



Issue #1

CHW PROGRESS REPORT

Fall 2011

THE JOURNEY TO MALAWI—AUGUST 2011

Rewarding! Heart-warming! Inspirational! Busy! These are just a few words that co-founders Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton use to describe their trip to see firsthand the projects they have initiated in Northern Malawi.

In Ekwendeni, the Directors began the training of over 125 village representatives, headmen and educators. The goal was to inform them about who the Directors were, explain the mandate of Change Her World, and describe how they could be active participants in this new community – based organization. There were opportunities for mutual discussion, collaboration and sharing of stories and skits. With the use of an interpreter, amid traditional singing and dancing there was a coming together of women eager to become as they said, “*a modern family*”.

In Chilumba, each day consisted of a visit to one of the six zones where Change Her World is active. This entailed a visit to a health centre, a school community as well as being welcomed at the home of one of the vulnerable girls that Change Her World will support this fall term. The Directors met with vulnerable groups of women as well. At each zone visit underwear and sanitary protection was also distributed.

The trip was a wonderful success and a huge thank you goes to the committee members and people in these two communities. The work has indeed begun!!!

Valuable Cargo: 3000 Pairs of Underwear

Thanks to the generosity of donors in Stratford and other areas around Ontario, 3000 pairs of underwear were packed into 6 bags for the trek to Malawi. It was not easy but the gratitude with which they were received was well worth the effort. Customs in Malawi was a breeze. It helped that the agent was female!

Good quality **100% cotton underwear** is virtually non-existent in Malawi. What is available is cheaply made underwear of silky material, far too hot for the climate and also expensive. The underwear collection campaign will continue into the upcoming year. Underwear can be dropped off at 248 Redford Crescent in Stratford.

In addition, a local group of ten retired teachers sewed sanitary protection kits for 60 girls and women which were also distributed. Many thanks to all of the donors. Your donations were indeed a gift to the 600 girls and women who were the recipients of your care and compassion.

Never underestimate the importance of the simple things!



Above: Co-founders Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton meet Ester being supported by Change Her World.

Below: The underwear campaign of 2010–2011 was a huge success!



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TRANSFORMING A GIRL IN MALAWI



Above: A primary student in need

Below: A vulnerable secondary student



What do you think is the average monthly income for a rural family in Northern Malawi? If you guessed \$5.00 a month, you would be correct. Thus, one can begin to understand how school fees and school supplies, let alone food and clothing is beyond the reach of so many. Listed below are the basic necessities for a girl in Malawi who wishes to attend school.

3 bars of hand soap \$ 4.10	1 notebook \$ 1.80
1 container of soap powder \$ 1.65	1 pencil case \$ 1.62
1 body lotion \$ 2.70	1 suitcase \$27.10
2 packs sanitary protection \$ 2.60	3 black pens \$.45
2 handkerchiefs \$ 1.07	3 pairs underwear \$ 3.60
2 pairs socks \$ 2.03	2 skirts \$15.06
1 pair slippers \$ 1.50	2 blouses \$ 9.60
1 school bag \$ 7.82	1 slip \$ 4.21
1 Oxford Mathematics set \$ 2.10	1 sweater \$ 3.61
2 lead pencils \$.12	3 textbooks photocopied \$ 9.63
1 eraser \$.30	

School fees and school uniforms vary from one community to another but on average, school fees for secondary school students are **\$187.50/year** (no school fees for primary students). The cost of a school uniform including shoes is **\$50.00**.

Total Provisions for 1 Primary School Girl for 1 Year = \$147.97

Total Provisions for 1 Secondary School Girl for 1 Year = \$340.17

In Malawi, if a vulnerable secondary school girl were to receive these items, her life would be transformed. All the girls supported by Change Her World are in need of these items. Committee members are able to purchase these items at their local market. Most clothing available for purchase is donated clothing from the USA, Canada and Europe. Underwear is poor quality, expensive and difficult to find.

Consider giving a donation of
\$147.97 for a Primary Student
\$340.17 for a Secondary Student
to transform a girl's life!



How can anyone learn in an environment like this?

NO SUCH CONDITIONS IN CANADIAN SCHOOLS!

The village schools in the two project areas where Change Her World is at work bear no resemblance to what you and I visualize as the image of a school. Short of seeing it with your own eyes, it is very hard to accurately describe.

First you need to know that most are made of mud bricks, fashioned using a three sectioned wood frame, using earth dug from the ground and constructed by the local people. These mud bricks are dried and used to build four walls. The earth is free. The tin needed for the roofs is not. Often the four walls are all that there is.

If there is not a mud brick school, the school walls consists of mud, branches, poles, twine, a grass thatched roof and a dirt floor.

A pole stuck in the ground with the outer rim of a hubcap fastened at the top serves as the hoop for the ball made of plastic bags and twine.

There is no water nearby, nor electricity. The toilets are a hole in the ground commonly known as pit latrines. These too are made from grasses and sometimes mud bricks, depending on the area. In many regions of the Northern Malawi, there is no government assistance at all.

How do teachers teach and students learn, you may ask?

Sheer thirst for knowledge and the desire of the adults in the community for something better for the children is what motivates these learners, teachers and community leaders.

Teaching and learning resources are non-existent in most cases and where there do exist they are limited in quantity and out-dated.

This is a tragedy beyond description.

Every child deserves to have an education provided in a safe, healthy environment with adequate resources and opportunity for play and recreation.

Change Her World is committed to addressing this injustice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall 2011

Chatham, Ontario

October 15, 2011

HOPE FOR THE GIRL CHILD
EDUCATION SEMINAR

**For information, call
Cathy at
(519) 352-9644**

Ottawa, Ontario

October 22, 2011

HOPE FOR THE GIRL CHILD
EDUCATION SEMINAR

&

FUNDRAISING DINNER

**Contact Amy at
ahodgo73@uottawa.ca**

Owen Sound, Ont.

November 5, 2011

FUNDRAISING DINNER

**Contact Susan at
(519) 371-0068**

**Visit our website at:
www.changeherworld.ca**

MARK YOUR CALADAR!

April 14, 2012

**Change Her World
Stratford Extravaganza
Fundraising Dinner**

Stratford Country Club

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton will be sharing a powerful PowerPoint presentation about the ongoing work of Change Her World in Malawi.

An event not to be missed!

Watch the website for more details in 2012!

CHANGE HER WORLD TELEVISION INTERVIEW

On a very warm July afternoon, Linda and Carol made their way to Burlington, Ontario upon the invitation of television host, Larry Brice. For more than a decade, Larry has been inviting guests to share their stories of faith and acts of service on the program, **Reachout for Life** which airs on the CTS and Miracle networks.

Although Change Her World is a humanitarian organization, not affiliated with any religious, political, business or governmental organization, many churches and faith-based organizations are interested in hearing the story of how two women came to co-found this organization.

“It all began with an HIV/AIDS study visit to Northern Malawi in 2006 under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada,” Linda explains as the interview begins.

Watch CTS on November 7 at 6:00 AM or 10:30 AM for the entire interview.



Larry Brice, host of Reachout for Life prepares to interview Linda and Carol.



Yes, I would like to transform the lives of girls and women in the developing world through education.

Single Gift Option

Please accept my special gift of \$ _____ My cheque to **Change Her World** is enclosed.

Please charge my VISA MasterCard AMEX

Mail to: P.O. Box 1057, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W4

CARD NO. _____ EXPIRY DATE ____/____/____

Cardholder Name (Print) _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

Monthly Gift Option

(Please indicate credit card information above **(in Single Gift Option Box)**)

I authorize Change Her World to make a monthly withdrawal on my credit card (as indicated above) in the amount of \$ _____. I understand that this amount will be charged to my credit card on or near the 15th of each month.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

Thank you very much! Change her World respects your privacy. We do not sell or exchange personal information with any other organization. For further information, please call 1-888-909-2491. Mail your donation to: **Change Her World P.O. Box 1057, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W4**

Charitable Registration No. 81600 9252 RR0001

THANK YOU HARDLY SEEMS ENOUGH

How does one thank people who have caught your vision and have given their time, energy and support to make it a reality? This is our thinking as we approach the first anniversary of Change Her World becoming a charity.

The April 16 Official Launch Dinner for Change Her World culminated nearly two years of research, prioritizing, defining the vision and meeting legal requirements. It was a wonderful evening of celebration.

Since then, Carol and I have been busy with speaking engagements, fund raising, meeting/talking with like-minded people, leading church services and attempting to get the message of Change Her World out to those who would like to join with us in addressing the issues at hand. It is a great joy to do this work.



People listening intently to co-founders, Linda Willis and Carol, Hamilton as they presented at the Official Launch Dinner of Change Her World on April 16 at the Stratford Country Club

“This past year has exceeded everyone’s expectations. However the reality is that more resources are needed.”

This past year has exceeded everyone's expectations. You have helped us bring our vision to fruition. You have been instrumental in placing 103 girls in school in Ekwendeni and Chilumba. Thank you.

However, the reality is that more resources are needed to pay fees, buy uniforms and school supplies. The girls of northern Malawi need a safe, healthier learning environment in which to learn, to grow and become the people they were intended to be. It is their right by virtue of the fact they are on this planet.

This means repairing and helping to complete actual school buildings. It means seeking a means of getting better resources and play equipment for students. It means water for sanitation and helping Mothering Groups buy cooking pots for preparing a noon meal for children at a local school. The barriers are there and yes, they at times seem formidable. However, the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.

The journey has begun! Are you coming with us?

Linda Willis
Co-founder/ Chair
Change Her World



A girls hostel at Chilumba Secondary school where 200 girls reside during the school year. Would you wish your daughter to live here? Change Her World is committed to advocating for better living conditions for girls in Malawi.

CHANGE HER WORLD

This organization is dedicated to removing the barriers that prevent girls and women from being educated in the developing world.

Study after study has taught us that there is no tool more effective in development than the empowerment of women!

***Kofi Annan
Former UN Secretary General***

Currently, girls and women in two projects in northern Malawi are receiving support but the need is great.

“Our priority, first and foremost, will be the payment of school fees and school uniforms for primary and secondary girls. However, relief of poverty, provision of clean water and adequate sanitation, health care and micro-credit loans are also a part of our mandate.” explains Carol Hamilton.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- Support a Fundraising Event or Host an Event in Your Community
- Invite Linda and Carol to speak at local schools/community organizations/corporate events/churches/social justice venues/conferences
- Read “Half the Sky” Book available on the website
- Buy a pen, water bottle, tote bag – available on the website
- Make a generous financial donation, online or by mail or telephone
- Spread the word to family and friends about Change Her World
- Join in the Underwear Collection Campaign



Ester and Sellah—first two girls to be transformed through Change Her World

www.changeherworld.ca

Look for the next CHW Progress Report in the Spring 2012. Share the news!

Change Her World

P.O. Box 1057
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 6W4

Phone: 1-888-909-2491
E-mail: info@changeherworld.ca

www.changeherworld.ca

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