

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continuing support, either in regular monthly support for our Sponsorship programmes or as one off gifts. 20 years ago the first fundraising event was based on local artists, generously sharing their talents. Thanks to your support, children at Home of Hope are not only fed, clothed, loved and safe - they are learning, growing, and discovering what's possible. Because of your generosity, lives are changing in real and lasting ways, from the little ones just starting school, to young adults heading off to independence or university. We hope this update brings a smile and reminds you just how much you are part of this journey.

Unleashing Creativity, Changing Lives

20 years ago the first fundraising event was based on local artists, generously sharing their talents. There's something powerful about creativity. It builds confidence, unlocks imagination, and helps children see possibilities beyond their current world. On Bank Holiday Monday 25th May, there is another opportunity to raise funds for Home of Hope using art in Bedford. We're incredibly excited to welcome John Platt - an acclaimed New York artist and founder of @HowToDrawALion. For many years, John has travelled to the Home of Hope in Malawi, where he's become much more than a visiting artist. He's a mentor and inspiration. Some of the youth teams and mentors have had the privilege of meeting him and watching him at work. During his time at Home of Hope, John paints vibrant murals across the buildings, providing educational and uplifting images for the children, staff and visitors to enjoy. He also spends time with the children during their summer holidays, teaching them how to draw lions and African wildlife using his unique, accessible techniques. What starts as simple lines on paper quickly becomes something much bigger: confidence, pride, and joy.

Now, that same experience is being brought to Bedford. On 25th May 2026, Malawi Orphan Fund will be hosting three special events with John. We are delighted to welcome him as our special guest and creative guide. Whether you're picking up a pencil or simply enjoying a cream tea, you'll hear first-hand stories that stay with you long after the day ends. Every ticket purchased will fund essential school desks at the Home of Hope School - creating a space for children to learn, focus, and thrive.



Scan the QR code to book your place or go to www.malawiorphanfund.uk

Children's Drawing Workshop

UNLEASH YOUR INNER LION!

An Interactive Workshop with
Acclaimed New York Artist

John Platt

Founder of @howtodrawalion, John has visited the Home of Hope in Malawi for many years. During his stays, he doesn't just paint vibrant murals; he runs hands-on workshops teaching the children how to draw lions and other animals using his unique techniques. Now, he's in Bedford to share those same skills with your child!

Every ticket purchased funds essential school desks for the students at the Home of Hope School, creating a space for them to learn and thrive.

For Children 7+

Cost: £30

10.15am – 11.45am



SCAN HERE

Bank Holiday Monday 25th May
Christ Church Hall, Bedford,
MK40 3SX

For more info, contact Gillian
on 07906852867



ART, FIZZ & PHILANTHROPY

A Creative Masterclass with
International New York Artist
John Platt

Experience a unique afternoon of creativity with the visionary behind @howtodrawalion. John will share the artistic methods he uses to teach children at the Home of Hope, Malawi to draw lions and African wildlife, alongside stories of his many years spent painting murals across their buildings.

Every ticket will provide the "Gift of a Desk," empowering students in Malawi to thrive in their education

Anyone aged 16+

Cost: £50

(Includes complimentary Glass of Fizz & Cream Tea)

2pm – 5pm



SCAN HERE

Bank Holiday Monday 25th May
Christ Church Hall, Bedford,
MK40 3SX

For more info, contact Gillian
on 07906852867



STORIES OF HOPE: AFTERNOON CREAM TEA

Be inspired by Acclaimed
New York Artist **John Platt**,
founder of @howtodrawalion.

Join us for a traditional cream tea and a moving presentation. Over many years of visiting the Home of Hope, John has used art to empower and inspire. Hear about his journey painting murals and teaching the children how to draw their own "Lions of Hope," and see the impact of our long-term partnership in Malawi.

All proceeds go toward our goal of furnishing the Home of Hope School with life-changing desks.

Cost: £20

(Includes a Delicious Cream Tea)

4pm – 5pm



SCAN HERE

Bank Holiday Monday 25th May
Christ Church Hall, Bedford,
MK40 3SX

For more info, contact Gillian
on 07906852867



Your Impact in Action

Sometimes it's easy to wonder if the small things really make a difference. This is one of those moments where we can say, clearly and confidently - they do. Thanks to your support, we've seen meaningful, practical progress at the Home of Hope. A long-awaited administration block at the Vocational Training Centre is now complete and in use. This space brings structure and support to training programmes that are helping young people learn valuable skills such as carpentry, bricklaying, tailoring, and metal fabrication. Toilet facilities have also been improved. Until now, the Home of Hope has funded its own tutors. Because of these improvements, the Malawian Government has agreed to provide qualified tutors for the Vocational Training Centre and will cover their salaries. This is a big step forward in raising the standard of training and strengthening future opportunities for students. As with teaching and medical staff Home of Hope still needs to provide accommodation these tutors. In healthcare too, progress continues. At the health clinic, generous MOF donors have funded essential upgrades, including ceiling repairs, fire safety improvements, air conditioning, a medical incinerator, and secure drug storage. The Ministry of Health is now supplying medicine directly and providing pharmaceutical staff to support the clinic. This clinic serves those who live at Home of Hope and those who live nearby. There's a monthly baby clinic. Malaria can be quickly diagnosed and treatment prescribed. Vaccinations are given and many other health needs are treated by a Doctor, Pharmacist, nurse and support staff. This is what partnership looks like in action - steady, sustainable change that helps children move from care to independence.

When Challenges Hit Hard

We always want to share the good news. But real partnership also means being honest when things are difficult. On 19th March, severe flooding hit the area surrounding the Home of Hope, causing widespread damage across the site.

The impact included:

- A collapsed section of the perimeter security wall
- Roof damage to toilet blocks
- Water pipes damaged and contaminated with mud
- Staff housing in need of repair
- Urgent issues within the sewage system



Electricity was lost for three days, adding further strain. The floods came at a critical time as it is harvest season for maize - a vital food source for feeding the children at Home of Hope. The floods also damaged access roads to the farm. The damage is currently preventing vehicles from reaching the farm. With crops already affected this season, this harvest is essential for food security in the months ahead. Without urgent road repairs, there is a real risk that this food supply could be lost. This is a moment where the need is immediate and very real. Your continued support helps ensure that when challenges like this arise, the Home of Hope can respond quickly - restoring safety, protecting resources, and caring for the children at Home of Hope who rely on it.

A Future Full of Possibility

There's something incredibly hopeful about seeing young people step into their future. Because of your support, that future is becoming more tangible every day. Recent funding has provided essential science materials for secondary school exams, alongside support for printing exam papers and supplying pens for both students and teachers. In Malawi, government support covers teacher salaries, but not the everyday resources needed for learning. Simple things like paper and pens make a huge difference - enabling lessons to happen and students to sit their exams with confidence. Funding has also supported materials for Vocational Training courses, wood for carpentry, metals for metal fabrication, cement for bricklaying and fabric for tailoring - equipping students with practical skills for employment. Beyond the Home of Hope, the longer-term impact continues to grow. We are currently supporting 33 former students through university, building on several years of ongoing commitment to higher education. As more young people benefit from the education, healthcare, and nutrition provided at the Home of Hope, more are achieving the grades needed to take this next step. It's a wonderful sign of progress - and one that continues to rely on your support. From early care...to education...to independence... Together, as donors and supporters, we are helping children not just grow - but truly thrive, so once again Zikomo from at Home of Hope and thank-you from MOF.