

Happy New Year from Malawi !



This New Year's Eve, hundreds of villagers at Khwamba spent the night under our solar powered lights celebrating and in prayer for a good year in 2020. The overnight celebration lasted from 6 PM until 5 AM New Year's Day, and was led by Felix and Milca.

Battery Boxes 2020



**Chief Khwamba and Felix,
MoH Center Supervisor**

Our battery box program continues to be a huge success, as villagers can carry electricity home to power an LED bulbs for 8 or more hours! There is a considerable waiting list for our life transforming boxes!

Meeting Chief Khwamba this September, we were asked to provide more battery boxes for his people. We brought the total to 20 in operation, but need to complete expansion of a second charging station, to increase the number to 36!

**Battery Box Work Sessions
will begin February
Timing TBA**



Khwamba Charging station

In 2019 we began our next battery box facility at MoH's most remote location, Selengo. The special panels and controls are in place: a few more days effort will initiate our 2nd battery box program.



**Battery Box Panels (small)
installed at Selengo**

Making School Uniforms at Khwamba

And saving girls . . .

Many public schools require uniforms, and children who can't afford them often are forced to drop out of school. That was the case of these four girls until Milca rescued them



A pattern was designed by Milca, and working with a local taylor, uniforms were sewn for the girls, for which we sent emergency funds for a cost of about 4 \$US each

The girls are Alinaphy (std 5), Efrida (std 5) , Annie (std 7) and Teleza (std 5). Milca: "They are so thankful and they promise to work hard in school."

We are happy to have made it possible for these girls to stay in school.

Perhaps, adding treadle sewing machines to our learning centers, we can begin a training program to make school uniforms, helping keep kids in school, while providing training toward a future trade.

Our Home Seamstresses made happy girls!



In 2019, our skilled seamstress volunteers, working from home, constructed 200 skirts for the young girls in our villages, which we shipped to Malawi last June. Needless to say they were thrilled to receive perhaps the only nice article of clothing they will own.

Seamstress Volunteers

Contact:

info@MalawiVisions.com

The team this year hopes to top last year's production of skirts, and will add boy's shorts as well as curtains for the library windows! Volunteer seamstresses are always in demand. Patterns provided. Can you help us? Work in a group, or at home . . .



Rescuing Steria

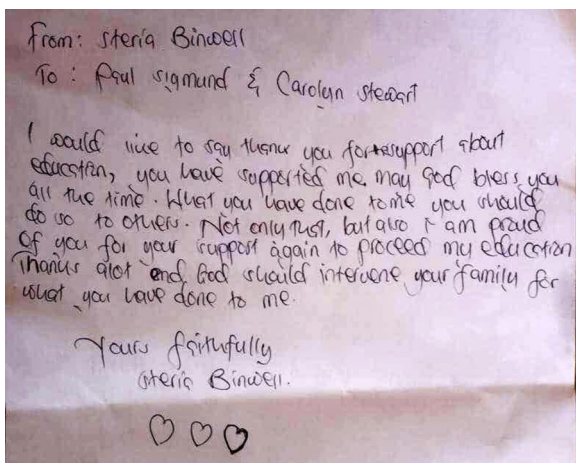
We first learned about Steria last year, a young girl who was one of the first students to sign up for the laptop training classes our supervisor Milca has been running at our Khwamba library, and how she stays long after class to help put away the computers. Milca relates "She was one of the active students in my class such that I wanted to get to know her better because sometimes she was quiet in class, and would even start crying by herself." During a one-on-one session, she opened up about her life at home. Following are excerpts from Milca's report as she counseled Steria: a story not at all uncommon in the remote villages of Malawi.

Steria Binwell is a girl of 18; born in a family of 2 children. Their mother died when Steria was 5 years old and her brother was 2. Not long after her dad contracted cerebral malaria resulting in permanent mental disorder. Without a family, Steria and her brother went to stay with their single grandmother who for 9 years cared for them. But when she suffered a minor stroke and could no longer work in her garden to support her grandchildren, again they had to move. Steria, her brother, and her ailing grandmother went to stay with her grandmother's sister who was already looking after her own children and grandchildren. Ten people in one house!

The grandmother's sister won't provide basic needs for her, and often Steria is denied food, going to bed without eating. After the stroke, Steria's grandmother became harsh and Steria was forced to support herself by finding jobs to buy basic needs for herself and her grandmother. "This situation threatens her life as a girl with no employable skills to support them", Milca says, "Our fear was that she might engage in bad behaviors to get support." "We hoped to rescue her for her zeal for school; It will be bad to lose a hardworking and well disciplined girl!"

Her brother dropped out of school to work in farms to supply food for the family.

Through these struggles Steria stayed in school. Having joined MoH when she was 5, Steria's school fees were paid through the sponsorship program, and she graduated from high school, a remarkable accomplishment considering the exceedingly difficult circumstances of her young life. In Malawi, only 10% of the children complete secondary school. Unfortunately her national exams scores did not qualify her a place at the highly competitive government universities. Recognizing her home situation, MoH thought it wise to send her to a boarding school, but life continued hard at home as she waited for an opportunity.



Milca told us "I believe the only way she can be helped is to escape the extreme poverty at home" In Steria's words, **"I have experience of life based on what I have been thru, so I desire to go further with my education so that I can change my situation and also help my grandmother"**.

Just a week ago, Daniel found the funds to enroll Steria in a boarding vocational school, and we wired funds for transport to her new school, just starting the first week in 2020. Milca informed us "She is so thankful and she wrote a note that you can share with the team the joy that you have put on Stelia's face".

Our Youngest Fundraisers



Declan and Bella, our youngest fundraisers, were busy again this summer raising money for Malawi orphan children. They ran a lemonade stand, performed chores at home, and asked their family for spare change during Christmas!



Thank you, Declan and Bella!

Last year they raised \$500, which was used to purchase a laptop computer for the Malawi Visions laptop training classes. Declan and Bella had the opportunity to meet and be thanked by Daniel Moyo when he was visiting the U.S. to participate in the New City Kids training.



Laptop Class at Khwamba

Important Date: January 28 @ 7 PM:

**Malawi Visions Meeting
Liberty Corner Presbyterian
Church
Room Multi C**

Contact Us:

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