

CHW PROGRESS REPORT

SCHOOL FEES AND SO MUCH MORE!

We have wonderful news to share! As you may know from our previous CHW Progress Report, Change Her World is supporting 103 girls in total in the two projects of Chilumba and Ekwendeni. This has meant the provision of school fees, uniforms, notebooks, pens, shoes, soap and in some cases blankets. For three secondary school girls, a bicycle has been provided because of the long walking distance required to get to school. We are thrilled to be able to do this and have many donors to thank for this reality.

Quickly we have learned that there is a need for a wider support system aimed at keeping the girls in school beginning with adequate toilet facilities. Schools have been closed for this not being the case. Some schools need roofs. Some schools have asked us for cooking pots so that volunteer Mother Groups can provide a noon meal for the children. Many schools are without desks so the children sit on a dirt floor. When the rain comes, the roof may leak or perhaps there is no roof at all. This is an unacceptable situation for teachers and students alike. This is the complex and multi-faceted reality in Northern Malawi.

The learning environment must be one that is structurally safe, at the very least. And besides the need for desks, adequate toilet facilities and new roofs, teachers must have teaching resources and the children must have learning materials to help them understand the concepts and lessons they are being taught. A variety of equipment for play and recreational time at recess goes a long way in keeping children engaged in the learning process and in motivating them to attend school regularly.

All these factors have presented the Board of Directors with exciting challenges and opportunities for much learning, not to mention the honour it is to be part of an endeavour which instills hope and offers opportunity for the future! Our goal continues to be to educate the girls. In doing so, when we improve the conditions for *their* learning, the entire school community benefits. Communities are being changed and people are grateful and appreciative for the progress already achieved.

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Expansion of Underwear Campaign

In addition to continuing the collection campaign of 100% cotton underwear for girls and young women, the campaign is being expanded to include bras. Having visited the market place with Esther Lupafya, our Ekwendeni Advisory Committee Chair, we saw for ourselves how limited the selection of bras was in terms of quality, quantity and suitability for girls and young women. She encouraged us to add bras of any style, colour and size for girls and young women to our collection campaign.

Can you imagine leaving the house not wearing your underwear? How might you feel? Maybe a little naked? Maybe a little vulnerable?

Studies have shown that a girl wearing a bra is looked upon in a different light than if she is not wearing this undergarment. She is seen as having more confidence and a stronger sense of self, and may be less vulnerable to those who might wish her harm, just because she is a girl. As with the socks and shoes Change Her World provides, having panties and a bra to wear is a first for many of the girls. If wearing a bra adds another layer of protection for her and raises her self-esteem, we are all indeed participating in respecting the dignity of each girl and contributing to her sense of well-being. There is no substitute for either.



Above: This serves as a teacher's desk and chair in a primary school in Chilumba.

Below: Primary school girls in Ekwendeni supported by Change Her World. They are wearing their new uniforms.



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School Fees And So Much More! (Continued from Page 1)

As we look ahead to what the next year may bring, we are indebted to the wonderful people working in the field in Malawi without whom we could not do what we do and whose knowledge and eagerness to volunteer their time, is indeed an inspiration. Each accomplishment and each goal reached is received with great joy and thankfulness in the communities. We are also grateful for the support of each Canadian individual and group whether it be in spreading the word about Change Her World, donating underwear or making a financial contribution.

In the months ahead, our focus will be to continue prioritizing the needs of each zone in concert with the insight and wisdom of the Change Her World committees in Chilumba and Ekwendeni. Our plan is to return to visit Malawi in April of 2013 to see with our own eyes the progress that has been made. To all who have been a part of the first year of the journey, we offer our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks.

Linda Willis
Board Chair



Can you help us to construct toilets like these for girls in Malawi?

BUILDING TOILETS IN MALAWI

CAROL HAMILTON—DIRECTOR

What would our daily lives be like without a flush toilet? When I was a child, I went to family summer camp where the only toilet was in an outhouse. In the summer heat, if the flies didn't make your visit as brief as possible, most certainly the stench would!

Flush toilets are sometimes available in urban areas of Malawi or for those who have financial means. However, for a majority of those living in rural villages, school toilet



facilities usually consist of a structure of sorts (as pictured here) made of thatch, straw or mud dried in the sun.

The interior consists of a hole in the ground. There is no running water and the washing of hands just doesn't happen. In school communities where hundreds of students lack adequate sanitation facilities, is it any wonder that disease and illness can spread so easily?

Would you want your children or grandchildren to be exposed to such conditions?

Change Her World is committed to improving the sanitation conditions for the schools in the rural areas of Northern Malawi. This benefits the girls, first and foremost, as they require privacy but it also means a healthier learning environment for everyone.

The cost to construct 4 toilets for girls at a local school constructed of mud bricks is as follows:

Items (Materials / Services)	Quantity	Price per Item	Total Amount	Canadian Dollars
Cement	35 bags	K3,900	K136,500	\$822.00
Doors, wooden	4	K10,000	K40,000	\$241.00
Door handles	4	K3,000	K12,000	\$72.00
Pipes for urinal water passage	1	K4,000	K4,000	\$24.00
Taps	1	K2,000	K2,000	\$12.00
Iron sheets, 28 gauge, 10 feet	8	K4050	K32,400	\$195.00
Nails	3 Kg	K1,500	K4,500	\$27.00
Lime	1	K5,000	K5,000	\$30.00
Oil paint	2	K10,000	K20,000	\$120.50
Pipes for air vents	4	K4,000	K14,000	\$84.00
Mesh wire	5 meters	K2,000	K5,000	\$30.00
Paraffin	1 litre	K400	K400	\$2.40
Metal door frame	4	K12,000	K48,000	\$289.00
Paint blush	5	K800	K4,000	\$24.00
Brick force wire	4	K1000	K4,000	\$24.00
WIRE	16	K800	K8,000	\$48.00

\$1 Canadian = 166 Malawian Kwacha (K)

Cost for Toilet Construction (in Canadian Dollars)

Material Costs \$2,044.90

Misc. Costs **\$ 120.10**

Total \$2,165.00

The actual construction would be done by people in the villages with all the labour time being donated.

There are more than 20 primary schools in the Chilumba area alone in need of better toilet facilities for the girls.

Some schools are closed due to inadequate toilet facilities.

Powerful people can take away your home, your land, your rights and even the people that you love ...but they cannot take away your hope.

Education is the foundation of hope!

Source Unknown

HOW TO ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISING EVENT

Many have asked how they can help to raise awareness and much needed funds for Change Her World. Here are some suggestions on how to plan a fundraising event in your local community.

1. Decide the type of fundraising event you would like to organize. Some suggestions might be a concert, 5 or 10 km walk or run, car wash, bake sale, dinner, silent or live auction, golf tournament, dance, or games/movie night. Be creative and make it fun.
2. Organize an events committee who are willing to work as a team to plan and carry out the fundraising event. Family and friends are willing to help.
3. Contact Change Her World and let them know about your idea. Logo use is available with permission.



Amy Hodgins is setting up for a Fundraising Dinner she coordinated in Ottawa—October 2011. What a great evening!

4. Delegate the tasks to be completed to members of your committee. Tasks may include volunteer recruiting and co-ordination, venue selection, advertising, poster and ticket design and distribution, catering, ticket sales (prior to & at the event), financial accounting, and evaluation.

Start with an event easily managed by a few people and gradually expand as you gain experience.

5. Plan and delegate tasks for the day of the event.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of the event, and calculate and submit your donation to Change Her World after expenses have been paid.

You might also wish to consider organizing an underwear and bra collection in your area or contact your church or local community organization to invite the co-founders to speak about Change Her World.



Co-founders Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton with Keara Flood (centre) who collected more than 70 pairs of underwear for Change Her World. Her poster is now on the wall of the CHW office in Chilumba.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2012

Stratford, Ontario

Saturday April 14, 2012

Second Annual Fundraising Dinner

5:30PM Social Hour

6:30 PM Dinner

Three Course Dinner,
Auction, and Door
Prizes

Cost: \$35.00/ticket

Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton
(Co-founders and Directors) will be
sharing a PowerPoint presentation
about their recent visit to Malawi.

Stratford, Ontario

Saturday June 9, 2012

Rock'n Roll Dance

7:30 PM Doors Open

8:00 PM Dance

Cost: \$20.00/person



**Kick up your heels
and have fun!**

For information, call

(519) 949-8701

www.changeherworld.ca

BEFORE AND AFTER— CHANGING HER WORLD



This is Rute. She is 8 years old. When the Directors of Change Her World visited her village in August 2011, they met Rute and soon discovered that she had a passion for learning and a contagious sense of humour.

However, her family was too poor to purchase the uniform required for her to attend primary school. Through your donations, Rute received her school uniform, notebooks and pens, backpack, blanket and soap and has attend school for the first time. When you give a donation to Change Her World, girls —like Rute—are changed forever.



Mrs. Fiskani Chirwa, Chilumba Project Committee Co-ordinator with Rute at the Gift Presentation Ceremony held in December 2011 where the girls supported by Change Her World received their new uniforms, bracelets and other provisions.



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

form the lives of girls and women in the development.

Single Gift Option

☐ Cash

☐ Cheque

☐ Credit Card

☐ Please accept my special gift of \$ _____

My cheque to **Change Her World** is enclosed.

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

☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX

CARD NO. _____ EXPIRY DATE ____/____/____

Cardholder Name (Print) _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

Monthly Gift Option

☐ VISA

☐ MASTERCARD

☐ AMEX

☐ 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.

CARD NO. _____ EXPIRY DATE ____/____/____

Cardholder Name (Print) _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

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

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR MORE THAN 200 GIRLS

Do you recall this picture from the first CHW Progress Report? →

This photo of the hostel in Chilumba for secondary school girls was shown to you in the first report. For girls who live too far away, this building serves as their living accommodations. The dilapidated unsafe conditions and general appearance was unacceptable to the Change Her World Board Directors when they visited in August 2011. Change Her World supports two girls who make this their home while attending school.

Since returning from Malawi, funds have been sent and slowly but surely, changes have been made. Due to the tireless efforts of the Chilumba Project Committee, they have ensured that the building is now structurally sound; the exterior and interior have been cleaned and painted; and new window panes and curtains are in the process of being purchased and installed. A clothesline is now in place so the girls do not have



to spread out their laundry on nearby bushes to dry.

What a difference! This was done to help two girls but many more girls have benefitted - more than 200 in all! To be in a safe and clean learning environment is the right of every child.

As the directors continue to acquire more knowledge, they anticipate with excitement what may lie ahead.

There is so much to be done that priorities must be determined through dialogue with the project committee members. Together they are investigating installation of adequate toilets at the schools, providing water to schools and even learning about new sources of fertilizer and irrigation to use in the creation of school gardens. Change Her World is just beginning.



Our hopes are high. Our determination is steadfast. We revel in the joy of what can be done!

CHANGE HER WORLD

Founded in 2010, this organization is dedicated to removing the barriers that prevent girls and women from being educated in the developing world.

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

Our Corporate Objects include:

- ◇ Relief of poverty
- ◇ Education of girls
- ◇ Clean water and sanitation
- ◇ Promotion of Health
- ◇ Provision of micro financing

If you want to change the world...start with her

OUR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS AS A BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1) Significantly increase the number of girls we are supporting.
- 2) Construction and installation of new roofs, toilets and a clean water supply for rural primary schools.
- 3) A library/resource centre in Chilumba.
- 4) Improve the academic performance of the girls to better meet the requirements of post secondary education programs.
- 5) Development of programs that facilitate discussion around gender stereotyping and traditional roles and responsibilities of women and men.
- 6) Development of school gardens.



**Board of Directors for Change Her World
Cathy Johnston, Linda Willis, and Carol Hamilton**

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

We wish to thank Kevin Hill — Commercial Printers Stratford — for the charity discount provided to Change Her World for the quality printing of this report.

Change Her World

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