

From infancy to independence

After a year of disruption, summer term has started at Home of Hope, including end of year exams. The exciting news is that seven pupils who won a place at University at the end of last year have finally been able to start their studies. The courses to be studied cover a wide range of subjects: Midwifery, Biomedical Sciences, Accountancy, Optometry, Dentistry, Geological Engineering and Education. A donation from supporters in the UK enabled Home of Hope to purchase each of these students a new laptop to help them with their studies, along with some help for their living costs for the first semester. Linda, one of the amazing members of Team Home of Hope, described the day the students were given the laptops: “such a day to remember at Home of Hope. The students didn’t believe this, they were very happy and couldn’t hide their smiles...this will encourage more children.”



Linda

Ongoing building improvements

Thanks to donations from building companies in the UK, solar security lights have been installed around the Home of Hope grounds and work continues, providing extra showers and toilets in the homes for younger children and their house mothers

COVID-19 in Malawi

Fortunately, numbers of cases and deaths remain low in Malawi, and the good news is that vaccinations have started. Here is a photo of Andrew, another member of the Home’s team, getting his first vaccination!

Schools in Malawi re-opened after being closed for five-weeks due to coronavirus. As a result, the academic calendar has changed, with the 2021 academic year extending until 19th November in contrast to the usual end in June. The new academic calendar sees Term One finish on the 7th May, Term Two starting on 24th May until 13th August and Term Three running from 30th August until 19th November. This will allow pupils the opportunity to continue from where their lessons stopped as the majority of children that attend Home of Hope’s schools don’t have access to computers and books to be able to study at home.

The Minister of Education has also announced that masks and soaps have been distributed to schools.



10 Miles for Malawi Update

In February we launched our “10 Miles for Malawi Challenge”, aiming to complete the distance between the UK and Home of Hope, either through walking, cycling, wild swimming or running. We are so happy that together the 40 people that took part in the UK alongside the children and staff at Home of Hope managed to finish the 6,630 miles. We also raised £4,500, which has been given straight away to Home of Hope to help with day-to-day expenses.

Home of Hope taking part!



Alex and Lewis share their experience of taking part:

“We started the 10 miles for Malawi during the February half term holiday. This was a good time to start as we were all able to walk together during the day and not have to wait until after Mum and Dad had finished work.

Our first walk was a short loop from the Marston Forest Centre. It was cold and a bit muddy but it was great to be out together. Mum was disappointed when she discovered the cafe was shut and was not even selling takeaway hot chocolate at that time.

Our aim was to complete the distance between have a number of lovely places and country parks to walk in near to where we live, and we were able to walk in different ones each time over the next few weeks as we clocked up our miles. We even rediscovered some forgotten routes that started right on our doorstep.

We like walking together as a family anyway but doing the 10 miles for Malawi motivated us to get in more walks than we might otherwise have done.

Dad was really happy too when he found out that cycling miles could also be counted towards the total! “



Harvest

The Harvest is being gathered in, with a fantastic communal effort from many students and staff at HoH. The tractor and truck provided in the last few years are making a difference. This year rains haven't washed the roads away and the drainage works completed last year have worked well. Much of the maize will be stored in the lockable container shipped over full of donations several years ago.



Protection for Education

The team at Home of Hope continues to make sanitary pads to support the teenage girls at the home. A recent donation was sent out to support buying buttons, soap, underwear (seen in the photo below!) to continue this great enterprise

