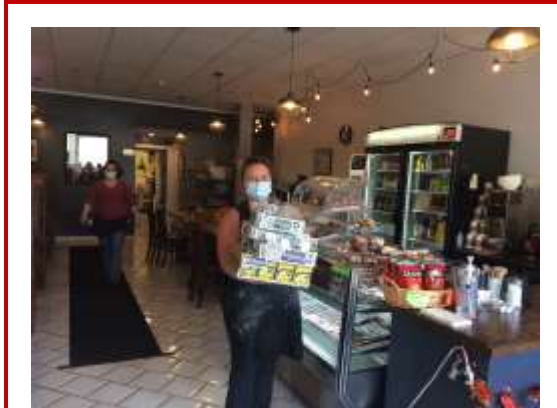




CHW PROGRESS REPORT Issue #20 Spring 2021

The Show Must Go On... Chocolate Extravaganza 2020!

Indeed, the show must go on! In that spirit, the Board pivoted from the usual format for this event to a simpler but, what turned out to be, a very effective one. Within five days of notices being posted online, one hundred Chocolate Sweet Treat boxes sold out at a cost of \$20.00 per box. We welcomed donations from Sugar Maple Restaurant



Chocolate treats were ready for Linda and Carol to pick up from Kim at Sugar Maple Restaurant in Mitchell.

100 jars of decadent chocolate fudge sauce which rounded out the variety of goodies. The boxes were assembled Friday night by the Directors to keep the number of people involved to a minimum.

Keeping safety protocols at the fore, a small group of CHW volunteers orchestrated pick up at the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Hall on Saturday November 8 from 12:00 -2:00. Of course, what November 2021 will look like is still unknown but as the Sweet Treat Boxes were very well received, it is felt that these boxes could possibly become a part of the usual Chocolate Extravaganza format. We extend a huge thank you to each person who contributed to this event.

Lorraine snapped this picture as she took delivery of chocolate treats from the Black Angus Bakery and Catering in Stratford.



A Facebook post requesting funds for five bicycles was filled in three hours! Thank You!

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A Library is Needed!

In today's global information society, non-literate people are at a permanent disadvantage, unsure of their rights, unable to reach their full potential and also unable to play a full part in society. They are disempowered. Literacy is a right and a capability that is fundamental to overcoming poverty.

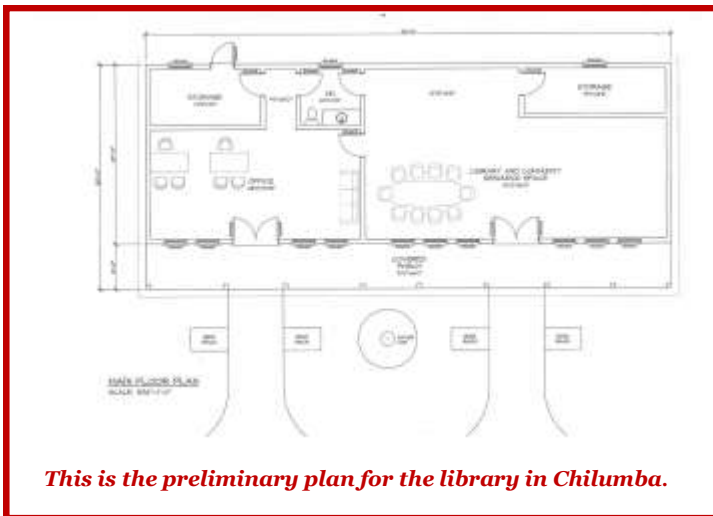
“There is a hunger for reading materials in Malawi. People want to read but they cannot afford to get books.”

Alfred Msadala

President of Book Publishers Association of Malawi.



There are 10 public libraries in Malawi and these are mostly in urban areas. Having a Library/Resource Center for a community creates space to learn and enriches lives. It creates a sense of gathering, a space for teaching and a means of finding jobs. People can explore medical, health and educational fields. There is a space to teach reading to adults! What a gift would that be!



This is the preliminary plan for the library in Chilumba.

hold a book, how pages are turned from front to back and students are taught that words go from left to right. We all can likely recall the lovely experience of taking a little one to the library. So many children and parents in Chilumba are denied this enriching experience that is such a basic tenet of future school and life success. Although our focus would be initially on the children's segment of the library, the plan is that it will grow to be a valuable learning and teaching space and a source of needed information for the adults in the community as well.

More to Come on the Library Campaign

Imagine the opportunity for young and old to acquire new ideas, get lost in wonderful stories, to explore unknown worlds but also to learn more about their own world. Libraries create opportunity for pre-school children to be read to, to see print, to use imagination, stimulate curiosity – all familiar to us but unrealized for the majority in Northern Malawi.

You may recall reading in an earlier CHW Progress Report or hearing at a CHW presentation, that some children in our catchment area come to school never having seen print! The first lessons of Grade 1 focus on how to



Consider purchasing one of our new bags for \$40.00.

The Power of a Girl with a Book

Go to www.changeherworld.ca or call 519-271-5598.

Empower with a Flower—From Coast to Coast

C'mon Spring... it's around the corner! Hold on tight!

Did you get caught up venturing into gardening for the first time during last spring and summer during the restrictive time of staying at home? Perhaps you improved or added flowers or vegetables to an existing garden or maybe like some, you learned that cabbage and squash need more space to grow than in a 2 x 4 foot raised garden! It was a learning experience indeed but gratifying to watch plants grow seemingly overnight, despite the final outcome!

This spring we are offering you an opportunity to green up your thumb with a new fundraising venture.

FLORISSA FUNDRAISING is a company located in Langley, BC, established in 1928 with a long history of being involved in raising funds for worthy causes. Change Her World will receive 50% on every package of bulbs sold. Florissa selections are easy to grow and are especially chosen for Canadian gardeners. All ordering is done online through a unique CHW page on Florissa's website where you can view your order and choose how you wish your order to be shipped. Shipment directly to your home is available to anyone for an additional fee. For those living in the Stratford area, there is an option for free group shipping with the understanding that you will pick up your order on a designated date at 250 Glendon Road in Stratford. **All orders must be placed by April 30 with delivery in May.**



Browse the website <https://florissafundraising.com/changeherworld/>

You can also find this link on the Home Page of the CHW website—www.changeherworld.ca.



The Power of 50 Campaign Continues...

Will you consider donating \$50.00 a month as we seek to stabilize our financial commitment in paying school fees for girls in both the Chilumba & Mzuzu/Ekwendeni Projects?

Florissa Fundraising ships across Canada so we encourage all our supporters from coast to coast to become involved and help us keep our girls in school. As you plant this Spring, you will be providing hope and possibility for many girls and women whose lives presently exist in a blur of poverty, hardship and despair in Northern Malawi.

Once your bulbs have bloomed, send your flower photos to:

lwillis@changeherworld.ca

— to be posted on our Facebook Page —

COVID Has Impacted Our Students in Malawi! All Donations are Very Much Appreciated!

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I wish to support Change Her World with a donation of \$ _____

I wish to be a Power of 50 supporter with a monthly donation of \$ _____

Please find enclosed payment by CASH CHEQUE (Made Payable to Change Her World)

VISA MASTERCARD

CARD NO. _____ EXPIRY DATE ____ / ____

Cardholder Name (Print) _____ SECURITY CODE _____

Change Her World has recently opened a TD Waterhouse Account. We are now able to receive donations of stock, bonds and securities. Please contact Linda Willis at lwillis@changeherworld.ca for more information.

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

Vital Necessities Shipped To Malawi!



The first week in December brought two visitors to Linda's front door bearing gifts for our girls in Malawi. Marja Van Dorst from Komoko and her granddaughter Monique delivered 121 re-usable sanitary protection kits which they had sewn working together. Can you imagine the chats that happened during those special times with Grandma? We are very thankful for this continued support. The workmanship and care are evident in the finished products which Marja has donated to Change Her World over the years. We are honoured to have so many fine people such as Marja and Monique who realize the critical need for girls to be educated and feel compelled to do their part to further the achievement of that goal.

A shipment of 55 totes left Stratford October 1, 2020 via Ethiopian Airlines. Goods have since been distributed to various schools, clinics, and CHW beneficiaries. Learning and teaching materials were replenished at the Nursery School as was the dried soup and fruit mix. We have noted a rise in shipping costs as well as increased costs to have the shipment picked up in Lilongwe and distributed to the various zones.

The Board feels it is wise to limit the nature and quantity of items shipped until our ability to fundraise improves. Going forward, until further notice, only the following items will be accepted for shipment:

Underwear—Girls/Women Re-usable Sanitary Protection Birthing Kits

The assembling of the birthing kits is on hold until we have a safer climate for folks to gather.

It is worthwhile to note that 17,290 pairs of underwear and more than 1300 sanitary protection kits have been sent to the two projects thus far. Hundreds of extra shields and liners have been provided as well. Because of this volume, in addition to the CHW girls, many other needy and vulnerable girls in the community are assisted in attending school regularly.

Thanks so much to all the women and girls who sew for this cause.



*Left: Medical supplies being delivered to a clinic in the Chilumba area.
Right: CHW university students receiving reusable sanitary protection kits.*



Top: Marja and Monique delivering 121 re-usable sanitary protection kits. Middle: Linda Willis at the Ontario Gleaners picking up donated dried soup mix for the CHW nursery school. Bottom: Thank you to the Stratford firefighters who volunteered to help us load the cartons for shipment to Malawi!

A Photo Says It All!



Left: The pig project in Chilumba is thriving! There is a possibility of another such project coming soon! Top: CHW Nursery School students dressed in new uniforms and holding up toys and teaching supplies recently shipped from Canada.



Peter, a neighbour of Linda's, hand delivered this Apple Crisp dessert where he had created the 10th Anniversary logo in celebration of the work of this charity!



CHW university students in Mzuzu/ Ekwendeni Project receive much needed laptop computers to continue their studies online.



Wezzie Moyo (Coordinator of CHW Project Committee in Chilumba) is sitting on one of the beds with a pillow and bedding –all donated through CHW by the generous support of the Hope for Haiti Mission in St. Marys, Ont.!

Another Successful Fundraiser... Christmas Confection Boxes!

“Since the sale of the Chocolate Sweet Treat boxes went so well, let’s build on that success with something for Christmas”, suggested Marlene Robinson to the Board of Directors in November.

Marlene, with a little help from some friends, accomplished the sale of 70 Christmas Confection Boxes in mid-December priced at \$20!

Each box contained a pound of delicious fruitcake (Marlene is an excellent baker), a dozen ginger snaps and a dozen shortbread cookies. She canvassed her neighbours with a sample box, a poster was put online and the rest is history! On a rainy Saturday afternoon on December 12, folks picked up their orders from Marlene’s garage.

We are very grateful to Marlene and her friends for this wonderful effort which addressed a very specific need. Since Christmas this year, for many people, was not the big gathering they had become accustomed to, a small box of goodies fit the bill. Rumor has it this too could become an annual event!



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

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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Stratford, Ontario
N5A 6W4

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

www.changeherworld.ca



It's Been A Trying Year.... from the Board of Directors

Hope - Opportunity – Possibility – Excitement!

These are words long associated with Change Her World and with our passion for empowering girls through education. But in our current reality and present circumstances, perhaps we can dare to apply them to our lives also.

The last year has been long. It has demanded our patience, our faith, our acceptance and our commitment to focus on only the day in front of us. With the coming of spring, the roll out of a vaccine on the horizon and perhaps the lessening of restrictions, we can hope! We can hope for the opportunity to see family we have not seen in far too long. We can look to the possibility of meals out, perhaps of some limited travel, to hug again! There is the possibility of a quasi-return to normalcy, the possibility of less anxiety and the excitement of maybe being able to make plans! Joy!

We are so extremely grateful to each of you for maintaining your financial support over this past year. We have recently had some financial shocks with the re-configuration of some universities to four semesters (in one year) instead of three—creating added costs for tuition each year. Form Two (Grade 10) exams in secondary school were cancelled for several years but now these have been reinstated resulting in all our Form Two students having to write exams which mean we have the examination fees to pay. Meal costs at university have increased as have the overall average fees for secondary schools. In addition, we have had the added costs of masks, shields, hand sanitizer and soap but thankfully we have managed to maintain our commitment thus far. We extend our gratitude to everyone!

It will be another year with no April celebration dinner; however, we will hope soon to have the opportunity to see all of you again face to face. With possibility and excitement we look forward to expressing our collective joy for the difference all of us are making in the lives of girls in Northern Malawi. Be safe! Be well!



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