

What's new at D2D?



Determined to Develop
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We are a grassroots, nonprofit organization with the mission to empower, through education, the people of Malawi to become agents of development for their families, communities, country, and world. We are based in the rural community of Chilumba in the Karonga District of northern Malawi and work side-by-side with members of the local community to implement sustainable solutions that promote human advancement.

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DETERMINED



DETERMINED TO DEVELOP
April 2019 Newsletter

Executive Director **MATT MAROON**

Greetings from Northern Malawi!

The close of 2018 and start of a new year bring many updates that we are excited to share with you! It is because of your ongoing support that we are able to continue facilitating community-driven change through youth education. This newsletter details some of the tangible results your generosity has supported within our organization and in the lives of students.

Our School Tuition Sponsorship and Residential Youth Programs continue to see extremely positive results. From the youngest primary school members to upcoming university graduates, the students continue to inspire us with their hard work and achievements. You can read about some of these achievements in the following pages of this newsletter.

This year we have worked to place more focus on girls' empowerment and the promotion of girls' education. In this newsletter you can read about our newest initiative, a girls' chicken raising business. Uplifting girls remains a top priority, making the launch of this program especially important, and we are excited to see the project take shape in the months to come.

We are continually thankful for your giving spirit, without which, none of these developments would be possible. We thank you sincerely and look forward to continuing to create sustainable changes together.

Matt Maroon
Executive Director

Thank You, Donors!

It is because of your generosity that these many stories of resilience and success are made possible. Through your support, the students we sponsor are making real and lasting changes in their communities and country. Being an organization supported by individual donors is special, as it means we know you are invested in our mission and have a personal connection to the impact we are making. The accomplishments that your generosity has facilitated propel us forward and we look forward to continuing to enact community-led and sustainable development together. We thank you for your continued support in allowing students to realize their full potential through education, the gift that keeps on giving!

2019
D2D
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Kelsey Nauta
Hope Kondowe
Owen Mcheka
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EDUCATION - NURSERY SCHOOL SUPPORT



Sponsored Student to Graduate Soon

Alinafe is a sponsored student who will graduate from Malawi Adventist University this year with a degree in Business Administration. She is an outgoing and ambitious young woman who is achieving her goals. Alinafe was selected for sponsorship when beginning her first year of secondary school (high school). Alinafe chose to study Business Administration after being inspired by a degree-holding woman working at the National Bank of Malawi and because she wanted to learn more about how to improve Malawi's economy. During her university holidays, Alinafe interns in our accounting office on the Maji Zuwa campus. She appreciates the work experience and exposure to people of different cultural backgrounds that the opportunity has provided. After graduating, Alinafe hopes to return to school for a Master's in Banking and Finance. She offers words of encouragement to fellow young women, saying, "You should not underrate yourself. You can do anything that a man can do. If you want to achieve something in your life, you need to work hard and not rely on others to do it for you."

New Girls Income Generating Activity

The newest initiative within our Girls' Empowerment Program is a chicken-rearing income generating activity (IGA). As with all our Girls' Empowerment initiatives, the goal is to encourage girls to complete their education, specifically by giving them the tools for financial literacy and independence. The IGA will be managed by secondary (high school) Girls Club members on a voluntary basis. To prepare them for all facets of business-management, participants have undergone comprehensive training in chicken care, financial management, and marketing led by our staff, interns, and community members. After completing the training, elections were held to select members of the chair committee, who will take on leadership roles within the business. The girls IGA will model that of the women's business groups, which we helped commission in 2016 and have since been turned over to their members. Just as these groups became fully independent businesses last year, we look forward to the members of this group eventually taking complete ownership of their business.



Life Skills Education and Tutoring Sessions for Sponsored Youth

Saturdays are the busiest days of the week here at D2D, as our campus is abuzz with sponsored youth reporting for weekly programs. Spending Saturday mornings on our campus provides youth with a productive out-of-school environment. In our effort to bolster the educational components in each of our programming areas, we have revised our Saturday schedule. The new format aims to strengthen youths' hard and soft skills, ultimately improving their overall academic performance. Academic sessions are facilitated by sponsored high school graduates waiting to begin their tertiary studies. Topics include English language and literature, mathematics, and sciences, which are taught in conjunction with youths' school curriculum. In addition to Girls Club, we now facilitate all-male life skills lessons. Gender-specific groups give youth the opportunity to learn about valuable life skills in a safe and low-pressure environment. Topics include leadership, gender stereotypes, and HIV/AIDS education. Saturday lessons have been well-received by youth, who appreciate the supplementary educational support. We look forward to continuing the positive momentum in the coming months!

Hard Work and High Marks from Primary Students

As we received report forms from the previous school term, particularly noteworthy were the scores of some of the youngest members of our Residential Youth Program. Innocent is in his third year of primary school. Since entering the Residential Youth home, Innocent has attended after-school tutoring sessions and we have seen his scores improve dramatically. On his last report form, he earned all 'excellent' and 'good' marks, placing position three in his class. Mphatso is a primary school fifth year. After being selected for the Residential Youth Program, Mphatso also began attending tutoring. He is a hardworking student, and his determination earned him the position eight spot in his class last term. Innocent and Mphatso's favorite subjects are English, mathematics, and Bible knowledge. They enjoy going to school because they want to "improve their English and learn many different things." In their free time, they enjoy playing football, riding bicycles, and reading.



Reforestation Initiatives

Deforestation is a persistent problem in Malawi, with wood being used for everyday purposes like cooking and building. The residents of Sangilo village, many of whom are subsistence farmers, are particularly affected by this issue. Subsequently, reforestation is one of our ongoing efforts. Our most recent reforestation initiative began last August, when tree seeds of local varieties, including moringa, calcia, mtangatanga, and mango, were planted in our greenhouse. The sponsored youth were the primary project caretakers, taking part in seed collection, planting, and watering. Involving youth in the reforestation process equips them with the skills to continue efforts on their own and gives them agency in bringing positive change to their communities. When the seedlings were mature enough, they were distributed to the sponsored youth to be planted in their home communities. The rest were donated to the local Sangilo Primary School. In total, over 1,000 seedlings were planted around the Chilumba catchment area.

D2D Success Story - Frackson Mhango

Frackson grew up in Chilumba. He excelled in school and, in Form 3 (11th grade), was elected Deputy Head Boy of his school. One of the honors of this position is speaking at the school's graduation ceremony. This is where he met Matt Maroon, that year's guest of honor. Matt was so impressed by Frackson's speech that he invited him to D2D to discuss his future. Thereafter, Frackson was selected as a sponsored student. Frackson received very good secondary school exams scores and was accepted to the University of Livingstonia, where, with our continued support, he studied Social Science. He graduated in 2017 with a major in Human Rights and a minor in Development Studies. Following graduation, he joined our staff as the Special Project Manager, where he was responsible for overseeing development projects in the areas of gender empowerment, education, health, and environment. In the future, he hopes to promote gender equality and youth empowerment through a career in advocacy work.



RESIDENTIAL YOUTH - GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT