

A Change for the Woman, Fulirwa Zone



by Themba Chirwa

Under the shade of a tree in TA Wasambo, Chilumba, a vulnerable woman sits among fellow beneficiaries of the *Change Her World – Chilumba Project*. With her hands raised, she speaks not just for herself, but for many women whose lives have been shaped by hardship and resilience in Karonga District.

For years, she struggled to meet basic needs for her household. Food insecurity, lack of proper sleeping materials, and exposure to malaria were constant challenges. Survival often depended on uncertainty rather than choice.

Through the *Change Her World Chilumba Project*, she received a bag of maize, a mosquito net, and a mattress – simple items that carry deep meaning for her family. As she addressed the gathering, she expressed her gratitude to the donors, saying:

“I would like to thank the donors for remembering us. The bag of maize will help us have food in our homes, the mosquito net will protect us from malaria, and the mattress will allow us to sleep with dignity. This support has lifted a heavy burden from my household. May God bless you for what you have done for us.”

Her words reflect more than appreciation; they reflect relief, dignity, and renewed hope. The support she received has eased immediate hardship and restored her sense of being seen and valued.

The *Change Her World Chilumba Project* continues to reach vulnerable women in TA Wasambo, ensuring that support goes beyond material assistance to restore confidence, security, and hope for a better future.



Primary School level girls receiving notebooks and pens for the current term

Tertiary Student Update

Currently we have 16 tertiary students in the following areas of studies:

- Business Administration Generic – 2
- Bachelor of Science in Statistics – 1
- Diploma in Public Health – 2
- Bachelor of Sciences in Pharmacy – 1
- Degree in Public Environmental Health – 1
- Degree in Media Development – 1
- Bachelor in Education Sciences – 1
- Diploma in Library Course – 1
- Degree in Nursing & Mid-Wifery – 3
- Water Resources & Engineering Management – 2
- Bachelor of Arts in Film Production – 1

From the Lake to the Borehole

by Themba Chirwa

"The water is sweet, but the rest is sweeter."

As the first clear water flowed from the new *Change Her World* Chilumba Project borehole, one of the local mothers shared what this truly means for her:

"For so long, my feet were tired and my back was heavy from the long walk to the lake. I used to worry every time my children drank. Today, I am thankful because the water is right here. My daughters can go to school on time, and I have strength left at the end of the day. To *Change Her World*: You have not just given us a pump; you have given us our lives back. Tawonga chomene Linda and Carol (Thank you very much Linda and Carol)."

This is the power of your support!

This is the power of *Change Her World*.

In Khwawa, the burden of the "water walk" is over, and a new chapter of health and education has begun.



Beneficiaries from Khwawa using the borehole.

Two More Wells

With a total now of 13 wells completed, the stories from Themba Chirwa, Project Committee member in Chilumba indicate the impact of accessible clean water.

Mark Your Calendars... 2026 ANNUAL DINNER

Mark **April 11, 2026** on your calendars for our **Annual Dinner** to be held at the Stratford Country Club... details to follow. If you would like to donate a silent auction item, please contact Caroline Jensen, Director, at 519-703-6755.



Bags Still Needed

We continue to gather bags available at the Dollar Tree that are currently being used to pack sanitary protection kits. If you have purchased bags to donate, please call 519-271-5598 to arrange pick up or delivery.

Thank you for your support!



MEGA Book Sale: A Great Success

Despite the rain, Pat Evers and the team doggedly persisted and got the books to the Belgrave Community Centre in Downtown Belgrave for our annual book sale.

The set-up began on Thursday, October 23 and the sale continued through until Friday, October 25 with various friends, colleagues and Board members assisting.

People were patiently waiting on Thursday for the action to begin. There were books galore to suit every genre, interest and age group.

This was a project initiated by Pat Evers and Lorraine Stevenson, two Directors on the CHW Board as a major fundraiser for the charity. It was a lot of physical work and constant reorganization — not to mention the storage required to pull this event together! *Change Her World* would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who donated books or assisted in any way.





New Nursery School Teachers

We welcome Yamikani Kalua and Sharon Mwanza to the *Change Her World* Nursery School.



Address Reminders

If your email address or physical address has changed, please notify info@changeherworld.ca or carol.hamilton42@gmail.com

Also, please note that Carol has resumed her role as Treasurer for the charity.

Book Donations

Donation of books in good condition, especially adult fiction as well as children's and youth books, both fiction and non-fiction, are much appreciated.

Please contact Pat Evers if you have books you would like to donate. Pat can be reached at 519-450-8479 or pat.chw.2022@gmail.com



Cold Storage

On a blustery frigid day in January the intrepid cofounders of *Change Her World*, along with some hardy gentlemen, moved the charity records, memorabilia and all related items to a very "cold storage" unit. After 15 years and changing housing realities, the cofounders no longer have space to house all the accumulated paraphernalia that makes up the operations of the charity, past and present. A search for an office and storage space proved fruitless due to cost, accessibility and suitability. Hopefully this alternative, although inconvenient, will meet our needs for the time being. If you have items for the collection campaign please call Linda Willis 519 271 5598 or email l.willis@rogers.com

Malawi

This is a country whose economy appears to be in deep crisis characterized by high inflation, declining living standards, food insecurity, fiscal imbalances and struggling with weak agricultural output.

The economy is fragile and in need of sustained reforms and investment. It has the 4th highest percentage of people living in extreme poverty in the world. More than 2/3 live in extreme poverty.

It is interesting to note that the Tumbuka tribe in Northern Malawi where the *Change Her World* project is located is the most educated tribe in Malawi and perhaps in Southern Africa. They are a people who believe in reading which is why one is frequently approached by youth selling whatever they can for "school fees".

Climate changes are driving hunger and severe weather events cause rapidly rising food prices and fuel inflation as it often does in the Western world as well.

Research shows that there are fewer than 300 doctors in a country whose population now is in the 21 million range, about 7,000 nurses and 50 surgeons and half of these are general surgeons. According to 2021 Malawi National Budget figures, medical doctors earn \$1,400 a month depending on education, experience and specialty. There are 3 mental hospitals. More on "warm heart of Africa" in another edition.

Celebrating 10 Years!

A Unique Partnership with the City of Stratford

It was 2015 when Carol Hamilton, cofounder, first met Barb Hobson who worked for the City of Stratford. When Barb learned about the objectives of *Change Her World* and subsequently, about the Fundscrip organization *Change Her World* had joined to increase their fundraising efforts, an idea began to take shape.

Each year, the Social Services department would purchase gift cards to provide to those needing extra support in the community. "What if the City of Stratford purchased these gift cards through Fundscrip allowing *Change Her World* to benefit?" she pondered. She made contact again with Carol and a most worthwhile partnership began. The first order placed on March 29, 2015 was for 200 x \$25.00 Gift Cards for Canadian Tire and 200 x \$25.00 Gift Cards for Walmart. As a result of this order, *Change Her World* received \$300.00.

Since then, several times a year, connection is made between the City of Stratford and Carol for gift cards to be purchased. As this partnership enters its 11th year, the City of Stratford has purchased close to \$368,000.00 in gift cards with *Change Her World*



Heather Browning and Marylou Wuksinic in front of City Hall raising awareness and funds for Change Her World.

receiving \$10,845.00 from Fundscrip. Today we celebrate this partnership with the City of Stratford and greatly value how this has benefitted so many young women in Malawi in seeing their education dreams come true! What a gift!

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 (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 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 llwillis@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 Objectives 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.**

Board of Directors Message

Each new year brings challenges and new opportunities to learn, to grow and to adapt to a changing world. *Change Her World* is not immune to this reality. Rising costs in Malawi, indeed globally, necessitate prioritizing funding decisions. As an example, funds sent for 2 wells in September now have a shortfall of \$1,000 each so we must send another \$2,000 for these wells to be completed. Banking, even in Malawi is becoming more digital and so rural schools struggle to provide the receipts that we must have. The ever-current reality of change! Thank you for your “unchanging” support.

In this vein, it is with much regret that we announce that Director Lorraine Stevenson has submitted her resignation due to health concerns. The Board thanks her and honours all that she has given to help create a hopeful future for the girls and women of Northern Malawi.



**CHANGE
HER WORLD**
If you want to change the world... start with her.

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

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