

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

## Inside this issue

Sam's village	1
Health	2
Staff	2
Education	3
Volunteers	3
Fundraising Events	4
Thank You	4

## SAM'S VILLAGE

**Matched Funding is back!** Please see our website for details and help us finish the last remaining accommodation blocks



Photos above: our 48 bursary holders with trainers; left: Florida Lefani starting in business at her home in M'bang'ombe interviewed by Abigail Phiri

**TRAINING** We are so proud to announce the end of our first fully fledged STEP programme (Skills and Technical Education Programme) [www.stepmw.com](http://www.stepmw.com), sponsored by the EU. Over the past four months we have trained up 48 young adults from marginalised backgrounds such as ultra-poor, single parents, orphan, with a disability, HIV+. They have been trained in Basic Electronics, Carpentry and Tailoring. They have their graduation on 7th December, where they will also receive their Start-up pack to help them set up in business. The UNESCO funding we received has allowed us to provide these bursary holders with all the appropriate materials and training to set them on the road to a profitable future and self-sufficiency.

We provided our tailors who graduated at the end of July, with their Start-up packs and we are now following them to see how they are getting on in business. Florida Lefani (top left) was visited in her home village of M'bang'ombe where she lives with her grandmother and siblings. She is now earning an average of 10,000 MWK (£11) per week which is incredible and the first thing she used her money for, was to pay for her brothers school fees! She is on the road to self-sufficiency! As part of our contract after they graduate, they willingly agree to support our organisation. When required, our tailors will be making uniforms for orphan and vulnerable children at half labour costs. This helps everyone and is a way of paying back for the free training they received.

**Below:** Tailoring workshop, ladies walking to the workshops and graduated tailors receiving their start-up packs to help set them up in business.





**HEALTH**

Life in the villages can be challenging enough, but if you have a disability or health issue, it becomes even more of a challenge. Julie Ndalama our Disability Outreach Worker does an amazing job in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our area. We have a strong partnership with 500 Miles who provide orthotics and prosthetic limbs to help people become independent. Jennifer (below right) walks independently to school and plays with her friends since having her prosthetic limb fitted 3 years ago. As she grows a new one is made by 500 Miles. Chikondi (right) has to walk 2km to school on his stumps now his wheelchair is broken. We want to get him a tricycle which costs £200 to help make him have an independent and easier life getting to school. Dixon (below) was picked up with a badly infected leg. He didn't have enough money to go to hospital! We took him and he was operated on, and within 2 weeks he has been discharged back home! £50 saved his life!



*Chikondi Hazwell (above) with broken wheelchair*



*Jennifer (below) when we first met her 5 years ago (left) and now, happy and independent with her prosthetic limb (right)*



*Dixon with infected leg*



*Dixon in hospital*

**STAFF**

We welcome Love Support Unite (LSU) into our Njewa Office from 26th November. We have been working in partnership with them over the past 4 years and it is exciting that we can work more closely together as we help to empower the community we all support. Takulandirani!



We sadly have said goodbye to George Phiri our Site Manager at Sam's Village, who has been with us since 2012 and has helped build Sam's Village over the years along with our office at Njewa and Funsani CBCC at Lumbadzi. We know we will continue to see him as he lives close to Sam's Village!

Jeruzye Munthali joined us as Sam's Village Manager in July and was 'Staff of the month' in August for making such a great start to his role. Ruth Katchere and Eric Munthali were 'Staff of the Month' in September and October. Ruth for supporting our bookkeeping and keeping all financial procedures in check and Eric for his diverse role he is now doing which includes getting quotes and procurement of materials. Staff of the month is always a difficult decision as so many of our staff deserve it, so there is stiff competition!



*Jeruzye Munthali*



*Ruth Katchere*



*Eric Munthali*



*George Phiri leaves us*



*Team with GVH and Village Heads at George's farewell*





*University students in Blantyre*



*Steward Pointani doing teaching practice*



*Dzenza students getting materials*

## EDUCATION

We have 15 new Secondary School scholarships this year starting in Form 1 and thanks to LSU for sponsoring an additional 5 female students. We have one Secondary school student still looking for sponsorship @ £25 per month. We have 16 University students and a further 4 on our waiting list who need sponsorship of £85 per month. Wezie Gwaluka, our Education Manager, visited all our students with LSU in October. Steward Pointani (above) a University students is doing his teaching practice at Madizi School so he is now teaching some of our students!

In August we gave Phonics training to 10 Primary Schools using the CharChar chest resources. These schools are now being monitored for increased levels of literacy. Chris came over from Canada to install 3 laptops in our Library ; we have 100 E-books now available. Wezie did a follow up training session with the CBCC Caregivers and helped them do their termly planning to teach the under 5's. (all below). Kambulire Junior School is a very poor Government school built by the community with 400 pupils learning in a class with a blown off roof (below). We are looking for a UK partnership school that can help support this school.



*Kambulire School*



*Caregivers training*



*Chris installs 3 laptops*



*Phonics CharChar training*

**VOLUNTEERS—** Jo and Colin Benefield came to visit their partnership school, Chikuyakuti, in October. They stayed in a teacher's house which their school, Christ Church in Surbiton, had funded. The 3 days were an amazing eye opener to them. They generously funded getting Chikondi (below) a tricycle. He is one of our carpentry trainees at Sam's Village.

Abigail Phiri is doing a 3 month internship with us at Sam's Village where she has supported the trainees and held interviews. She is currently following up the graduated tailors in their villages and holding interviews.

Our volunteer LBC (Local Based Committees) Cluster meeting was held in November and focused on our new recruitment for next trainees at Sam's Village and Jeruzye held training on setting up a Village Savings & Loans (VSL) as an income generating project for them.



*Jo and Colin Benefield with Chikondi (left) and at Chikuyakuti School*



*Abigail Phiri*



*Jeruzye doing VSL training*



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**ABIGAIL PHIRI**  
**HEATHER CUMMINS**



Winter 2018

## A little thought....

We picked up Anesse who was 8 months pregnant (due on Christmas day) with chronic mastitis and took her to hospital. Because of being pregnant they wanted to wait until after the birth to do treatment. She gave birth early, but tragically there was a twist to the tale as she was found riddled with cancer of the womb and taken to High Dependency in Kamuzu Central Hospital, where she died 3 days after giving birth. Her little daughter is fine and being kept in hospital to be fed. We will buy her formula milk so the grandmother can support her and she has 3 other young brothers and sisters that also need supporting. If you feel you can donate £5 per month so we can help some of these people we come across to get back on their feet again, it would be a wonderful gift for life! [www.africanvision.org.uk](http://www.africanvision.org.uk) and click [Donate](#)



Grandma and orphan baby

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

**Ethical gifts and Christmas Cards:** <http://www.africanvision.org.uk/shop/>

**December 8th—Christmas Dinner and Dance** at St Matthews Primary School., KT6 6LW. £40 for a 3 course meal and complementary drink, bar, raffle, silent auction, photos and great music! Book tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/african-vision-malawi-dinner-and-dance-tickets-49610970749>

**500km Cycle fundraiser** - Our cycle challenge last year was a great success we have decided to do it again at Easter 2019. If you would like to join us and like to know a little more go to <http://www.africanvision.org.uk/event/pedal-power-malawi-2019/> It is an amazing way to experience Malawi and get involved with some of our projects.

**Thanks to St Mary Magdalene Church**, Warwick for putting us forward for their Lent appeal 2019. You are wonderful! Would any other churches want to support us over Lent?



Lake of Stars stall



London 10km run

## Past events:

**June 30th Indulgence Day**—a chilled day of yoga, massage, reflexology, music and chatting in the garden with homemade food and a drink! Our grateful thanks to all our therapists who made it such an incredible day and all our volunteers who give up their time to support our fundraiser. We raised just over £2,000, our best year yet!

**July 10km run** - We had 6 runners in the London 10km run on July 15th. Our grateful thanks to Melisa Altay, Nicky Taylor (who came from France!), Tony Williams, Jo Williams, James Williams and Heather Palmer for raising an amazing £3,500. If you would like to take part next year, please get in touch with us! An amazing experience of running around the sites of London!

**September Lake of Stars festival, Malawi** - Kira and Heather Palmer set up a stall in the market place of the festival selling items made at Sam's Village. Unfortunately there were sand storms that blew down our tepee and made us unable to operate so we just managed to cover our costs!

**September 29th—Race Night** - Andrew Ridley-Barker is one of our Trustees and he and his wife Clare organised an amazing Race night which raised £3,500! Incredible and well done to everyone!

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!