

Maize

In December last year, Home of Hope reached the end of the maize stored at harvest time in May 2022. It’s a picture familiar across the whole of Malawi, and it’s why the early part of the year is known as “the hungry season”. With over 700 hundred children to feed, the store-room can’t remain empty however, so Home of Hope has to buy maize until the following harvest. As Malawi Orphan Fund it’s been our desire for many years to help Home of Hope have enough maize year on year to not “run out”. This year there is an opportunity to buy maize at a subsidised price from the Ministry of Agriculture, and our plan together with Home of Hope is to buy and store enough maize over the next few months not only to provide for immediate needs, but to ensure that the “cupboard isn’t empty” in January 2024. If you’d like to support this effort, please do get in touch.



School buildings

Children growing up at Home of Hope have their hopes and expectations for life deeply influenced by the environment there. Several years ago, Linda shared with us her vision that “Home of Hope should be a beautiful place for the children.” Since then we’ve certainly seen more and more investment in the “look” of the place, from planting trees and other vegetation to the amazing murals now decorating many buildings. The school classrooms, however, have fallen behind. Almost all have holes in their floors and walls; windows are in poor repair; black boards “eat chalk” according to teaching staff, they are so rough! A team visiting Home of Hope from UK and Poland in August this year are fundraising to support substantial repairs, starting with the Jane Graves Primary School buildings, and extending in to others as funds permit.



UNLOCKing UNiversity for graduates of Home of Hope.

Surely one of Home of Hope's crowning achievements as a school for some of the world's most vulnerable children is to see some of them win places at university. It's a huge achievement for each one - competing academically with students from more privileged backgrounds homes and better-resourced schools for those precious few places with government tuition loans. There have been a number of fundraising efforts this year to ensure no young person is prevented from taking up those places due to a lack of funds for equipment, food and accommodation or other costs. ‘UNlock Uni’ has been made "Charity of the Month" at Bedford Quakers and a fundraising lunch and concert was arranged by Alex (again at Bedford Quakers) in December, together raising over £1,400 towards the needs of uni students from Home of Hope. Find out more at www.unlockuni.org



Thank you, Ruth!

On behalf of all our supporters we want to say a huge Thank You to Ruth Janes for serving as Acting Chair since 2021. Not only did she steer us through the difficult days of COVID 19, but all through this time she continued as our Treasurer. Ruth is staying in that role, and another of our trustees, Alex Mnatzaganian, is now Chair.

Join Us In Prayer

“Prayer is the foundation of our ministry at Home Of Hope and the core of the organisation. God hears our prayers” - the words of Lucy, the Chief Executive at Home of Hope. Our prayer letter is one example of Malawi Orphan Fund’s partnership with Home of Hope, encouraging our supporters to pray faithfully for the community at the Home. Distributed once every few months, the prayer letter is available on request. If you would like to receive a copy of the MOF prayer letter, please email kathryn@malawiorphanfund.uk or write to Malawi Orphan Fund at the registered address below.



Cholera in Malawi

There has been a severe outbreak of Cholera throughout Malawi. The worst hit areas are Lilongwe and Blantyre. We are pleased to report that there have been less than 10 cases in Mchinji where Home of Hope is located.

Meet Ruth, MOF Trustee & Treasurer

I have a long connection with the Malawi Orphan Fund, as my children visited the Home of Hope as teenagers in the 2010s. My first visit to the Home of Hope in 2018 was truly transformative, and the following year I joined MOF as a Trustee and Hon Treasurer. Seeing the incredible impact the Home has on the lives of so many children inspired me to take action and set up EmeraldStitcher - a business that blends my Belfast roots on the Emerald Isle, with my love of sewing.

One of my passions is ensuring that women have the same opportunities as men, particularly when it comes to equipping them with lifelong skills and education. I felt God's calling to use my talents to empower young women from the Home of Hope in Malawi through providing bursaries for university education or business start-up grants for those who have studied vocational courses.

In September 2022, I had the privilege of visiting the Home of Hope again and met up with Faith, a second-year Optometry student, and Carla, who studied Tailoring. Thanks to EmeraldStitcher, I was able to provide funding for a sewing machine, fabric, and thread for Carla's tailoring business, whilst continuing to support the Home with funds to help their university students. I know that together, we can make a real impact in the lives of these young women and help them reach their full potential.

During the COVID lockdowns, I took my handcrafted items to the next level by opening an Etsy shop as well as selling at various Church based groups and craft fairs in Bedford and nearby. You can see my items in my Etsy shop, www.EmeraldStitcher.etsy.com, and find me on social media @EmeraldStitcher.



Marathon for Malawi

Surely inspired by the success of our '10 Miles for Malawi' fundraiser in 2021, one of our trustees, Zannah, will be running the Paris Marathon in April and will be fundraising for HOH. If you'd like to support, her GoFundMe is here: <https://www.gofundme.com/manage/zannahs-running-the-paris-marathon>

Receiving this as a new supporter?
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<https://malawiorphanfund.uk/>