



CHW PROGRESS REPORT

Issue # 11 Fall 2016

— Mark Your Calendar!—
Saturday November 5, 2016
2nd Annual
Chocolate Extravaganza
 Stratford, Ontario
 (Details on Page 4)

“I stand a good girl! Well done! Well done!” Congratulations to CHW First Nursery School Graduates

First on the agenda for Linda Willis, Carol Hamilton and Lorraine Stevenson (Directors of Change Her World) on their recent trip to Malawi was a visit to the CHW Nursery School to meet students, teachers and see the location of this school for the first time. It was very exciting as they stepped inside the fenced off area, to see the outdoor play area beautifully clean and enhanced by the caring hands of Lizzie, a lady who lived nearby, who had heard what was happening and wanted to help. She pulled all the weeds, cleaned the area up, placed plants in pots to sit along the inside of the fence and happily, graced the directors, with her presence part way through the morning visit. Thank you so much, Lizzie!



Lizzie, who volunteered to beautify the nursery school outdoor play area stands with Linda Willis for a picture.

As the directors entered the building itself, they were greeted by the teachers and 24 little girls all keen to show what they could do. As each girl participated in the various class activities, whether correctly answering a simple math addition question or correctly matching shapes on a coloured chart, the student would hear, in unison, from her classmates, ***“I stand a good girl (sounded like “gal” to us) Well done! Well done!”*** As this was said, they clapped their hands three times. Hearing this verbal affirmation among the girls and observing all of the morning activities brought the directors much pleasure as they saw all facets of learning taking place. They had an opportunity to talk to Violet and Margaret, the two teachers and to discuss their concerns including the need for outdoor play equipment as well as additional materials necessary to enhance and stimulate learning. In the Fall of 2016 more containers of supplies and teaching materials will be sent. The directors gave the go ahead for some costing to be done to provide outdoor play equipment

for the girls as well as some shelving units for inside the classroom.

On July 15, a day after the directors returned to Canada, a graduation ceremony for the girls was carried out, complete with photos, certificates and refreshments. These girls will now enter into Standard 1 under the auspices of Change Her World.

A heartfelt thank you is sent to the teachers, the Chilumba Project Committee and to everyone who have worked so hard to make the CHW Nursery School a success. This school will serve as a model for future nursery schools which Change Her World hopes to establish going forward.



A proud CHW nursery school graduate!

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On The Road Again... The Directors Visit to Malawi June/July 2016

We arrived in Chilumba on Saturday, June 25 to a joyful greeting of songs, hugs and smiles... all welcome after the long journey. We were very happy to be seeing each other after three years!

We settled into our rooms at Happy Guest House until the next morning when we were up and ready for the 7:30 AM English service at the Chilumba Presbyterian Church which was followed by a warm reception at the manse with Rev. Gama and other church officials.

In the afternoon, we met at our CHW office with members of the Chilumba Project Committee to sort through some of the shipment items and make arrangements for the distribution of many of these things during our time out in the zones.



The directors visiting the home of a vulnerable woman being supported by Change Her World.



Linda being greeted as the directors arrive in Chilumba!

Each day was spent visiting schools, health clinics (birthing kits

shipped by CHW were delivered), the homes of beneficiaries and vulnerable women and meeting members of the zone committees, all working tirelessly on behalf of the girls and women supported by CHW.

We observed people who were overcoming great obstacles to make a better life for Malawian children. We saw teachers working without the learning materials they require and teaching without adequate space to do successful group work due to overcrowded conditions and with little support from the government. We heard that sometimes teachers have to go on strike to get paid what they are owed. We saw, first-hand, that our donations of school supplies are very much needed and appreciated.

One of the highlights was a visit to Chonanga Primary School where much needed cups, spoons, basins and plastic pails were presented to the students and school officials. Songs were sung and skits performed before the supplies were ceremoniously displayed. The look of joy and gratitude on the faces of students was worth all the effort to make this trip. What made this presentation even more significant was knowing that the funds for the cups and spoons had come from a special fundraising dinner (held in May 2016) organized by the students attending Stratford Middle Years School.



Left: Students at Stratford Middle Years school at their fundraising dinner for Change Her World. They raised \$1150 for cups and spoons! Middle: Carol among students at Chonanga Primary School receiving cups and spoons! Right: Carol greeting Zone Committee Volunteers!

Our progress in being an effective charity working in the northern remote region of Malawi is only possible because of the value placed on our work by the district education director, social welfare officer and medical officer of health. Meeting with them solidified our commitment to work together to provide, not just for the needs of the girl child but the various communities as a whole. (We were saddened to learn soon after our return to Canada, that Mr. Jaji, the social welfare officer for the Northern District whom we met, had died very suddenly. We know his care and commitment will be missed by all who knew him including the Chilumba Project Committee members and us!)

On July 5, we visited the Miracle Technical School in Karonga where vocational training is offered for skills such as sewing, carpentry and culinary pursuits as well as hotel management, accounting and much more. Most job applicants must now have

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a Secondary School Certificate making it difficult to source job opportunities or training without this certificate.

Observing the conditions at medical clinics and hospital is always an eye opening experience no matter how many times you have seen them. The lack is beyond words. On visiting the Chilumba Hospital, we learned that a newborn baby had died that morning being transported to the Karonga hospital 1 hour north of Chilumba. The machine used to warm oxygen (which was needed for this infant) was broken and there was no money to have it repaired. Laundry could not be done as there were no funds to put fuel in the vehicle to take linens to the closest laundry facility at the hospital in Karonga. On the morning of our departure from Chilumba, one of our committee members had taken in tea to a sister-in-law who had given birth the day before. No one is fed at these hospitals.



Baby blankets made by Mary Cooper of Stratford being given by Linda to the staff at Chilumba Hospital.

The birthing kits, fetal monitors, infant clothing and blankets that we brought were gratefully accepted but these things do not compensate for the lack of essential equipment/furniture like incubators, beds, proper sterilization and sanitation supplies or the availability of needed drugs and medications. We were most impressed with the people running these institutions, They should be highly commended for the dedication to their calling under very austere and challenging conditions. Our resolve to continue to help in any way we can was rekindled

and we have great hopes of being able to supply an industrial washing machine to the Chilumba Hospital with the unconditional support of Superior Medical who have also agreed to furnish two oxygen saturators. It can be done!

On July 6, we travelled south to the location of our second project. The next day we gathering together with the four women members on the Mzuzu/Ekwendeni Project Committee. This meeting was most worthwhile and productive as was meeting the CHW girls being supported along with some of their family members. We have a renewed sense of dedication to the Mzuzu/Ekwendeni Project as, in addition to the primary and secondary students we are supporting, we met 3 young women who have been selected to pursue post-secondary education at local universities. They begin their classes in September 2016.

The school community at Thimalala (Mzuzu/Ekwendeni Project Committee zone area) showed up in force with ten village headmen and local school management to press upon us their need for teachers' houses and a girls' hostel. This group was impressive in their passion and demonstrated an ability to work together for the good of the children in need of schooling. Change Her World had put the roof on a school block so that their students in Forms 3 & 4 would not have to go so far from home to attend classes. Now their task is to attract teachers and that of course means providing adequate housing. They had one house built, but it requires a roof and all the finishing touches. They have also laid the foundation for a second teacher's house ...pretty impressive. We assured them they would not be forgotten.

Towards the end our visit to Malawi, we had the honour and joy of meeting with three CHW young women in teacher training at Alma College located south of Mzuzu. Ester, Fayness and Ivy are happy, enthusiastic and eager for their next year of training which will see them out practicing teaching in classrooms. It was a pleasure to hear their stories, witness their youthful anticipation of the future and to acknowledge that through CHW, all this had been made possible. It was a privilege as well to meet again with Sellah who will be entering her last year of nursing midwifery in the fall of this year. She had just recently witnessed the birth of a baby and this seemed to have reaffirmed her commitment to her chosen career path.



Left: Fayness, Ivy and Ester are attending Alma Teachers College. They are beginning a year of practice teaching (2nd year).



Right: Linda and Carol greet Sellah who will begin 4th year of a BScN/ Midwifery degree in the Fall 2016.

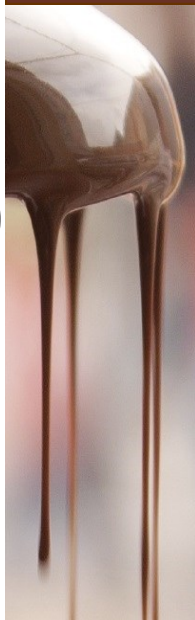
The journey is never easy but we have returned renewed and passionate about all that is happening as hope grows! We are indeed changing her world, and that of many others!

New community/church presentations are available highlighting this recent visit!

To book, email: info@changeherworld.ca or call Carol Hamilton at (519) 949-8701

www.changeherworld.ca

2nd Annual CHW Chocolate Extravaganza



Saturday November 5, 2016

**Knights of Columbus Hall
93 Morgan Street, Stratford**

10 AM to 2 PM

**Check our website for the latest
program information!**

Drop Off Time:

6 PM to 8 PM

Friday November 4

Drop Off Location:

Knights of Columbus Hall—93 Morgan Street Stratford

CAN YOU HELP US? DONATIONS NEEDED!

Chocolate baked items such as:

- Cakes – round , square, tiered • Pies • Tarts
- Muffins • Cookies • Brownies • Squares • Scones
- Mousse • Homemade chocolates
- Fudge • Bars • Candy • Snacks & Popcorn

Any chocolate food stuff will be accepted!

Chocolate themed crafts, Christmas chocolate party favours, aprons etc. are also appreciated and accepted.

**We need all donated items delivered and ready for presentation on a non-returnable attractive tray, cake box, etc. when you drop them off.
If possible, samples for tasting are appreciated as well!**

To confirm your donation, please call Linda at 519.271.5598 or lwillis@changeherworld.ca by

Wednesday November 2, 2016



Need to purchase a gift card for your friend's birthday or a family anniversary?

FundScrip is an established, Canada-wide fundraising program in which you buy gift cards for special occasions or to pay for your shopping (groceries, gas, home & garden, entertainment, restaurants, and much more) thereby automatically generating contributions for Change Her World.

You can access FundScrip directly from the Home Page of Change Her World at www.changeherworld.ca or you can go to www.fundscrip.com and sign in.

The Invitation Code for Change Her World is QKCYMN

For information contact, Carol Hamilton, CHW Fundscrip Coordinator at chamilton@changeherworld.ca or (519) 271-8701.

☐ **I would like to support Change Her World in educating girls and women in the developing world!**

☐ **I wish to contribute monthly to this work.**

Please keep in touch with me by: ☐ Mail ☐ E-mail.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

I wish to support the education of CHW girls with \$ _____ ☐ Cheque (payable to CHANGE HER WORLD)

I wish to support CHW with a monthly donation of \$ _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

CARD NO. _____ EXPIRY DATE ____ / ____

Cardholder Name (Print) _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

Charitable Registration No. 81600 9252 RR0001

**Mail to: CHANGE HER WORLD
P.O. Box 1057
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 6W4**

Receipts are issued for gifts of \$20.00 or more.

**Donations may be made online at
www.changeherworld.ca**

1-888-909-2491

Education Resource Kits... Help for Teaching Math and Literacy to Grades 1, 2 and 3!

It has been a long held desire to create a system whereby **Education Resource Kits** could be put together on a particular subject at a specific grade level and have that kit borrowed for a specific time period. The kits would then be returned to a central location (such as the Teacher Development Centres-TDC) for use by another teacher e.g. Grade 5 Health – Circulatory System.

The logistics of implementing such a rotating type of system in our zones is quite challenging given the distance that schools are from each other but also the distance that some schools are from Teacher Development Centre (TDC), not to mention the challenging terrain in some areas. There have been numerous discussions over the past three years with our Chair, Fiskani Chirwa, a Primary Education Advisor, as to how this might happen. We have developed a plan which will be piloted in one zone through the TDC (where kits would be stored) and it will be closely monitored for effectiveness, need for modifications and overall value.

To begin this pilot project, Fiskani secured the loan of numerous teacher and learner books used in the Malawi syllabus. Having gone through all that were brought back, we are now ready to begin creating these kits. We will begin with Reading and Math for Grades 1, 2, 3 (Standards 1, 2, and 3 in Malawi). Included will be teaching and learning materials that can be made, bought or secured from other sources which will (a) help the teacher teach a concept, skill or idea OR (b) help the student learn and reinforce that skill, concept or idea, either through a game, an activity or by way of a follow-up activity on paper.

Some zone TDCs may have a photocopier but the power source is not consistent, although there was evidence this was improving. Many machines need toners which are very expensive thus photocopiers frequently sit idle. Relying on resource kit materials which require to be photocopied is not our first choice. If we can make this resource kit idea work, over time, it will change the way teachers are teaching and children are learning. It is a mammoth challenge but the journey of a thousand miles, begins with the first step. We are already many steps down the road.



Linda reviewing Malawi Syllabus with Fiskani Chirwa CHW Coordinator

**Are you are interested in being part of the Education Resource Kit Pilot?
Call Linda at (519) 271-5598 or email: lwillis@changeherworld.ca**

NEW INITIATIVE: First Girls! Now Goats!

...What`s Next?

We are pleased to announce that Change Her World has received funding in the amount of \$2,000 to implement what is known as a **Revolving Goat Project**. This is a project, that once successfully started, keeps on giving, as first born goats are passed on to the next group of pre-selected vulnerable women. The goats provide milk, food, fertilizer and if sold can help buy food, pay for school fees or purchase other necessary items for the family. Often times a family`s wealth is determined by the size of their goat herd!



The project starts with a committee of 10- 12 women, trained and educated as to what is involved including their roles and responsibilities to oversee and manage the project. They will then select the initial 20 vulnerable women. There are many life skills learned by the women on the committee as well as by the recipients of the goats. The women chosen to receive goats may be vulnerable because of poor health or lack of financial means to support their children in attending school or providing themselves and their family members with food and basic resources. Each of these 20 women receives two goats. The treasurer of the group has two male goats. There is also a veterinarian who will oversee any illness affecting the goats in the project. A small monthly amount is paid by all the women to cover the cost of any needed medications. The women are trained as to how to build and maintain a sturdy corral so the goats do not wander off.

It will take some time to create the committee, set up training and go through the selection process for the first recipients but we are hopeful that this will be a life-changing opportunity for many women.

As each group of 20 women passes on their first goat to the next group of 20 women, life skills are learned, prosperity is created and lives are empowered to achieve hopeful futures.

Stay tuned to see how this new initiative will impact the lives of girls and women in Malawi!

Collection Campaign Fall 2016

WE NEED...

Facecloths
(for 650 Birthing Kits)

Flashcards
Math & Language Arts

Wall Charts

Math
Telling Time
Alphabet
Weather
Fruits
Animals
Vegetables

Picture Dictionaries
(Soft Cover)

Math Sets

Rulers/Pens

Crayons/Markers

Glue/ Calculators

Mid-West Canada:

Contact: Donna Milbrandt
(306) 621-6816
dmilbrandt@changeherworld.ca

Rest of Canada:

Contact: Linda Willis
(519) 271-5598
lwillis@changeherworld.ca

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 our project in Northern Malawi are receiving support but the need is great.

Our Corporate Objects include:

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

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

... from the Board of Directors

6864...Change Her World - A New Registered Non-Government Organization (NGO) in Malawi!

Finally, we are a registered charity in the country of Malawi... another hurdle overcome! These four numbers are the gateway to trouble free entry of our shipments and eliminating CHW paying 17% Value Added Tax (VAT) on goods purchased in the country. With much joy, we arrived at the Registrar General's office to pick up this certificate as we made our way north to Chilumba. We had the honour of meeting to thank Nancy, an MRA official at the airport holding area, for her efforts in keeping our last shipment from auction while we waited out the NGO status process. We gave her a small token gift (2017 Canadian Calendar etc.) and expressed our gratitude for her attitude of caring and she in turn expressed her appreciation for the help we are providing to the vulnerable people in her country. Our next shipment will go as soon as funds (approximately \$8,000) are available to pay for air transportation.



Congratulations to Alick and Rufina!

Alick Mwalwanda, the Vice Coordinator for the Chilumba Project Committee, was married on August 6. The Board of Directors wishes him and his new wife Rufina our best wishes for a long and happy life together!



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

Change Her World

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