

MZUZU NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024



MZUZU AIDS ORPHAN CARE PROGRAM – CANADA-MALAWI

SMILES OF HOPE AND JOY!!!!

The Story so far – how it all started.

In the summer of 2005, St. Peter's Cobourg received an urgent appeal from Father Chifisi at our partner church of St. Mark's in Mzuzu. St. Mark's was attempting to feed 250 AIDS Orphans once a month but was in financial distress and unable to keep their commitment. The current MAOCP grew out of that original request. The parishes of St. Peter's and St. Marks have successfully created a unique program to ensure that these children will grow and thrive in their own rich, indigenous culture.

A small group at St. Peter's agreed to develop a program to fund these children for a weekly feeding each Saturday. Through generous annual donations, monthly sponsorships, and creative fundraising it soon became apparent that we could successfully meet the financial responsibility of weekly feeding. Even a small contribution can bring about tremendous changes in the lives of our 250 orphans. These children live in their family hut often headed by the oldest sibling and if fortunate are watched over by a neighbor guardian. Rather than being sent away to orphanages, they can go to school, receive medical help, and learn new skills in their own community.

My Story by Afika

My name is Afika Gondwe and am an orphan of 14 years of age.

Dad and Mum's presence ensured us to have everything I needed. I easily had access to food, clothes, medical care, school fees. Then the day came when I lost my Dad in 2017.

Now everything was in my Mum's hands. Things haven't been the same since Dad left me as Mum has no work or business only depending on piece work, in peoples houses like washing clothes, cleaning. Buying food is also another big problem we are having now.

But many thanks to you through St. Marks Anglican Church for providing me with clothes, medication and stable diet food once a week. I hope you will continue to provide us with these things in the future.

I love you all, may the Almighty God bless and protect and guard you.

Afika



The photo above shows Afika and her Mum outside of their home.

Here are some photos taken on Saturday 14th September 2024



My story by Precious

My name is Precious Mwambira an orphan living with my grandmother. I lost both my parents while I was very young. I am alive today because of the help and love from my grandmother and the Anglican Church in Mzuzu with the help from St. Peter's Anglican Church in Canada. May the Almighty God continue to bless you all.



When I wake up in the morning I do house chores, then if there is breakfast, we eat, but if there is no food then we just stay waiting for lunch, most of the time we go without breakfast as my grandmother always say "the little money I have is better to buy relish for lunch and dinner. My Grandmother suffers a lot to find something for me to eat. She has no business; she does piece work in peoples houses like washing clothes etc. Sometimes when our relatives come to visit us, they would bring maize and cassava flour.

Also, thanks to our neighbours who sometimes could help us with food and clothes. I also do help my grandmother doing piece work for food and money.

During rain season we suffer a lot as our house roof is thatched with grass. When the rain comes at night, we always stay awake till it stops. I am privileged to be selected to a boarding secondary school. Many thanks go to St. Peter's in Canada for school fees, uniform, books and other necessities. Also, many thanks for weekly balanced-diet food, we get from St. Marks, Mzuzu and not forgetting medication.

May you please continue to help me and other orphans here in Mzuzu.

Once again God Bless you all.

Precious



Precious outside her home.



A new latrine being constructed for Precious Mwambira

Up to date report on Health Care

The dentist Dr Vinkhumbo and the nurse always do their weekly visit. The dentist starts by reminding the children the important and how to care their teeth and gums. After this it is he starts attending to the children. If he finds the problem on a child is when he refers him or her to his Grace of God Dental clinic for examination and treatment. The children received toothpaste and brushes 3 times a year and third time will be in November 2024.



The nurse does attend to other diseases apart from teeth. Sometimes we do have children refers to the hospital by the nurse who always accompanied them. When it happens that the child is admitted, our Mothers Union Committee members and myself always visits the child till he or she is discharged, another important care activity is the provision of nutritious flour for porridge (phala) to our children who are HIV positive.

Thank you so much for these programs, to others it may look simple but to us here in Mzuzu the programs are very, very helpful and important.

May God bless you.

Up to date report on the Tailoring Program



Ruth and Josephine are doing their best to make sure that every weekend the tailoring lessons are conducted. So far 40 orphan children have completed, and they can stand on their own. We have 65 children who are on the lessons now.

This is not easy due to the limited sewing machines we have. At present we have 5 sewing machines. We hope in future you may consider adding 4 machines to the number we have, so that many children could have more time on the machine. I believe that the knowledge these children received and still receiving from Ruth and Josephine will help them in the future.

St Marks orphan care with the help from you good people in Canada is doing its best for the orphans. The children, Ruth and Josephine are asking you to continue supporting the program.

Thank you

The team here at St. Peter's thanks our faithful Donors for their continued support in helping these children in Mzuzu. As you can see from some of the above comments the children and team in Mzuzu really are very thankful and really do appreciate what you are all doing.

How your gifts can help St. Mark's AIDS orphans

\$100 - Purchase 5 family sized mosquito nets to prevent malaria.

- Pay an instructor to teach tailoring for 2 months.
- Annually make children smile at Christmas with gifts of soap, sugar, salt, and oil.
- Purchase new shoes, blankets and used winter clothing for 5 children.
- Feed one child every Saturday for 3 months.

\$200 - Provide funding for sick orphans to have hospital visits for 2 months.

- Purchase lamp oil for 10 students for one school term... to study at night.
- Fund new green agricultural and self-sustaining feeding initiatives.
- Purchase shoes and clothes locally for 20 children.

\$300 - Provide special Likuni Phala feeding for one month for HIV children to reduce mortality rates and maintain health.

- Provide school uniforms for 5 students.
- Provide emergency drugs for 250 children for 2 months

\$500 - Funding a nurse and doctor bi-weekly on Saturdays for priority orphan health checkups... for 2 months.

- Purchase of vegetable seeds and plants for small local kitchen gardens.

\$750 - Send one child to secondary school for one year... for uniforms, tuition fees, books and one daily meal.

- Tailoring training for girls and boys for 5 months.
- Additional cost of blankets annually.

Gifts are under the umbrella of St. Peter's, Cobourg as a registered charity # 10803 8563 RR001.

For more information, please visit our website: www.mzuzuchildren.com.

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