculture gardens and started off a recycled bottle green house for nursery plants. He designed a solar hot water unit which we shall be building at some point.



Heather Cummins



Brian Shindler



Sarah Parsloe distributing football kits

Kira Palmer and Melisa Altay (front page) helped out at Sam's Village with the accommodation blocks and welcomed the cyclists into the Village at the end of the ride, preparing all the meals and the final celebration.

Four partnership teachers joined the visit at the end of May. Kate Maddison and Amanda Hepburn from Twickenham Prep School, Jenny Ashley from The Mead Primary and Alice Buckeridge from Cheam Infants.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS


www.africanvision.org.uk

www.facebook.com/africanvision

www.youtube.com/landirani

www.twitter.com/avmalawi

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PROJECT4AFRICA
OUR MALAWI TEAM
ALL SUPPORTERS
500 MILES
ALL SAINTS KNITTERS
TRUSTEES
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH
EILEEN SPEAK
GAYNOR COOK
OUR PARTNERSHIP
SCHOOLS
BOBBY WYETH
NELSON MOYO
HEATHER CUMMINS
BRIAN SHINDLER



June 2018

500km Cycle fundraiser



The cycle team with their certificates.



The route

9 cyclists set off for a 500km challenge in May and raised a staggering £13,000! They started in Blantyre and travelled up to Zomba, Liwonde, Mangochi, Salima and ended at Sam's Village. The cycle was memorable and an incredible way to see Malawi. It included a safari and day off by Lake Malawi. There is a talk about the trip on 8th July from 6:30pm at St Matthew's Church. There will be another cycle challenge next Easter if anyone is interested, please contact our team.



(above) The team at Mangochi



and Nigel Palmer inside a baobab tree!

Our thanks go to Heather and Nigel Palmer, Graham Witham, Ian Campbell, Gerald Bishop, Bobby Wyeth, Brian Shindler, Wendy Goddin and Heather Cummins for taking up the challenge and Henk Blankenberg for leading us!

Sweet sale



Janet Anderson and her mother spent a week making packets of sweets to sell and raised an amazing £350

Our grateful thanks go to Maxine Riley, her two children Aisa and Remi and friend Myriam Poullain who raised an incredible £1,700 to help build toilets at M'teza CBCC (Community Based Childcare Centre) and provide other resources to our Pre-schools. They spent 6 days at Sam's Village in June where they made outdoor play equipment for the CBCC and helped paint the Maternity Unit.

June 30th—Indulgence Day. A day to relax and recharge your batteries while raising money for our ongoing orphan and vulnerable programmes. Reflexology, massage, facials, yoga, stalls, raffle, musicians and a magician! Come and enjoy the day from 10:00 until 6:00pm at 31 Upper Brighton Road, Surbiton, KT6 6QX

July 8th—Cycle Challenge Talk at St Matthews Church, St Mathews Ave, Surbiton from 6:30pm. Cheese and wine provided. Free entry.

September 29th—Race Night at St. John's Parish Hall, Grove Lane, Kingston. From 7:00pm. Bar and food available. Ticket sales to be advised.

December 8th—Christmas Dinner and Dance at St Matthews Primary School. £35 for a 3 course meal with raffle, silent auction and great music!



560 orphan and vulnerable children received food packs of 15kg during the hungry month of February as they waited for the Harvest to be ready in April. It is thanks to your fundraising that we are able to provide this.

If you would like to organise a challenge or fundraiser, you can now do this directly from our website or please make contact with us and we will support you as much as we can!