

One day at a time



The newsletter of Open Arms, Malawi

Malawi fact

Malawi has one of the highest rates of soil erosion from its arable land.

Kiwi challenge

Have you taken up the challenge yet? Let us know what you are giving up for Open Arms and we will publish it next time.

Diary dates

Monday May 5th.
Ashville College Sponsored Walk. Come and join the fun!! Details and sponsor forms from Greg Warren at Ashville College (01423 566358)

Sunday June 15th.
Three Peaks Marathon. If you would like to sponsor our three competitors or, better still, get a form to collect sponsors, contact Sandy Rogan on 01423 712364

Sponsored abseil. Later in the year (probably July). More details later.

Rose Phiri

Rose is the Matron at Open Arms and has been in the job for a few months now.

Rose is a SRN and midwife and has been involved in public health and family planning. She has worked in UK, USA, Zimbabwe and Kenya as well as most of the main hospitals in Malawi.

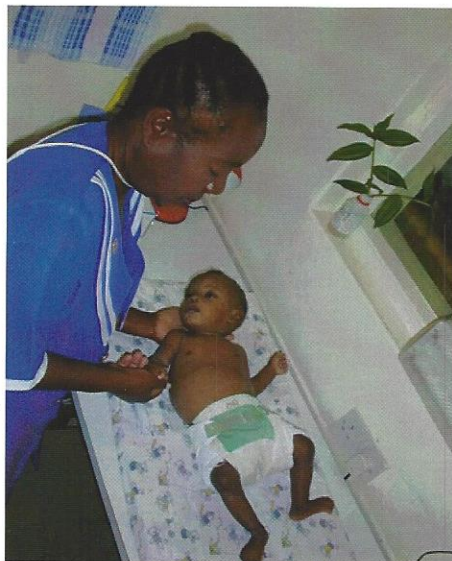
Rose first heard of Open Arms when she saw Rosemarie interviewed on TV. She saw the home as a challenge and was impressed by the way the babies were being treated.

The outreach programme is dear to her heart and she hopes that eventually the adopting families can become independent from Open Arms,

although this ideal is some way off yet.

Looking to the future, Rose hopes that more Malawians can become involved in running Open Arms and that the dependence on expatriate volunteers will lessen. The problems with HIV/AIDS are going to get worse before they get better.

Rose's main concern is that the new unit should be built as soon as possible. This would mean that the babies could be kept until they are 5 years old, which would allow longer for their adopting families to prepare for them.



If you would like a copy of the full interview, please e-mail to grf@ashville.rmplc.co.uk

Outreach

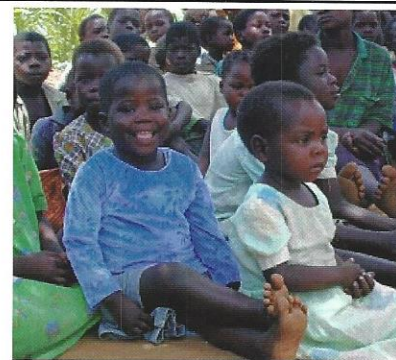
One of the four areas where the outreach programme is taking place is that of chief Dawa, (more on page 2) who has 147 huts. The children on the right are all orphans on the Open Arms register. Eliza (in the blue dress) has been back in the village for a year now and is looking well.

In the picture below, Rose is giving an iron



supplement to a little girl who is very under-nourished. She really needs to be treated more than once a month, but the round trip takes over four and a half hours (even with the 'new' 4wd!).

Even though it looks green, there has not been any rain for over two weeks and, unless there is some soon, it will be disastrous for the maize harvest. It is strange that they are having too much rain just 100 miles away.

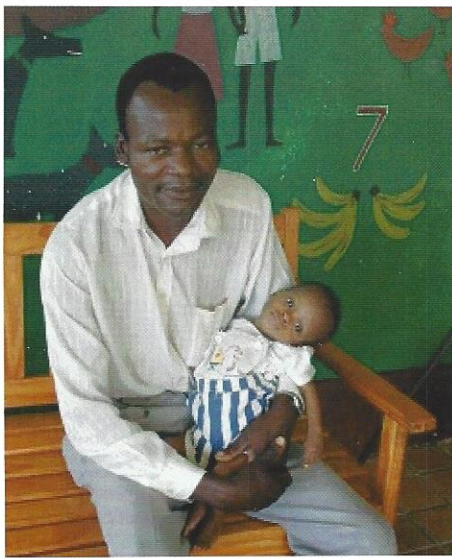


Open Arms Infant Home is a private Christian charity transit home for orphaned babies from birth to two years.

The home provides orphaned babies with what the family cannot: good, nutritious food, medical care and security. The babies receive an abundance of loving care.

There is no charge to the families who are encouraged to visit as often as possible to maintain a family bond.

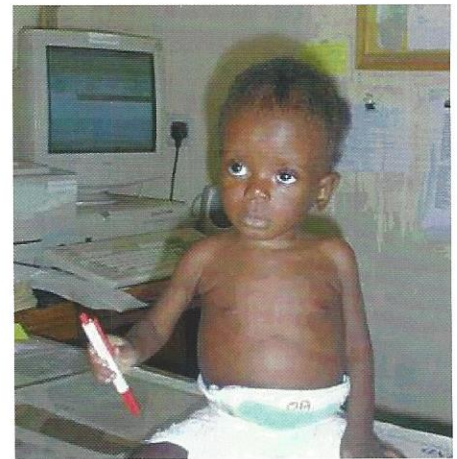
The daily 24 hour routine of bathing, feeding etc. of the 37 babies is covered by three groups of 6 nannies working in shifts, plus a cook and two housekeepers. All administration is covered by expatriate volunteers, so no such costs are incurred.



Alinafe

Alinafe was abandoned at the hospital and so has no known family. She has just had sophisticated tests done and sent to South Africa to determine her HIV status and all came back negative.

One in a million



This is Agness, who is 'One in a Million' and is holding one of our pens to prove it! If you have not got your pen yet or, even better, would like to sell them at work, contact Heather Fisher on:

01937 573235

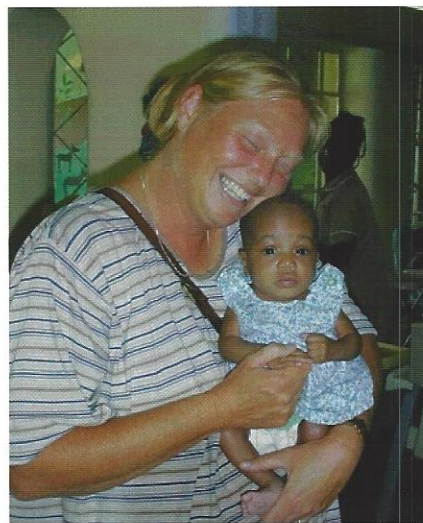
Grammar School raise over £15 000

During last school year, Open Arms was the charity chosen for the charity events run by the Harrogate Grammar school.

A lot of the money was raised by a non-uniform day and individual pupils arranging their own activities or handing in their small change.

Some of the bigger events included staff and pupils: staying awake all night; doing the Grand Nidderdale Walk; climbing 15 Welsh mountains in a day (or at least trying to do so!!) and joining in the Christmas quiz.

Our thanks go to all the pupils, staff, parents and friends who had so much fun raising £15 282 to build the matron's house.



Hopefully she will now be able to be adopted by a Dutch couple (mum is in the photo with Alinafe).

Granby High raise £2 000

In the autumn, 700 eleven to fourteen year olds had a lot of fun raising money. Sponsored swims, silences, Kabbadi games(??) and an endurance run. Most intriguing was a silent music lesson!! They also paid not to wear their ties and to be allowed trainers one day. Guessing the amount of money picked up round school (over £30) was great fun.

Many thanks from the Open Arms babies to all those involved.

Ben and his dad

Both Ben and his dad have HIV and Ben's mum has died of AIDS.

Luckily, they are both getting AZT treatment, which is quite rare for

Trees for chief Dawa's village

The photograph on the right is of Dawa, who is chief at one of the outreach villages. Here he is accepting a gift of maize and trees from the garden at Open Arms. This will not only help to feed the villagers in the coming year but will eventually provide them with a

