

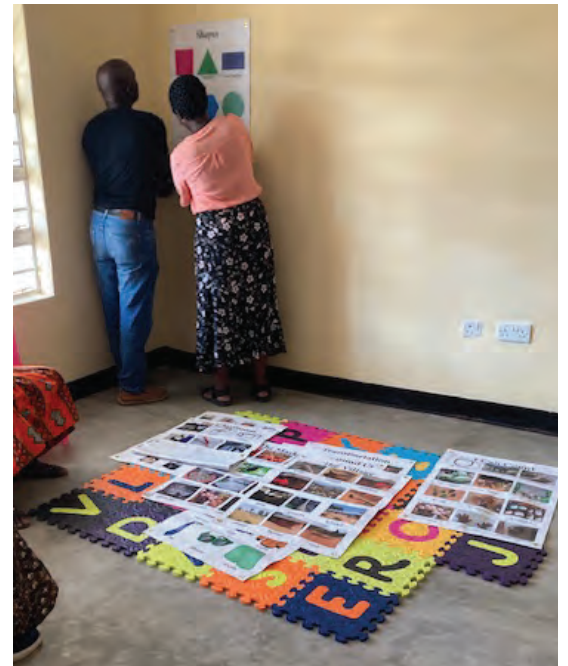
Oh Happy Day!

The opening of the library August 24, 2023 was a momentous day for the Cofounders, the Board of Directors and the Chilumba Project Committee. Opening with the joyous sounds of women singing and dancing to the drumbeat supporting them, the occasion was a long-awaited one, to say the least! Several days earlier in the week had been spent setting up the children's corner with lots of books, sitting mats and visual aids while other bookcases displayed a variety of books to be perused at the opening. Large maps were on display as well as a banner carrying greetings from Canadians from a previous event held in Stratford. One of our newest Project Committee members, Temba Chirwa, set up the computers using the modem that had been purchased in Lilongwe before beginning the drive north.

One mom and toddler were seen peeking in the window where the children's corner was set up. She was overheard asking if she could bring her child there and if

it would be free? The answer of course is "Yes, you can bring your little boy there and yes, it is free".

There remains more to be done. It is said that "the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." More steps are in the offing and we look forward to our next visit to further promote and provide literacy for all in the Chilumba community. O Happy Day!



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The Long Delayed Trip to Malawi

On Wednesday, August 16, the cofounders, Linda and Carol, started the journey to Malawi, leaving Toronto at 10:45 PM to fly overnight to Amsterdam, and then a long day spent in Schiphol airport, followed by another overnight flight into Nairobi, Kenya. After a short wait there, Friday, August 18, we flew on into Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi.

Being greeted by our driver Martin Kalemba is always a great joy as not only do we value his driving expertise of course, but he is a wonderful human being and a great help to us in many ways. He drove us many miles over very bad roads, in some cases treacherous and often crowded with people without benefit of street lights, lane markings and construction! Martin also helped our committee members at the library move totes that we had shipped, into the proper storage rooms. He was a great camera and video assistant as well. We dubbed him an “honorary board member” and promised a Certificate of Recognition for his contributions to making our trip safe and successful.

We stayed overnight in Lilongwe and then drove to Mzuzu on the Saturday. We stayed overnight there as well at the Sunbird Hotel where we were warmly greeted by Lucy! The next morning we met with the former team of Mzuzu/Ekwendeni for breakfast and then drove through to Chilumba on Sunday, August 19.

It was wonderful to see the Chilumba Project Committee again and experience the sights and sounds of the area. To actually see and enter the library was surreal after all the email exchanges, the photos sent, the ups and downs as well as the extra cost and delay of materials being received. Sound familiar?

Our visit was relatively short and given that the schools were on holiday, we focussed on the library but in addition, visited our Nursery School, a recipient of the pig project as well as one of the vulnerable elderly women.

We fully enjoyed the opening program for the library and receiving the thanks and well wishes of the community leadership. After a scheduled meeting with the Project Committee, we said reluctant goodbyes with promises to return soon.

The next day started bright and early to drive the 10 hours back to the capital saying our goodbyes to Wezzie our Co-ordinator in Chilumba and to Fiskani our advisor in Ekwendeni on the way.

We encourage you to see our FB page where we posted photos and videos daily

There is much more to share so be sure to come to the Annual Dinner , April 13, 2024 at the Best Western Arden Park.



Arriving in Malawi after some long travel days.



Setting up the new library computers.



One of the new bookcases in the new library.

Meeting with 4 Tertiary Students

Presidents Hotel -Lilongwe Malawi

August 27, 2023, 1:00pm

It was a privilege for us to meet these girls with whom we spent more than an hour, listening to their personal stories and what CHW had meant for them as they struggled to find hope for their future. Thoughts of suicide by one of the girls who is an orphan, fears of early marriage and the impact of leaving their mothers and villages, all gave a powerful story of lives being changed. These girls are determined, courageous and aspire to be change agents in their country.

Leah Chima – Graduate - Degree in Nursing & Midwifery.

Monica Mwaghunds - Year 1 – Diploma in Nursing & Midwifery - Daeyang College of Health Sciences.

Mary Nyasulu - Year 4 - Degree in Nursing & Midwifery University of Malawi - Kamuzu



College of Nursing.

Takwonda Bungulu – Year 3 – Degree in Nursing & Midwifery – Daeyang University.

Return Graduates of the CHW Nursery School

As we entered the Nursery School area, we were greeted with singing by some current CHW Nursery School beneficiaries as well many who had started there and were now in various Standards in elementary school. The girls sang, showed off their various skills by counting, saying the months of the years as well as reciting poems and echoing teacher led chants. We learned that a straw type fence which had been erected around the perimeter had rotted, fallen down and been removed. Given the fact that there have been several houses built close by, the Board will look into replacing the fence to ensure safety. As most things were stowed for the summer holidays, our visit was outdoors. The girls were all familiar with the completion of “If you want to

change the world ...start with her “. A generation of girls learning that they have value, they have rights and that they will have the opportunity to make a difference in the world.



Happy Pig Farmer



Sounds of oinks and grunts greeted us as we made our way down a steep incline and into the yard of one of the pig project recipients. She was very pleased with how she was managing and in fact was planning to add another corral as her pig numbers increased. As she did not have a garden of corn, she noted that buying and grinding the food was her only challenge but with selling off piglets, she is able to pay the secondary school fees for her daughter who had just successfully completed Form 4.

It is gratifying to see the success stories and we are happy to report that WICC has provided the funds for another pig project this fall.

Small Things

Washing soap, a little sugar and a little salt was all it took to evoke gratitude from one of the 35 vulnerable women CHW supports. She laid down on her side which you may have seen on the FB posting. A walk into of her home revealed several straw mats on a wooden frame and large spaces between the brick walls and the roof. When asked what would make her smile or make her happy, she shared with Fiskani, who acted as our interpreter, that her bones and joints were sore and stiff and that a mattress would help her a lot. Certainly there was a need for a mosquito net which she did not have. This prompted the decision to do a thorough visit with all the vulnerable elderly women by our zone chairs to see what their needs were and how we could assist.



Chocolate Extravaganza

Limited number of sweet treat boxes!

This year only 60 sweet treat boxes will be available for order. In addition to other goodies including some Gluten Free, CHW book bags and books also will be sold on that day.

Please order sweet treat boxes online - \$20 at www.changeherworld.ca

Use General Donation and put the number of boxes being ordered in the Comment Section.



Mark your calendar!



Pick up at:
Army Navy Airforce Hall
on Lorne Avenue
November 4, 2023
10:00am - 2:00pm

Fee Increase

As noted in the appeal sent out in early September, fees in Malawi continue to increase significantly.

This term the average tuition for a tertiary student was \$871 CDN.

The average fee for secondary students is now \$231 CDN.

Thank you

Thank you to Jennifer West who has served as the bookkeeper for Change Her World these past years. We appreciate her time and dedication to the charity.

Donations for Change Her World Are Greatly Appreciated!

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

☐ I wish to make a monthly credit card donation (details below) 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
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

Change Her World has 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.

Charitable Registration No. 81600 9252 RR0001

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
- ◆ Income Generating Activities

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

From the Board of Directors

Cofounders Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton made the journey to visit the project in Chilumba, Malawi in August. It was a long awaited reunion of sorts with the project committee members, beneficiaries, community leadership and of course, the highlight, the opening of the Change Her World Chilumba Community Library.

Join us April 13, 2024 at our annual dinner at the Best Western Arden Park to hear the details of their adventure, the latest news and future plans for Change Her World.

Thank you for your support and commitment to girls' education.

"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

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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