

MCM'S ORPHAN SUPPORT PROGRAM



An Update & Thank You to MCM's OSP Sponsors

MY VIEW

OSP Coordinator, Karen de Smidt

My husband, Kevin, and I have just returned from spending a couple of weeks at MCM. I can honestly say that our children are thriving and doing very well. They are:

- Attending school at MCM Academy now a full primary grades PreK – Standard 8 (with a 99% graduation rate)
- Eating breakfast and lunch each school day; 1500 meals served weekly
- Able to access our nurse for evaluation, treatment and medications
- Receiving counseling and encouragement from the Social Services Director and staff for all issues, many stemming from current or past traumatic events and conditions

However, as is the case in rural Malawi there are always challenges. The most recent crisis has been the widespread flooding in March. Over 65 of our children's homes were damaged with 25 homes completely destroyed. We are so grateful to the many donors who generously gave to the flood relief fund. Re-building has begun in partnership with the MCM leaders and committees from the 3 village communities.

Other challenges include:

1. The lack of job opportunities in the region for our students who have graduated with their
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Karen de Smidt



Christopher & Ellen's House post floods.

MCM'S OSP SINCE APRIL 2018:

- 73 CHILDREN SPONSORED
- 170+ LETTERS EXCHANGED
- 47 MORE HEARTS TO TOUCH

ALL IN

Haley Malerbi, RN

A few months ago I had the pleasure of going to Malawi for 2 weeks to work with the amazing people and children at Malawi Children's Mission. I have been on other service trips before but never have I experienced a culture that is so unanimously happy, and worked with an organization that was so well-organized and built on such good intentions. During my stay, I went out into the community to check in with children's family members and guardians. As we identified new problems, I was so impressed by the immediate response and initiation of resources to those identified problems. One example of this, is the relief effort that was launched in response to the damage caused during the floods back in March.

I got to see the obstacles and struggles that these families faced on a daily basis just to survive. It gave me hope to see all the work that this organization was doing to try and alleviate some of those stressors and lessen the burden that their economic situation had on them.

[Haley participated in goal setting for the Young Women's Initiative, support in the medical center and the early maize harvest to salvage the crops before rot set in from extensive rains.]

Your financial support provides the fuel to guarantee nutrition, education, health-care and love on a daily basis!



MY VIEW

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diplomas or degrees and for those not capable of succeeding in secondary school

2. The turn-over of teaching staff due to unavoidable circumstances placed on teachers by the government and job demands of this position in rural Malawi

A huge blessing has taken place with Kevin facilitating Phase 1 of the Technology Initiative; the installation of additional solar power to provide electricity and satellite internet connection. This enables students to have supervised internet access to increase technical skills for further education and vocational options, enhances the Global Classroom video conference experience and project sharing with schools in the U.S. and the installation of lights in the medical center. Phase 2 will provide power to the library, on-site charging stations for MCM Academy devices and security lighting on the property

The Orphan Support Program has grown in a year with 73 children sponsored (more than half of our kids). We are SO grateful and thankful for your support ! I spent a little time explaining to “your” children what it means to be sponsored and why it is important that they write letters to you. Some of them really “get” this ... for others it’s going to take a while with repeated conversations. Equally, they really want to hear from you!

The more sponsors we have, the more of a difference we will be able to make in this community. Please tell your friends and family about our MCM story. **I wish I could take each of you with me to meet your child in person to see for yourself how your contribution is changing lives!**



Kevin de Smidt



Eneless Banda, Malawi OSP Coordinator

