

Thank you to each of you wonderful supporters of the work at Home of Hope, for taking time to read this. We hope you'll join us in

**Celebrating 20 years working with Home of Hope**

**PAST**

From Jane Crawford, former Trustee of MOF

I look back on my time with MOF with great fondness and I feel that it was a great privilege to have been involved with the charity in the early days. During the time that I was on the committee, we were actively exploring what could be done at our end of things and what was needed at HOH. We were very dependent on Martin and Rosemary Lowden who had recently returned to the UK after years of working in Malawi. They were invaluable with their guidance and advice. However, communication with HOH was not so easy or as frequent as it is today! I remember the committee meeting where I was heavily “encouraged” to think about taking a group of youngsters out to the Home, which was a very daunting thought at the time, but in August 2007 and 2008 a group of us did go, with multiple suitcases brimming over with basic supplies of first aid and clothes for the children. There was no guest house at this point, so the dozen young people slept on the floor of the clinic and I was gifted a very old camp bed! These two visits were a tremendous experience for us all and the teenagers were wonderfully involved with everything from practical assistance for the house mothers and the primary school children, to keeping the clinic very clean and tidy. My husband and I returned in April 2010 and I was asked to help with the English teaching in the Senior school: I will never forget the lessons where I was asked to teach Romeo and Juliet to a class of very attentive but rather bemused Malawian teenagers! There were 40 in the class and I was the only one with a copy of the play! Other things worthy of note are the first 2 containers we sent to HOH: we were put in contact with a charity in Corby who had a warehouse full of old school furniture, rescued from schools who would otherwise have sent it all to landfill. As I watched everything being loaded into the huge container, I was aware that there was still an impressive amount of old chewing gum on the undersides of all the tables. I don't think that chewing gum was mentioned on the request but we sent an awful lot of it that day! It seems a long time ago now but it's so good that MOF is still offering such invaluable help, support and friendship to all at HOH.





## **PRESENT**

### **Stellar example of Malawi & UK partnership**

Project: Home of Hope Clinic

The Home of Hope (HoH) medical clinic is a vital facility, providing medical assistance to students, staff, and surrounding villagers in Malawi. Last year, the Malawi Poisons Board reviewed the clinic's operations after a visit, which highlighted several crucial needs: the construction of a medical waste incinerator to optimize the burning of medical waste at high temperatures (previously burned in an open pit), air conditioning for the room used to store medicines, and a fire extinguisher for overall safety. To address these issues, MOF/HoH established a working group. This team included Linda (Executive Director), Dolly (Clinic lead nurse), Thompson (Senior Management), Alex (Chair MOF), & Phil (MOF & HoH Enterprises). They held regular WhatsApp meetings to discuss and agree on actions. Local facilities were inspected to gain understanding, approached builders and suppliers, and meticulously reviewed quotations. They also contacted SheffMed, a long-standing UK-based medical supplies company and supporter of HoH, to explore potential solutions. SheffMed generously agreed to provide a donation covering the costs of the essential works. This fantastic news led to celebrations in both Malawi and the UK! Immediately, actions were put into motion. Materials were ordered, paid for, and delivered to HoH, and builders began construction diligently and quickly. This clinic project beautifully exemplifies our collaborative journey with HoH, showcasing openness, communication, partnership, love, care, skill, and talent. It demonstrates our ability to discuss significant challenges positively and achieve wonderful outcomes.



## Fundraising

Thank you to those who donate regularly through Child and Apprentice Sponsorship. We'd like to congratulate Dan and Ben on running the Milton Keynes marathon. They raised over £3,550 which will be used to make a huge difference to the HoH's Vocational Training Centre.

On 10th May nearly 100 people of all ages came together for MOF's 20th Celebration, an evening of food, shared memories, updates, and dancing! As well as sharing some of the stories from Home of Hope, this event raised £1,300, which was sent to buy beans, before prices increase further.

We're always encouraged to hear if you have any ideas for raising awareness of the work of Home of Hope. If you are a UK taxpayer, don't forget to claim Gift Aid.



# **FUTURE**

## **Trustee Visit**

There is a trustee visit planned for August, during which we hope to strengthen the relationship with staff and do crafts and games with the children who stay all year at Home of Hope. This visit is not funded by MOF, and indeed we are pleased to be able to say that this year again there are zero costs incurred by MOF, except for bank charges in transferring funds and less than 1% of income which has been spent to prepare for fundraising events (recouped by the events). You can now meet the trustees via our website, under Contact us. There is space for many more to be added. If you would like to join us as a Trustee or Volunteer please contact us.



### **Visit Home of Hope in 2026?**

What are your plans for August 2026?

A team of volunteers is forming, and there's a space for you!

We'll meet monthly in person/online to get to know each other and prepare, and we'll fund-raise together for the projects we'll undertake during our two week visit to Home of Hope.

To find out more, email [alex@malawiorphanfund.uk](mailto:alex@malawiorphanfund.uk).

## **Good News**

Recently, due mainly to the Malawian Government providing medication for HIV, there are fewer maternal and paternal deaths in Malawi. This means there are fewer orphaned children. Nevertheless, for Home of Hope the huge need to feed, nurture and educate some of the most vulnerable children in Malawi remains, and as a charity we want to continue to work in partnership with the dedicated staff. We are beginning to think of a “re-brand” to better reflect this current reality. Watch this space!