



GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

EXPANSION OF KASEYE POULTRY IGA

Kaseye Poultry is an income-generating (IGA) activity in coordination with Kaseye Community Hospital and PCVs Andrew Clark and Rebecca Hellman. The idea began with a previous Peace Corps Volunteer in conjunction with hospital administration to help with the purchase of prescription drugs. The project began in July 2013 with a start up donation from Brother Peter Daino. While successful, the hospital still experienced shortfalls and there was a need to expand. FOM has granted \$1,021 to help expand the project with two new chicken houses. Profits from the sale of broilers are utilized by the hospital to purchase prescription drugs such as Paracetamol, Ampicillin, Ketamine, and Erythromycin as well as reagents necessary to conduct laboratory tests.



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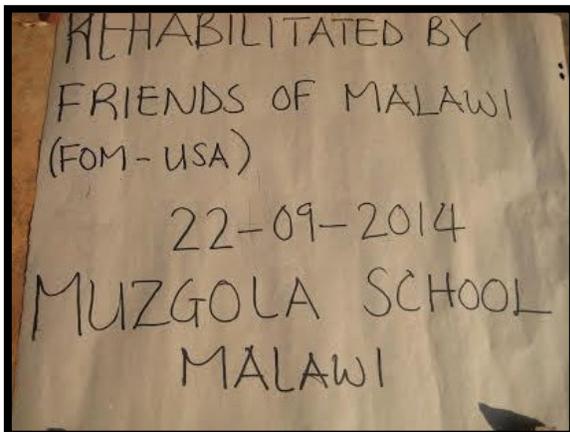
This past October saw the successful completion and handover ceremony at Sonzowa Primary School of a new classroom block to the communities of Group Village Headman Chapasuka. The school block was designed to promote rights of all children to access a quality education and to protect the rights of girls aged 10-15 from all sorts of abuses when walking long distances to school in search of Senior Primary Education. It also meant to benefit a population of over 2700 learners in the area. Friends Of Malawi contributed MK 296,344.64 toward purchase of building materials to finish the project.



STANDING ON A PEDESTAL

BOREHOLE REHABILITATION

Mzgora Primary School in the rural district of Nkhata Bay had no source of clean water for three years because of the breakdown of the well that was constructed in 2002. Friends Of Malawi granted the local community \$799. The work to rehabilitate the pump and well was completed in September 2014. Since that time, health of the children has improved and school attendance has increased. The project report included the photographs below.



With the support of PCV Alicia Alhassan, women who were single heads of households learned bookkeeping and soap making skills in a program designed to teach business skills. FOM granted MK 320,000 to train and start the soap making business using palm oil. It has progressed to also making and selling cheula (snack made from soy flour and spices) and mandasi (donut like snack).



MASALA SELF HELP INITIATIVE

This rural community requested help to build a footbridge over the Lisanjala River which is on the walking path to the local school. During rains, the area often floods making the path to school impossible. FOM had funded this project with \$800 which will start as soon as the rains stop and the water recedes.

For the 2014 cycle of funding, the FOM Grants Committee processed and evaluated nearly 150 grant proposals. A total of 12 grants were approved and awarded by the Committee. Most of the applications are from community based NGOs run by [Malawians](#), with a few that are in partnership with a Peace Corps Volunteer. FOM thanks Malawian Myson Jambo for site visits.

CELEBRATION SPEECH

Editor's Note: After addressing Dr. Joyce Banda, Government Ministers, US Ambassador, Jeanine Jackson, Peace Corps Staff and Volunteers, and guests, the following speech was given at the 50th Celebration of Peace Corps Malawi.

My name is Smith Gulule. I come from Chinkhombwe, Village Traditional Authority Mwase, Kasungu. I was born on 9th September 1944. I am 69 years old and currently the village headman for Chinkhombwe in Kasungu. I attended my primary school in Kasungu and was selected to Likuini Boys Secondary School in 1961 at the age of 17.

In 1963, as I went into my classroom one morning, I saw we had two Azungus at our school. We were told that they were American Peace Corps Volunteers and they were there to teach us. I didn't know about Peace Corps at the time, but later found out that my secondary school happened to be one of the first schools receiving the first group of US Peace Corps Teacher Volunteers to arrive in Malawi. My teacher's name was Mr. Hilton [sic] (Heaton). He taught us science and English in Form 3.

When I first saw the Peace Corps Volunteers I wondered why would they come all the way to Africa to teach us? What was their motivation? What did they want from us? By spending time with them, and learning from them, I found that their motivation was to help, to serve others. They were a long way from home in a strange land teaching people they didn't know and they didn't even receive a salary. One thing I learned from them and that experience, is that one of the most rewarding things in life is helping/serving others without expecting any rewards. Rewards are nice, but just knowing you have helped someone in their time of need is far more enriching.

In the early 1960's there were very few science teachers in Malawi and this, therefore, made it difficult for many students to learn science subjects, let alone liking them. I was one of those students. But the arrival of the Volunteer teacher made me and other students **understand, like** and **enjoy** learning science subjects. This made a profound difference in my later life in understanding the science world. Even today, these Volunteer teachers bring new skills, new ways of looking at things and are making learning exciting and interesting for today's generation of students.

Mr. [Heaton] had quality leadership skills combined with honesty, transparency and accountability. He used to stress to us that as future leaders we needed to learn to be honest, transparent and accountable in our dealings with others. This impacted my life when I went to work in Zambia from 1965-1989 as a Chief Stores Officer and a buyer in the government. My job involved a lot of procurement including tenders for government stores. This position required these very qualities of honesty, transparency and accountability to make sure that government property and resources were well taken care of.

Now as GVH, in dealing with my subjects' issues, I still use the same leadership skills I learnt at a very tender age in my life from my Peace Corps Volunteer teacher. I feel at this point of my life, Peace Corps and I have a relationship that has come full circle. I was taught by Peace Corps Volunteers, and that experience affected my life, what I did and the path I took. In 2014, my village was chosen to host Peace Corps training and will serve as host families to the new arrivals. I will be given an opportunity to give back to the Peace Corps and my country...to help the new trainees learn about and adjust to life in Malawi, a country far from home with new and different experiences and culture. My success in welcoming them will help them understand and thrive in Malawian communities so that they can focus their efforts on helping the next generation of leaders learn critical skills that will help them and Malawian communities prosper in years to come.

Thank you...

LYNN BLOUGH NEW FRIENDS OF MALAWI PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As the newly installed President of Friends Of Malawi, I wanted to get a quick note into this Newsletter. First, on behalf of the Board, our huge thanks to Tom Welte. Tom has served on the Board for many years, including as President for the last couple of years, and asked to step off the Board for family reasons. We all owe Tom an incredible debt of gratitude for his service and accomplishments. I am personally indebted to Tom for his advice and support as I try to fill his very big shoes. I look forward to continuing our friendship over many years to come.

I should tell you a bit about myself. I served in Peace Corps Malawi in 1982-1984 as a teacher at St. Patrick's Secondary School, near Limbe, teaching Science and French. I work currently as an attorney at Intel, the computer company. I lead our worldwide business legal team. I am married to Amy Swingen, and we have three great kids, Olivia (23), Alex (19) and Christian (16).

I promised the Board in the fall that my management style would be people first, strategy second, execution third. I am spending time in the early part of my tenure talking to my fellow Board members, understanding what they care about, what they think we do well, and what we can improve. I am lucky to have a great team of people to work with on the Board. They include Mike Buckler (Grants), Eugene Caruso (Secretary), Lance Cole (Treasurer), Ellen Collisson (Grants), Beth Evans (Newsletter), Charlie Fiske (Fundraising), Kristen George (Membership), Varsha Ghosh (Grants Chair), and Kirk Longstein (Grants).

Our next step is to determine where we want to take Friends Of Malawi over the next several years. We are not without our challenges. We have managed to fund a number of worthwhile projects in our small grants program, thanks to the contributions from our members. But, as an all-volunteer board, we have limited time, and we are finding the number of applicants outstripping our ability to maintain the level of quality and control that we believe is required. Our first order of business has to be to ensure that we optimize that program to achieve the right goals, within the constraints of our time and abilities.

We are considering a number of other ways to better meet the mission of Friends Of Malawi. It is too early for me to say what we may take on or change, but watch this space for our next steps. If you have thoughts on this topic, or any topic for that matter, please do reach out to me or any of the Board members. I can best be reached at leblough@comcast.net.

Tsalani bwino,

Lynn

HISTORIC REUNION AFTER 17 YEARS

By Jade Wu (1995-1997)

When I completed Peace Corps Malawi in 1997 as a education Volunteer, I never imagined that almost 20 years later I would have the chance to see two of my former students again. This past July, I flew to Indianapolis to attend the wedding of Shadreck Kamwendo, a former student from Lunzu Secondary School. After the wedding, in the huge reception hall I heard “Teacher! Teacher! Do you remember me?” It was Davie Kamwendo, another former Malawian student.

Arriving at the wedding, mingling with his family and friends and meeting his bride, I realized Shadreck was no longer the skinny teenager I first met in 1995, one whose thoughts about America were only hopes and dreams. Instead he had transformed into a successful professional as program director of the National Kidney foundation in Indiana.

Yet his first years in America had not been easy. Leaving his parents behind, he immigrated to the U.S. in the late 90s. While struggling to adapt to a new culture, he worked in various jobs. Holding several student leadership positions at Indiana University, he eventually achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Management.

Davie Kamwendo (not related to Shadreck) revealed a similar story of struggle. He also immigrated to the U.S. after finishing secondary school. Joining his brother who was already here, Davie worked different jobs to survive. He now balances his time between work and family life. When we spoke at the reception, he still had his distinctive laugh, one I had heard many times at Lunzu Secondary.

Talking to the wedding guests and watching Shadreck and Davie mix with the crowd, I was struck by how easily and comfortably they fit in with mainstream American life now. Shadreck is an enthusiast of Notre Dame Football while Davie loves U.S. soccer.

Then I suddenly realized that, inadvertently, both of them also were helping to further Peace Corps’ goals: promoting a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. Normally meant for Volunteers to pursue, both Shadreck and Davie have contributed to these goals by sharing their understanding of Americans with family and friends back in Malawi. At the same time, they relate aspects of their Malawian heritage with Americans here.

I saw the latter happening at the wedding. Many of the guests were Shadreck’s friends from church and work. Most of them were Caucasians who had never been to Malawi—or any where in Africa. But as Malawian music was played, traditional attire was worn and ethnic dances were danced, the audience caught glimpses of the culture and how Malawians celebrated a wedding.

This is the magic of Peace Corps. Its domino effect continues for years, linking the past to the present. As Volunteers, we set out to teach, learn, share and help to make life better for other people, making our own lives richer in return. It is not every day that a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer has the opportunity to reunite with former students from two decades ago and to witness their successes. My life certainly was made richer by my students in Peace Corps and I am happy to say that this richness continues to this day.

Jade Wu is an author, lawyer and keynote speaker. After Peace Corps she worked on the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. She has balanced her legal career with humanitarian and peace-building projects in several countries. Her foreign policy articles have appeared in a variety of newspapers and journals.



Shadrek

Jade

Davie

TWO IMPORTANT ARCHIVES

By Linda Millette '62-'64

The OFFICIAL FRIENDS OF MALAWI INSTITUTIONAL ARCHIVE resides in the African Library (one of the largest in the country) of Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. It contains minutes, financial and other reports, by-laws and copies of all newsletters from inception in 1978 to present. FOM Newsletters continue to be sent there. This archives was sought out in 2010 by an alumna of MSU, Linda Millette, at the suggestion of staff at NPCA. Linda was wishing to relinquish her files from 1987 to 11/1998, plus newsletters through 2010. As a 501.C3 — which could be audited — it is required that minutes and financial reports and ledgers be maintained.

When FOM moved from being centralized in Washington D.C. and the Board and committee members were in all parts of the country, it seemed only logical to find an archive that would house and receive and retrieve—as necessary—any information from the years gone by and years to come. This university was chosen because it has a strong educational connection to Africa, with a “strategic partnership” with Malawi. It was felt that the newsletters and reports on projects could greatly serve such a population. We are most grateful to MSU.

THE PEACECORPS COMMUNITY ARCHIVE, collected by the American University Library in Washington D.C., was begun in 2013. “It collects, preserves, and makes available materials that were created and acquired by Peace Corps Volunteers. [It] is used to support student and scholarly research, create exhibits, and provide educational and public programs that document experiences...of individuals who served in the Peace Corps.” Donations sought and accepted are: correspondence, diaries, film, photographs, reports, lesson plans, scrapbooks, and sound recordings. This is one way to ensure that your personal legacy of Peace Corps service will not be forgotten, i.e., helping your service to continue to have a positive impact on generations to come.

For full information and how to donate, go to their web-site at:

<https://blogs.library.american.edu/pcca/donate>. Donate and become part of the bigger legacy!



CLEAN WATER

Returned Peace Corps volunteer and FOM Board member, Mike Buckler, founded social enterprise *Village X* to facilitate fund raising for grass roots projects. The first project to receive 100% funding is a borehole installation in Mlenga Village, Zomba, Malawi.

After losing a child to cholera, Mlenga residents were determined to bring clean water to the community. They raised money, *Village X* users raised \$2400, and the LA-based non-profit Water Charity has provided the remaining funds necessary to install a new well and pump.

SMALL WORLD

By Rowland Bennett '62-'64

I went to Washington in September 2012, to advocate for Peace Corps funding. Walking the Halls of Congress and putting our case to the bright, sincere policy aides in offices of my Representatives is both worthwhile and educational.

By 4:30 PM the effort was pretty much over, and I was walking on Independence Avenue. I passed by Longworth House Office Building and observed Speaker Boehner come forth, surrounded by a half-dozen Secret Service toughies, and get into his black armored SUV.

At the corner a man about my age stopped to look at my name tag. "You were in Malawi?" he asked. "Yes, I was there —Peace Corps— in 1963 and '64," I said. His next question: "Did you know Dr. Blignaut at Mkhoma Hospital?" I said I was at a different mission station of the Dutch Reformed Church, teaching at the secondary school at Kongwe, near Dowa boma, and yes, I had been to Mkhoma two or three times.

Chris Blignaut, an MD trained in South Africa and London, was Mkhoma Hospital's career missionary physician, as his father had been. On my first visit Dr. Blignaut let me observe him perform an operation in the O. R.—or "theatre" in British English. Breathing deeply to resist a powerful urge to faint, I watched the surgery with fascination. On another visit to Mkhoma, I met an American medical student who also was visiting the hospital. Dr. Blignaut offered him the chance to do a simple surgery unsupervised. I watched that operation as well.

I recited my recollection to this chance stranger there on the corner between the Capitol's House wing and the Rayburn House Office Building, and told how I'd watched the med student remove a non-malignant tumor from a local

man's back. As the med student cut in to excise the tumor, he explained that he would not be allowed to do such a procedure in the United States until he had completed his degree and was licensed to practice medicine.

Suddenly it dawned on both of us: "That was me!" he said. "You are the **only** person in the world to know this!"

RECENT HEADLINES/NEWS

* In the month of January, Malawi and Mozambique were hit with devastating floods and incessant rain. At least 175 people lost their lives, many are missing and over 230,000 were forced from their homes. Mangochi area was very hard hit. Homes, crops and roads were destroyed and railways were cut off. One third of the country was declared a disaster zone by President Peter Mutharika.

*Malawi Conducts Door to Door HIV Testing

*Water Crisis Raises Fears of Waterborne Diseases in Malawi

*Malawi President Under Fire for Giving Money to Journalists

*Economists Predict Bumpy Road for Malawi's Economy in 2015

*Farmers Pass On 26 Heifer Cows in Mchinji

*Peaceful Demonstrations were held to protest the National Aids Commission of misdirecting funds to other organizations while antiretroviral drugs are scarce.

*Mosquito Nets for Malaria Spawn New Epidemic: Overfishing

*The Global Fund pledged \$574m for Malawi to fight malaria, Tb, AIDS and HIV

*6000 Science Teachers Needed for Community Day Secondary Schools

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ZIKOMO, THANKS, YEWO!

Friends Of Malawi wishes to thank friends and donors for their support. Funds go to support the small grants program, the website and the Friends Of Malawi Newsletter. To donate and be on the mailing list, contact FOM Treasurer: **Lance Cole 7940 SW 11th Ave, Portland OR 97219.**

Donate on-line at
www.FriendsOfMalawi.org

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