



SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Open Arms has lots of news to share with you from both Malawi and the UK. We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening over the past few months.

Impact in Malawi

Thanks to the generosity of supporters and partners like you, Open Arms Malawi is currently helping:

79 orphaned and vulnerable babies and children survive and thrive at home with their families.

51 families receive agriculture support and resources to help them grow enough food to eat and start building means to generate an income.

over 600 children receive an early year's education and a daily nutritious meal at our nine nursery schools.



Isabel and her family receiving nutrition and farming support from Open Arms



New Triplets have been referred by social services for support

Plans for the future

- Grow our Community-Based Care Programme so it can support 100 children.
- Help all 51 households in our Graduation Programme become fully self-sufficient within the next three years.
- Keep supporting our Nursery Schools and strengthen the quality of teaching through staff training and better resources.
- Develop our former Infant Home sites: turn Blantyre into a foster-care training centre and Mangochi into an Early Childhood Development Centre.



Matthew showing his growing crops



Gracious

Gracious

When Gracious was abandoned at just one year old, Open Arms stepped in to keep him safe and reunite him with his grandmother.

At two, he joined an Open Arms nursery school, where he began making friends, learning through play and growing in confidence. His grandmother was able to continue working at the local market, knowing he was cared for and thriving.

Now in Standard 1 at Primary School, Gracious is doing well and building on the strong start he received in nursery. His regular attendance has been a big part of that progress.

For families facing food insecurity, a daily bowl of porridge at school can be the deciding factor in whether a child attends. It keeps children healthy, alert and ready to learn — and that regular attendance is what helps children like Gracious thrive.

In Malawi, early years education helps level the playing field. It prepares children for primary school, strengthens early reading and number skills, and greatly increases the chances they will stay in education.



Daily school meal helping keep children healthy

Donations Arrive in Malawi

A huge thank you to the Zikomo Trust for sending a container of donations all the way to Malawi. After five months in transit, the container finally arrived, and Anthony was able to collect the boxes for Open Arms, ready to distribute to families.

Inside were the wonderful contributions gathered by School of Play during their Africa Week last summer, along with items kindly collected, knitted and donated by the Grammar School at Leeds, The Zikomo Trust and Inner Wheel groups from West Yorkshire.



Anthony collecting the boxes of donations

Did you know...
£10 will feed a child at nursery school for a whole month

Why support children and families in Malawi...

71% of the population in Malawi live below the International poverty line. That's living on less than \$2.15 a day.

21.4% of the population in Malawi are undernourished.

33.2% of Malawian children under five are stunted by chronic malnutrition.

2.8% of Malawian children under five are wasted.

*Global Hunger Index, World Bank Group

Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Musical - a new partnership

Have you read the award-winning book or seen the film The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind? William Kamkwamba's remarkable true story is now coming to London's West End as a bold new musical at Soho Place, running from 28 April to 18 July.

Open Arms Malawi is delighted to partner with the production from 25-30 May, when the show will fundraise at each performance to support vulnerable children and their families in Malawi.

Set in drought-stricken Malawi, the story follows 13-year-old William, who refuses to give up on saving his village. With only scrap materials and a few library books, he builds a windmill that brings energy, hope and possibility to his community.

At Open Arms, we meet families facing similar challenges every day, which is why the story resonates so much with the work we do.

If your school is interested in attending, the show is a great fit for the STEM curriculum and global citizenship. The production also has educational resources and workshops available to support schools that visit. Get tickets and learn more [here](#).



Amazing Fundraising

- We're incredibly grateful to staff and students at George Watson's College and the Watson Malawi Partnership, for all their fundraising and long term support for Open Arms.
- St Andrew's International School in Blantyre, held a fundraising week involving a Charity Quiz Night to raise funds for Open Arms.
- Year 4 pupils at Pannal Primary School took part in an Open Arms workshop as part of their Malawi studies, supported by kind donations from parents.
- Two students at Erskine Stewart Melville School are raising funds by running the Edinburgh Half Marathon in May, alongside their teacher who is running the full marathon.

Thank you for your wonderful fundraising!

Get involved

Our school partnerships are very important to us and play a vital role in helping children and families in Malawi.

If your school is interested in learning more about Malawi and the work we do, please get in touch. We have a range of free Primary and Secondary school resources available, and depending on your location, we can visit your school to deliver assemblies and workshops.

You may like to support one of our nursery schools or sponsor a family, or tie in some fundraising with one of these special days.

Here are some fundraising ideas to get you started:

- Design, make and sell your own African-themed products, such as jewellery.
- Hold a Malawi Day, dressing in red, black or green.
- Take on a sponsored Chichewa challenge by learning the language spoken in Malawi.
- Organise a football tournament — a sport loved across Malawi and Africa.

Dates for Your Diary

15th May
International Day of
Families

25th May
Africa Day

16th June
International Day of the
African Child

Can you help us
support more
children?

Download our
fundraising pack for
schools here



Thank you for supporting Open Arms Malawi

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