In Malawi, seven million children are living in extreme poverty. They are struggling to find the food, education, and healthcare they deserve. Their futures are in jeopardy.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING THIS.**

**YAMBA MALAWI BUILDS NEW BEGINNINGS FOR CHILDREN, AND LASTING CHANGE FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

Through our efforts in 2017, our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program has addressed the multifaceted and interconnected nature of childhood vulnerability in Malawi. With community-led programs centered on childhood wellbeing, sustainable businesses, and financial management, we have partnered with the most vulnerable communities to empower them to break the cycle of poverty and invest in their children’s futures.
Dear Friends,

It’s with great excitement and sincere gratitude that I write to you about the impact our programs have had on children in Malawi over the past year.

What started as the distribution of excess goods over ten years ago has turned into sustainable, holistic solutions that empower communities in Malawi to help themselves. In this year alone, our programs have provided nutritious food, education services, healthcare, and sustainable businesses to over 100,000 children and their communities. Our collective impact has been transformative and none of this could have been possible without you.

In 2017, our organization embarked on a new stage of growth—one filled with new beginnings and unbelievable potential. We unveiled a new name—Yamba Malawi—and shared a refined strategy for expanding our holistic services to reach more children. In Malawi, yamba means begin, and this has been integral to the expansion of our programs—building new beginnings for Malawi’s children, and lasting change for their communities. Now, our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program addresses the root causes of childhood vulnerability by focusing on childhood wellbeing, sustainable businesses, and financial management as a means of breaking the cycle of poverty.

The year was not without challenges, and we were quickly reminded of why we have committed to helping Malawi’s most vulnerable. From January until June, Malawi suffered a severe drought that left millions at risk of starvation. We are grateful for our amazing communities, our team on the ground, and the support of dedicated donors who enabled us to provide 15,000 children life-saving meals during the most dire months. It is through challenges like these that we are reminded of the tough road ahead, but more importantly, reminded of the generosity of our Yamba Malawi family and our collective commitment to building a future where children are not faced with such threats to their survival.

Despite intense country-wide challenges, we were encouraged by incredible programmatic growth and impact in 2017. We launched the Chiseka Farming Project, a pilot for our new program model and our first agribusiness, and selected 150 households to become soybean and groundnut farmers who also receive services on childhood wellbeing and financial management. We celebrated numerous honey harvests at the Chiseka Beekeeping Project, planted 32,000 trees, and welcomed 10 new households into the Project with the launch of a new apiary. Utilizing at-risk youth as marketing entrepreneurs, our poultry farms reached new levels of profitability, and our communities provided more children with food, school supplies, and care than ever before.

Finally, in the fall, we welcomed Peter Twyman as our new Executive Director. Peter comes to Yamba Malawi with over twenty-five years of experience in directing social impact programs across the U.S. and Africa and brings extensive expertise as we embark on our ambitious plan for growth and expansion.

There are many new things to celebrate from 2017, but our commitment to Malawi’s children has always remained the same—new beginnings for children, and lasting change for their communities. With support from friends like you, we are creating a world where strong, resilient communities are empowered to care for the next generation.

Zikomo kwambiri—a warm Malawian thank you—for making all of this possible.
Yamba Malawi uplifts vulnerable children by building businesses and by enabling investment in children’s care. We envision a world where strong, resilient communities build brighter futures for children.
IN 2017, OUR COMMUNITY-FOCUSED CHILDHOODS & LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM TOUCHED THE LIVES OF OVER 100,000 CHILDREN.

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

- An additional 160 households and 1 community enrolled in the program
- 32,000 trees planted
- 15,000 emergency relief meals served
- 2,438 children receiving psycho-social support services
- 23,544 children enrolled in feeding programs
- 76,000 children receiving school support
- 220 acres of drought-resistant crops planted
Our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program empowers children and their communities to move out of extreme poverty into livelihoods that help them improve food security, health, education, the environment, and the local economy.

**Childhood Wellbeing**
Builds supportive environments so children can thrive. Provides coaching to caregivers and links to services around nutrition, education, health, protection, and environment.

**Sustainable Business**
Generates ongoing profits to be spent on children. Empowers caregivers with assets and technical training, so they can launch poultry, farming, and beekeeping businesses.

**Financial Management**
Stabilizes finances and plans for immediate and long-term needs. Maximizes the impact of profits through coaching and links to services such as budgeting, savings and loans, and investment.

Through these efforts, Yamba Malawi touches the lives of over 100,000 children each year.
EMPOWERING HOUSEHOLDS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

MEET THE HADWELLS

Living in rural Chiseka District, where poverty is widespread, there is no electricity, and clean water is often a long walk away, Zimba and Judith Hadwell often struggled to care for their four children—three of whom are adopted orphans. With just a small piece of land to grow food, it was often difficult for them to meet their family’s most basic needs. “We had no food last year. All year, there were issues,” they explain. “We were receiving food from the community and our neighbors, but they eventually ran out, too.”

Fortunately, their community saw the Hadwells’ challenges and recommended them for Yamba Malawi’s Childhoods & Livelihoods Program. Now, they are participating in holistic services that give their children the foundation they need to build a brighter future. “There is great hope,” Judith said, “We need to change our children’s lives.” In the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program, children are linked to services like feeding programs, educational programs, and healthcare, while Judith and Zimba are simultaneously receiving the assets and training they need to launch their own soybean and peanut farm. This new business will provide critical income for their family, and coaching around financial management will ensure they can use profits from their harvest to improve their children’s lives.

The Hadwells are excited about the change the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program will bring. “We will be able to take care of all our children,” Judith says, “and the orphans will not feel different from the other children.” They will be able to make improvements to their home, which will make their children healthier, they will have more food to eat, and they will finally be able to save for future expenses their family may face.

“It is through this,” the Hadwells say, “We will finally live out our dreams.”
EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

MEET CHICONDI

Chicondi is a student in his final year of high school in T.A. Kalolo.

Having lost both of his parents, Chicondi now lives with his grand-aunt, who needs constant care. "I have to do a lot. I am responsible for the house. I take care of my aunt, cook, clean, and provide for the house," he describes. "This is hard when I am trying to focus on studying. My main challenge has been balancing my education with providing care and supporting the family. Studying is very difficult, because working takes so much of my time. My entire weekend is devoted to work, and my entire week is devoted to school."

Facing so many challenges, Chicondi’s community knew he was at risk for leaving school to work full time. To ensure he continued the progress he made with his education, and as part of the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program at Nyanja Community Based Organization, Chicondi was chosen to receive a scholarship that pays for his school fees and partial household support.

This news was life-changing for Chicondi: "They told me at my youth club that I would be considered for a scholarship. I ran straight to the School Director and asked if it was true, if this could be possible. I was so happy! Since I was an orphan, I had little hope of graduating. But my whole heart wanted to be educated."

Now, Chicondi is committed to studying geography, so he can graduate and pursue a good job. "I am making sure I can do everything I need to do in order to succeed," he says, so he can "know everything about the world!"
A COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER TO GIVE CARE

MEET MAUREEN

Maureen is an eleven-year-old girl who lives with her brothers, Patrick and Zindikilani, since their parents passed away a few years ago.

To provide for the family, her oldest brother dropped out of school to tend to their small garden and search for side jobs that would help them get by. Despite their efforts, the family rarely had enough food to eat, often fell ill, and lacked the emotional support they needed after the loss of their parents. “We really struggled to find clothes,” Maureen describes. “We didn’t have uniforms. They sent us back from school because we didn’t have what we need.” Day after day, Maureen was growing up faster than she should.

With help from our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program, the community came together to get Maureen and her brothers the support they need. “There were no family members for them to go to, so we decided to help them establish a home,” Christina, a local leader, describes. Now, using profits from the local poultry farm, the community is ensuring Maureen and her brothers have access to critical medical attention, healthy food, and the necessary house repairs that benefit the entire family.

Back in school, back to dancing, and back to playing games with her friends, Maureen no longer needs to focus on where her next meal will come from—she can focus on just being a kid.
IN 2017, 90% OF EVERY DOLLAR WENT DIRECTLY TO OUR PROGRAMS IN MALAWI.

FINANCIALS

We are committed to ensuring each dollar donated is best utilized to better children’s lives, and to sharing our progress with the utmost transparency and accountability.

Yamba Malawi is a Guidestar and Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity.
OUR LEADERSHIP

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A warm Malawian thank you to all those who helped us reach more children this year.

From running races to donating birthdays, joining us at Gala for Good or bringing the kids to our family event, we are inspired by our supporters’ efforts to build new beginnings for children, and lasting change for their communities. None of it would be possible without the generous efforts of people like you.
Yamba Malawi is an organization I believe in, is effective, and reaches those that are most in need – in short, it is an organization I can truly trust. When I make my gift each month, I know it is going to the right place.

MICHAEL
MONTHLY DONOR

Living in New York City, my children have all of their needs met, all the time. It is so important that they realize how blessed they are, and that they understand that they have a responsibility to share their blessings with others. We have chosen to ask for donations instead of birthday gifts for the last several years, and my children have had the wonderful opportunity to learn about children in Malawi, what their life is like, and understand how we can learn from each other.

DINA, CHARLIE + JOEY
BIRTHDAY CROWDFUNDERS
I joined the Young Professionals Committee because I enjoy being part of a community dedicated to giving back and improving lives. Being part of this group allows me to focus on something bigger than myself, and to meet others who are similarly-minded. Plus it’s fun!

CLARE
YPC MEMBER + HALF MARATHONER

As Honorees at Gala for Good, we are thrilled to celebrate the impact Yamba Malawi is having on children. After seeing the programs first hand, we realized Yamba Malawi is successful because it nurtures and invests in people. They do so much more than build businesses or feed one child—they build futures and opportunities and promise. I truly feel like I have gained more from Yamba Malawi than I have given.

ANDREA + ADAM
GALA FOR GOOD HONOREES
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