

Malawi Visions
Newsletter
September 2025



changing lives
of orphan children
in Malawi, Africa

MALAWI Visions
AN EVENING OF
Jazz
FUNDRAISING CONCERT
The Chris DeVito Sextet

Nov 1 | 7 PM
DOUGLAS HALL
Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church

TICKETS
\$50 advance
\$60 door
Donations welcome



Jazz for our Children

*Malawi Visions is excited to announce our
5th Jazz Fundraiser to support our programs to change the
futures of 8,000 orphan children in Malawi. Read also of
our massive container shipment to equip our facilities, and
how 100 year old Singer sewing
machines are changing lives.*

Paul



2025 Malawi Visions Jazz Fundraiser

Please join us Saturday evening
November 1 for the 5th Malawi Visions
Jazz Fundraiser.



2025

Malawi Visions Jazz Fundraiser

Click once to play video



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Chris DeVito is a jazz pianist, composer, band leader, and educator who performs throughout the tri-state area. This year's concert will feature vocalist Audra Mariel, critically acclaimed for her unique sound and sincere interpretations of timeless standards. Audra also performed in our 2023 jazz

fundraiser. This year's concert has been expanded to a sextet with the addition of rising star trumpeter Mayuko Abe from Japan, currently pursuing a graduate degree in jazz performance at William Paterson University. This year's concert will once again feature Greg Grispart (woodwinds), John Lenis (double bass), and Gavin Davies (drums): a few of the NYC metropolitan area's most in-demand jazz artists. Blue Truffle Music, LLC, "The Art of Fine Jazz", will again partner with Malawi Visions to co-sponsor this year's event.

Click to learn more about the artists

About the Musicians

Malawi Visions Jazz Fundraiser: November 1, 2025



Audra Mariel (vocals) has been acclaimed for her unique sound, and sincere interpretation of timeless standards. Mariel frequently performs with A Real Human Jazz Band, but has also had the privilege of touring and recording with Frank Vignola, and in renowned NYC venues including Symphony Space and Birdland. She also plays around New Jersey and has toured the east coast with her solo looping project, Martin Howth.



Greg Grispart (woodwinds) One of the area's most sought-after multi-instrumentalists, Greg regularly performs different genres of music with notable bands and orchestras throughout the greater New Jersey / New York City area. He has a degree in classical clarinet performance and education from Rutgers and a master's degree in jazz saxophone performance from Rowan.



Mayuko Abe (trumpet) is a jazz musician from Miyagi, Japan, currently pursuing a graduate degree at William Paterson University. She began playing trumpet at age 9. She studied jazz at Senzoku Gakuen College of Music for her undergrad. She graduated with a degree in jazz in 2016 and has since performed with some of Japan's top artists and others at leading jazz venues around the world including Denver, Seattle, and New Orleans. In addition to performing, she has been an active trumpet instructor since 2017.



John Lenis (acoustic bass) has been active on the New York jazz scene for the past 20 years, performing and recording as a long-time member of ensembles led by such accomplished artists as Nobuko Takemura, Herson Hong, Nozhi Mody, and Julia Barry. In addition to appearances at many of the area's renowned clubs and festivals, John has toured the US, Canada, the UK, and extensively in Japan.



Gavin Davies (drums) has been an active drummer in the New Jersey music scene for the past 30 years. He holds a degree in Studio Music and Jazz from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL, and later earned his NJ teaching certificate from New Jersey City University. He subsequently taught music in the NJ public schools for 25 years.



Chris DeVito (piano) is a jazz pianist born in New York City into a family of avid jazz fans and musicians and has been playing regularly since age 3. He has been performing for many years both as leader and sideman at various jazz venues, restaurants, churches, and private events throughout the greater New York City metropolitan area with many of the area's finest jazz artists. For additional information, please visit <https://www.ChrisDeVitoJazz.com>.

Celebrating Malawi Visions 5th Jazz Fundraiser

Click once to see our poster
designs by Heather



In addition to enjoying over 2 hours of truly world-class jazz music, we will hear reports of how our development programs are changing the lives of orphan children in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. And as always, delicious light refreshment will be served at intermission.

Not only a fundraiser, with all proceeds going to support 8,000 vulnerable children through the Malawi Visions programs, it is also a time of celebration with our team of the transformative impact they and our donors are having in Malawi.

Click once
to
purchase tickets

Purchase
tickets
here

or

here with
QR code

**Your support changes the
lives of orphan children in
Malawi, Africa. Learn more
at MalawiVisions.com.**

Nov 1 | 7 PM
DOUGLAS HALL

Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church
45 Church St, Liberty Corner, NJ

TICKETS
\$50 advance
\$60 at the door





This Years Shipment

MV implements transformative projects and programs at the 6 MOH centers including solar-powered lighting and irrigated vegetable gardens, libraries, classrooms, and educational programs including tailoring, Early English and the Teen Life Internship Program.

22,000 LBS !

5,000 books & Bibles
12 sewing machines
45 small tables
7 large tables
120 children chairs
20 library shelves
Pumps, controls
Piano keyboard, etc, etc.

While MV sends a small work team to Malawi every year, a very much larger group works throughout the year at home with well over 40 volunteers. Each year thousands of lightly used and donated children's books and Bibles are collected, cataloged, labeled, boxed, and plastic wrapped for ocean shipment. Treadle sewing machines are collected, refinished and mechanically refurbished. Lacking electricity, these manual machines are treasured to train young people for lifetime careers as tailors. MV members expertly sew girl's skirts and boy's shorts from brightly colored fabric for children who never dreamed of having a nice outfit. Members fabricate aluminum solar frames; paint homemade light fixtures; upgrade laptops for our classes; restore Bibles and books; design colorful cards and notes to insert into the pockets of the skirts and shorts; create learning aids for our classrooms and libraries, and much more.

And then all this has to get to Malawi!



This April, 22,000-pounds of cargo were shipped in a 20 foot container to MOH. Coordinating every element of international shipment, and then planning the packing of each and every item, when container shipping cost is determined by volume and not weight, is an enormous undertaking! This year's was the largest of our 13 previous annual shipments.



This Years Shipment

Warehoused throughout the year in a facility provided by the Fellowship Deaconry, Basking Ridge, NJ, a team of 30 gathered in late March to tirelessly load everything for the 8,000 mile journey to Malawi. This year's shipment included 5,000 books, 12 sewing machines, classroom tables, library tables, library shelves, classroom chairs, blackboards, hundreds of skirts and shorts, solar equipment, pumps, pipes, fittings, electrical controls, 8 laptop computers, and even 120 soccer balls!

Loading the container



This Years Shipment

Lunch was enjoyed by all!



Departing Port Newark, New Jersey April 4, the scheduled route through the Suez Canal, pirates notwithstanding, was suddenly upended at Gibraltar, the mouth of the Mediterranean, due to heightened terrorist activity threatening the Red Sea off of Yemen. Rerouted along a very much longer, but imminently safer, path following the coastline around Africa, after two Indian Ocean ship changes our shipment landed in Beira, Mozambique on June 14.

Rescheduled the long way around



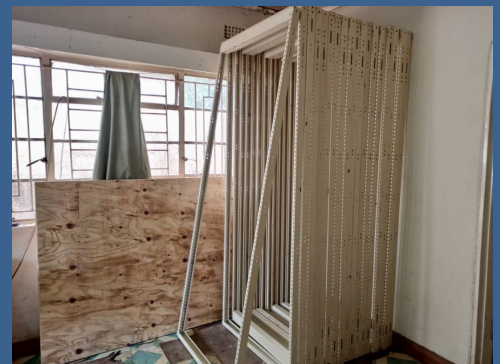
This Years Shipment

Traveling the final 600 miles overland to Lilongwe, our shipment thankfully cleared the Malawi Revenue Authority expeditiously, and arrived at MOH's front gate on July 3.

Unloading at MOH Offices



Contents were stored, awaiting our arrival in October



This Years Shipment

Yes, tracking these shipments daily via satellite and providing updates to the MV team, the ever changing challenges of our annual shipments, despite weeks of diligent planning and years of experience, keeps us all-too-frequently awake at night!

But for purposes unsurpassed!

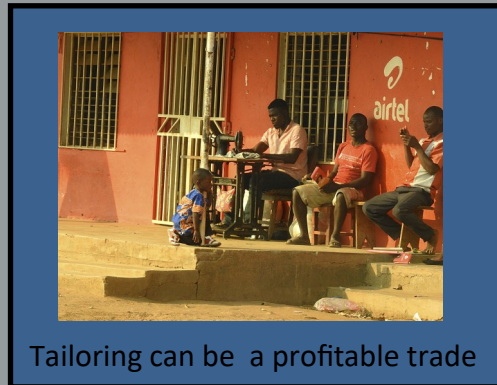


Without international shipments such as these we could not conduct many of the programs we do in Malawi!

We thank God for the safe arrival of the shipment and the tireless efforts of the MV volunteers, as the greatly needed equipment and supplies will be used to continue and expand enduring transformation, opportunity, and hope for the children in Malawi.



A program that is having great success is our treadle sewing initiative. With little if any electrical power in the villages, manual sewing machines are of great value in training youth for a lifelong skill, and a potential trade.



Tailoring classes have been set up at MOH's Khwamba, Matapila, Selengo, and Chimwang'ombe centers, teaching young people sewing skills. We hope to expand classes to the remaining centers of Mponela and Katondo this year.



A parallel benefit: the students sew school uniforms for children who cannot afford to buy them, who would otherwise be denied education by the uniform requirements of public schools





At home we collect treadle machines, either donated or purchased. We have standardized upon Singer Model 66's as the most well constructed and reliable brand and model.

These machines, manufactured in the U.S. and Europe over 100 years ago. Properly restored are greatly superior to the Chinese-made copies available in Africa. Our team refinishes the often damaged wood casing, and rebuilds the mechanical works.



We restored and shipped 12 Singers this year, adding to the 12 we shipped to MOH in previous years.

We hope to have tailoring programs at all 6 of the MOH centers, with 6 machines in each class. So we still have a way to go. Without our international shipments such a program could not be possible.

Click to see poster

Treadle Sewing Machines Change Lives in Malawi, Africa



Malawi Visions seeks Singer treadle sewing machines to provide orphan children clothing and a lifelong trade!

Treadle machines are necessary in remote villages where there is no electricity!



Our teams refurbish, refinish, and ship donated Singer machines to Malawi.

We've standardized to Singer "66" machines, called "Red Eyes" to aid parts availability.

Please contact us with a photo and/or serial number. We will pick it up!

Contact Bob at 908.303.8794 or boblgamble71@gmail.com





After decades of use, and sitting idle even longer, the many inner workings are almost always clogged with cloth dust and hardened oil and grease. We disassemble, ultrasonically clean, lubricate, making them work as new!

Malawi Visions 2025 Malawi Trip

October 2 thru 19.

Please pray for us!



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**Malawi Visions
Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church
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