



# CHW PROGRESS REPORT

Issue # 10 SPRING 2016

— You Are Invited —  
**Saturday April 16, 2016**  
**6th Annual**  
**Fundraising Dinner**  
**Stratford, Ontario**  
*(Details on Page 4)*

## CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA – Sweet Taste of Success



*CHW volunteers Felicity and Jacquelynne assisting participants with their purchases.*

The tantalizing aroma of warm dripping chocolate from the chocolate fountain greeted people as they arrived for **Change Her World's 1st Annual Chocolate Extravaganza** on **November 7, 2015** at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Stratford. All things chocolate, from chocolate balsamic vinaigrette, donated by Olive Your Favorites, to tasty homemade chocolate treats and novelty chocolate shoes were available for sale or sample. One donor made small felt pocket Santa place holders for Christmas dinner and tucked in a truffle...beautiful and creative!

A corner café offered chocolate teas, coffee and cookies. A shopping table offered chocolate desserts in mugs, chocolate gift baskets, children's aprons made with chocolate themed fabric and so much more. There was even a draw to win a gourmet cake, won this year by Kathy Peckford! Many people attended and the event was an overwhelming sweet success! This fundraiser was aimed particularly at securing

funding for the post-secondary education of seven girls. If you missed this

event, plan to attend our **Second Annual Chocolate Extravaganza on Saturday November 5, 2016**. It promises to be even bigger and better this year. We invite you to bake your best chocolate concoction, package it attractively and donate it to the cause. More details will be forthcoming. Please call 519-271-5598 for further information.

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*Above—Participants enjoying a hot cup of Chocolate Ginger Tea.*

*Left—Penny (from Sarnia) & Carmen (from London) baked 50 dozen cookies for the 1st Annual CHW Chocolate Extravaganza.*



*Recently, Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton—co-founders of Change Her World were in contact with Selah who was one of the first girls living in Chilumba, Malawi selected to receive support from Change Her World. In 2011, Selah showed significant academic promise and her teachers were very concerned that she be able to continue with her studies. Selah has been supported since 2011 through the kind financial gifts of many Canadian donors! In January 2016, Selah was asked to write a description of how Change Her World has impacted her life over these past 5 years. Here is what she wrote for you— the Canadian donors—who have supported her financially.*

***Pictured here —Linda Willis meeting Selah for the first time in April 2011.***

I got enrolled as a Change Her World beneficiary in 2011. Before that, I was completely hopeless for a better bright future. I was only relying on my chronically ill mother who is on lifelong prolonged medications. My mother was struggling so much to find school fees and other school needs. She used to sell tomatoes but was unable to meet my school needs. I used to go to school very late with inadequate school fees. I was crying seeking God's help as my future looked dark and my hope and aspirations were shattered.

Change came in 2011 when I was taken as one of the first Change Her World beneficiaries together with Ester Chawinga who is currently doing a teaching course at one of the teaching colleges in the Northern Malawi. It was a wonderful time to be fully supported with everything i.e. school fees, solar lamps for studying, mosquito nets, notebooks, pens, blankets, bags, soap, lotions etc. It was like a dream. Change Her World opened another chapter of my life. Currently I am doing a second year Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and Midwifery. My dream is coming true of becoming a nurse. I am now a happiest person as my lost hope is restored. I like reading the anatomy and physiology, diseases and case management books which helps me to manage patients well.

During my free time I like reading the bible and watching gospel films. I also have the desire to become a lecturer at a nursing college. I intend to use my salary once I commence work to engage in farming and to open a shop to offer employment opportunities to people while using the profits to help those in need. I don't have a boyfriend at the moment. Over the years, I have made various friends most of them encouraged me to work hard. I also encourage my fellow beneficiaries to work hard aiming at achieving one's goal. I am so proud that because of the assistance I am getting from Change Her World, I have reached this stage. I am the happiest young woman having gone this far in education because of Change Her World support.

I give thanks and gratitude to all the Change Her World Directors, all the donors who support this charity and the project committees in Malawi. You are all wonderful. You have made me who I am now. Similarly, my fellow beneficiaries in various universities, colleges, secondary schools, primary schools and nursery schools all are progressing because of the good support received from the charity. Being one of the first beneficiaries, I would like to be role a model to my fellow vulnerable girls that our lives can be changed completely if given the needed support. In conclusion, I once again appreciate for the support I receive from Change Her World which has significantly changed my life from nobody to somebody.

Thanks to all of you!  
Selah Ngwira

***Selah and her mother at her home near Chilumba.***





## Post-Secondary Students:

In addition to the two young women who have been attending university, Selah Ngwira and Margret Munthali, three young women are attending a two year teacher training program— Ester Chawinga, Ivy Gondwe and Fayness Chisiza. Another student, Ivy Ngwira, is taking a one year accounting program. There are 7 additional girls waiting for their opportunity for further education and training but at the moment, funds do not allow for this to happen. All funds wired to the project must be in US dollars, and the cost of the US dollar has severely hampered the hope of adding more girls to this project and expanding project activities.

## Hunger Season:

In the CHW Progress Report of Spring 2013, the lead article was titled ***“Life is Very Tough for Poor Malawi”*** a quote from our Vice-Chair referring to the food shortage and hunger present in the community and throughout the country. This Progress Report could repeat that same heading as well. According to the CHW committee reports and from online newspaper accounts, the line-ups for food are long and many return home empty-handed as the supply is not sufficient to meet the demand. Children are weak from lack of food and have been absent from school. The donations that came in from our appeal for food were gratefully received and much appreciated but sadly, only enough funds were gathered to give each CHW girl one 50 kg bag of maize rather than two bags which had been requested by the project committee in Chilumba. Our Project Coordinator wondered, ***“What will happen when the one bag of maize runs out?”*** We wonder as well.



*A CHW nursery school girl receiving one bag of maize. Thank you to all those who provided much needed funds for food!*

## Shipments:

Some of you may be aware that Change Her World encountered a snag in the clearing of our shipment last summer for the first time in five years. It is a very long story but in point of fact, CHW must now be registered as an NGO before customs will clear the shipment. We have been trying to get this registration completed for several years. The necessary paperwork had been submitted. We waited, re-submitted our documents and waited longer. At some point during those years, the rules changed unknown to us and the ministry responsible for granting the certification changed. Happily, after many trips to the Lilongwe by the committee members, countless hours of gathering documents, and meetings with government officials, the end is in sight and the shipment should be in the office by the end of March ...a huge obstacle overcome and our heartfelt thanks is extended to the committee in Chilumba for its dedication and perseverance.

## New Office Location in Chilumba:

Our next challenge is to locate new office space as our current office is being taken over by the Malawi Revenue Authority.... another adventure!

## News from Mid-West Coordinator: Donna Milbrandt—Serving Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta

### Women Gather in Springside, Saskatchewan (near Yorkton) to hear more about Change Her World!

Donna Milbrandt met with a group of enthusiastic supporters who were eager to hear about Change Her World and the work being done in the 13th poorest region of the world. As a result of this presentation, a sewing event was held to sew reusable sanitary protection for the CHW project.

**If you or your community group would like to learn more about this charity, Donna is available to speak at community gatherings, churches, schools, business meetings and professional associations about Change Her World. Donna can be reached at [dmilbrandt@changeherworld.ca](mailto:dmilbrandt@changeherworld.ca). Her telephone is (306) 782-7182 and her cell/text is (306) 621-6816.**



### Spring Expo in Yorkton, Saskatchewan

**Friday April 8 to Sunday April 10, 2016**

**Donna Milbrandt—CHW Volunteer Midwest Coordinator** will be hosting a Change Her World Display at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton, Sask. during the Spring Expo. If you, family members or friends live in this area, invite them to attend and say “hello” to Donna and her volunteers.

## 6th Annual CHW Fundraising Dinner

**Saturday April 16, 2016**

**Best Western Arden Park Hotel**  
552 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario

**Social Hour: 5:30 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM**



Travel- Themed Silent Auction / Door Prizes  
and so much more!

**Tickets: \$40.00**

Available to purchase at Blowes Stationery, in Stratford  
(on Wellington) or from Linda Willis (519) 271-5598.

In Kitchener tickets available from Kelly Mitchell  
[kelly.louise.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.louise.mitchell@gmail.com) or (519) 894-6327

## 2nd Annual CHW Chocolate Extravaganza

**Saturday November 5, 2016**

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

**Door Open: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Cake Decorating Demonstrations/Chocolate Café/  
Bake Goods and Chocolate-Themed Items for Sale

**Donation Drop-off: Friday Nov. 4, 2016 - 4 to 6 PM**

**Mark Your Calendars  
NOW!**

**An event not to be  
missed!**



### 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](http://www.changeherworld.ca) or you can go to [www.fundscrip.com](http://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](mailto:chamilton@changeherworld.ca) or (519) 271-8701.



- ☐ I would like to support Change Her World in educating girls and women in the developing world!
- ☐ Please contact me so I can contribute monthly to this work. Please keep in touch by ☐ Mail ☐ E-mail.
- ☐ I wish to support the travel expenses of the CHW Directors as they go to Malawi, Africa in June '16.

### 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 the CHW Directors travel expenses with \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ 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](http://www.changeherworld.ca)

**1-888-909-2491**

# Violence Against Women:

An Education Event in Stratford which took place on Tuesday February 2, 2016

The Change Her World Education Event this year was titled **Gender - Based Violence**. It was a topic chosen late in the fall before the media coverage of trials, both local and further afield, were making headlines. **Violence Against Women** — one would think this would be a topic of importance, of merit, but no one attended this event. So we wondered, why?

**We posted that question on our Facebook page. Did we not advertise enough? Does no one care? Is the topic too sensitive? Surely we are not still in the dark ages when it was considered a “private family matter”?**

The focus of this educational event was on the role that men can play in changing the present dynamic (not the usual focus of most discussion on this concern).

Violence against girls and women seems to be growing with acts becoming even more horrific in many countries. There are so called honour-killings, genital mutilation, child brides, sex- slaves, rape as instruments of war, acid burnings and the list goes on. Globally 1 in 3 women will experience violence which threatens lives, halts progress and undermines societies. Tragically and revoltingly, even those dispatched to keep the peace in war torn countries and charged with providing protection, we now have learned that they too are instruments of further pain and suffering. In Canada, every 6 days, a woman is killed by an intimate partner and in 2009 that meant 67 women lost their lives. 54% of girls aged 15-19 experience sexual coercion in dating.

This community — your community — our country — is not immune from this travesty of justice. Please do not pretend that it does not exist and that there is nothing you can do because you are wrong. Do you know what the fathers, brothers, uncles or boyfriends in your life feel about this issue? Would you be comfortable raising it with them? Do you tolerate jokes that perpetuate racial discrimination? Do you ignore jokes about sexual orientation, comments or jokes that degrade girls and women? If you do, we beg you to stop. We challenge you to call out your co-workers, family members or friends when you hear disparaging remarks that show disrespect to another person. We must collectively be courageous enough to stand up for what is right. Stand up for truth and justice. We owe it not just to the girls and women but also to the boys who are growing up in our society and learning what it means to be male. What they are seeing, hearing and feeling about females in their formative and teen years determines their future beliefs and actions. Men need to step forward and join with women in solidarity against all forms of violence against girls and women everywhere. Let's start the dialogue today!



**“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing.”** Edmund Burke

**“Gender equity is not a women’s issue. It is an everybody issue”**

Feridan Hamdullahpur President and Vice-Chancellor of University of Waterloo

**“Women’s rights are human rights.”**

Hillary Clinton

**We invite you to google and watch the documentary below with the men in your life and begin the conversation.**

**YouTube video — Jack Katz — TedXFiDi Violence Against Women – It’s a Man’s Issue**

For further information you may also go to:

[www.whiteribboncampaign.ca](http://www.whiteribboncampaign.ca)

**The White Ribbon Campaign** is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls. It was formed in London by a group of pro-feminist men in November 1991 as a response to the Ecole Polytechnique massacre of female students in Montreal. Jack Layton was one of the founders.

[www.heforshe.org](http://www.heforshe.org)

**HeFor She: Stand Together** is a UN campaign for gender equality that engages men and boys to become agents of change. The launch in Canada was in November 2014. Waterloo is the only Canadian organization participating in the framework. This is a dialogue and a movement that has already taken root in other countries. It can begin here too.

# 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

### Directors Travelling to Malawi, Africa June 21 to July 11, 2016



The Board of Directors are excitedly preparing for a return trip Malawi. For Linda and Carol, this will their 4th trip (last trip in 2013) and they are delighted that Lorraine Stevenson will make the journey with them to experience firsthand the “warm heart of Africa” and meet all who are involved in the projects in Chilumba and Mzuzu/Ekwendeni.

Most of the key arrangements have been made and the directors are in conversation with the CHW Project Committee about the priorities for this visit. The directors agenda will include zone visits where the directors will reconnect with the girls, their families and school personnel. Arrangements will also be made for meetings with the local health, education and social welfare officials. At this five year juncture, it is critical that the directors sit down with the project committee and representatives from the zones to examine their successes over these past years, the challenges faced and to plot the way forward for the next five years. An evaluation tool has already been sent which will guide this process.

### HELP REQUIRED FOR DIRECTORS TO TRAVEL TO MALAWI:

Travel expenses to visit projects are deemed legitimate expenditures for charities by Revenue Canada. Unlike the past two trips when a generous donor covered the air travel cost for Linda and Carol, this year this is not the case. If you would like to donate online to the travel costs for the directors, please go to [www.changeherworld.ca](http://www.changeherworld.ca) – at the bottom of the Home Page - you will find a box titled: **We NEED YOUR HELP – Malawi Trip**. You can also mail a donation to Change Her World P.O. Box 1057, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W4 and write – **Travel for Directors**. You will receive an income tax receipt for your donation.

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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