

## Newsletter

December 2015

### Trustees Visit to Home of Hope

A resolution was taken at a trustees meeting last year to send a maximum of three trustees out each year to the Home of Hope. It was felt this would improve and grow relations with the management, staff, and children, which will enable us to keep you, our supporters up to date with developments and information from the home. It also opened up an opportunity to take some items out with us, which the Home of Hope was in desperate need of. For more information on this please visit our website: [malawiorphanfund.uk](http://malawiorphanfund.uk).

This edition will primarily focus on the achievements from the visit by Chair; Alex Mnatzaganian, Trustee and Webmaster; Matthew Priddin and Publications Officer and Trustee; Jane Lambert.



### Internet

One major hurdle, which we have been trying to negotiate, has been a working internet connection at Home of Hope. Matthew researched this before we flew to Malawi, and was able to establish a working internet connection. This will enable much faster and cheaper communication with the Home of Hope through email, and so we will be able to gather information from Home of Hope more quickly.

In the words of Linda, a key figure in the administration of HoH, 'having this new internet connection is a bigger blessing than you know'. The Trustees left the Home with sufficient funds for 3 months of internet use; funding data will then become one of their expenses.



### The Schools

Whilst at the Home of Hope we spent an afternoon visiting both the primary and secondary school. As reported last year, the schools are now both government schools, which means all teachers are trained to the highest standard and that the curriculum being taught is up to date and to government standards.

All the children are extremely happy at school. A scene that is rarely seen in UK schools – an excitement to learn.



Email us at: [info@malawiorphanfund.uk](mailto:info@malawiorphanfund.uk)

Malawi Orphan Fund; Registered in England and Wales, Charity No. 1110640  
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## Sponsorship

One of the main reasons for sending Trustees out to the Home of Hope was to try and improve and grow our sponsorship programme.

Jane Lambert took on the task of the sponsoring programme and identifying all children who are currently sponsored plus 40 more who need a sponsor. There are many more children at the Home of Hope that need sponsoring, but Jane was able to acquire 40 letters, photos and reports for these children.

Sponsorship is one of the most established and needed ways that the Home of Hope is able to care for the over 650 needy orphans who live there. When you sponsor you will receive a letter, photo and in most cases a report. If the sponsored child is in Nursery or Standard 1 they won't have a report.

Please consider sponsoring a child for £20 per month. Sponsorship is a great way of supporting the Home of Hope care for the children at the home.

Below are three of many children that are looking for a sponsor:



**Bongi**

Bongi's Mother was impregnated at the age of 13 and could not afford to take care of her. She went to social welfare for help for her and Bongi.

They were accompanied by Social welfare workers to HOH and they were both accommodated while social welfare looked for a boarding school to send Bongi's mother.

Bongi's mother stayed at boarding school for one term, and ran away to prostitution. Bongi came to HOH while she was only 4 months. She is doing well and enjoying attending nursery.

**Please help us, as we try to cut down our expenses, when sending out newsletters and updates to our supporters by providing us with your email address. You can either email or write to us at our registered address. Your help is always appreciated.**



**Lydia**

She came to HOH IN 2011. Her mother is a caregiver at home of hope. Her father remarried and ran away with a new wife and their whereabouts is unknown as they worked as tenants on tobacco farms.

She comes from a very poor background.

She is happy to be at HOH and enjoys going to school in grade 6 now. She was not attending school before coming to HOH.



**Children writing letters to their sponsors**



**Crispine**

His father died. Born in 2004 (twin to Chrissy). Mother is alive but chronically ill. She is HIV Positive and lived positively for 10 years but now experiencing drug failure.

All his siblings are here at HOH since their mother can't afford to take good care of them. He is healthy and enjoys playing football with friends.

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How has your year been? I don't write a Christmas "Round Robin", but it's an interesting challenge to try to summarize a whole twelve months in a few lines.

Certainly a highlight of 2015 was to travel with fellow Malawi Orphan Fund trustees Jane Lambert and Matthew Priddin to visit Home of Hope this September (see a main article in our newsletter).



**Having fun with the children at Home of Hope on my recent visit.**

One of our objectives was to sit down with the Home's management to gain an understanding of a "typical year" there. What happens in January? What's different about February? What are the particular challenges of March? What emerged was a dynamic picture of constant activity driven by the rhythms of school terms and the agricultural cycle. It was inspiring to learn in more detail what your support achieves. Here are just a few examples:

This year in January your generosity helped to buy warm clothes for the children and extra medicines needed during the rainy season, to pay workers harvesting beans on the farm, and to provide resources for the Spring Term in the Primary and Secondary Schools.

By April you were paying for workers to bring in the maize harvest (the crucial staple on which the whole operation depends) and to transport and process it, filling the Home's store houses with hundreds of fat sacks! At the same time you provided exam fees for some of the 200 students who sat End-Of-Standard tests.

Later in the year you bought fuel for irrigation pumps so that out-of-season crops could be grown – potentially doubling or even tripling the annual yield of some fields. In October your money bought seeds and fertilizer for sowing in advance of the Rains. And in December, you will help the Home lay on its annual Christmas Party for needy local families.

Whatever else has happened in 2015, you've had a great impact at Home of Hope. We thank you, and we look forward to working together in 2016!