



Open Arms Malawi

www.openarmsmalawi.org

One day at a time

The newsletter of Open Arms, Malawi

Much of the front cover describes the long awaited opening of Open Arms Mangochi, an important vision of our late Director Rosemarie.

The Management Team of Matron Stella Chipangwi, Danger Chipino and Thomasena O'Byrne are already in residence in Mangochi along with the first 17 infants. This has been a very major undertaking and we have had a huge amount of assistance from very many sources.

We now legally own 'Sekwe House', our 3rd Foster Residence. There have been a number of changes to our Boards of Trustees. Rev Greg Warren retired from the UK Board after 8 years of dedicated service. We owe him a great debt. We are pleased to announce that Heather Fisher, one of the original UK members, has accepted the role of Chairman. We are similarly delighted to announce that Linda Inglis, a long-term Malawi resident, has accepted the role of Chairman, Malawi. All of us in Malawi would love to wish our readers a very Happy New Year and a peaceful festive season.

Neville Bevis

Sekwe House



Our third Foster House is named "Sekwe", Chichewa for wild goose, after the Dutch sponsor the Wilde Gansen Foundation. Two volunteers from Melbourne, Carol-Anne and Peter, are already renovating it with funds they raised in Australia. In January Ephraim, Eric, Sam and Agness [L to R above] will begin a new phase of their lives there.



Kingswood at Makokesi



Kingswood School spent their third summer with us. Amongst other projects they paid for and renovated Makokesi School, a small community initiative, seen below.



Open Arms Mangochi Inauguration



The Inauguration ceremony was held in near perfect conditions with 150 guests in attendance, including area Chiefs. Local drummers, dancing and singing from the choirs of Open Arms and Malawi Children's Village made very moving & lively contributions. Chris Norman, Managing Director of DePuy (our principle donor, see above) made a poignant speech inspired by what he called the 'compassion footprint' that each of us leaves behind. We were honoured to have Chris Summarsell, UK Treasurer, representing the UK Board. The day was completed by a party on the Lake Shore.



The home from the rear, Neville and Sibale siting the new water towers.



Singers, dancers and drummers from Open Arms Blantyre. Matron Phiri in the foreground below.

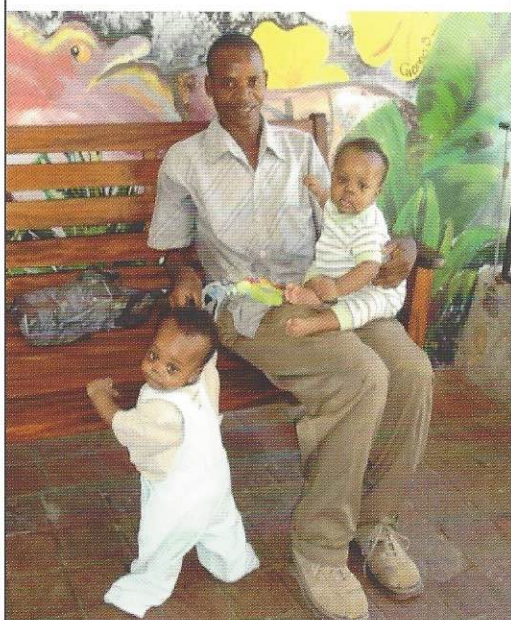


Jasmine Leitao, new Administrator, joining in with the dancing. Supervisor Juliana looks on. We have no ideas about the white dolly...



An essential feature of the construction was the high ceilings and double windows based around a courtyard to encourage air flow.

Eight month old twins Daudi and Rafik receive a visit from Dad



Adoptions



Congratulations to Jemma & Shaun Tredinnick on the final completion of adoption papers for Jack. We are also very happy that a little abandoned girl, Ulemu (left) has found a good home.

Additions and Departures



One of our new additions is Mwayi Kulapa, seen on the left, who joined us at just five days old after his mother passed away from labour complications. We are grateful to our volunteers who help to give their time and attention to the small babies who need extra care.

It was a happy day for Margaret Kalinde when she could go home. She is on Anti-Retroviral Treatment, so she is being carefully followed up by Mrs Phiri to make sure the treatment is given regularly. Maggie is very healthy and responding to treatment well, so we were happy to see her go home to her aunt. This year there have been an equal 21 admissions and 21 discharges, and sadly two infants have passed away. At Open Arms we are privileged to be there for all of these children.

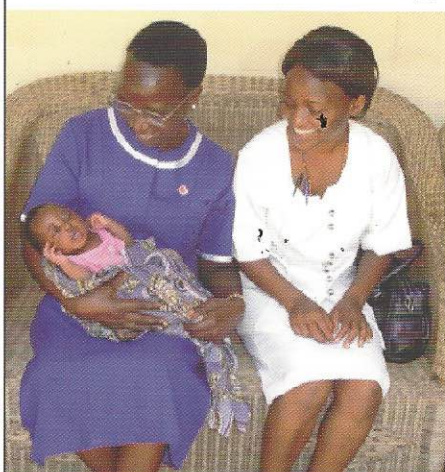


Starter Packs

Chitsanzo Shadrack was such a cheerful little one at the Home. He went to live with his Grand-mother in '06. Planting season has begun with the tropical rains. To help the guardians of Open Arms children to provide food through the year, Starter Packs have been distributed. 270 beneficiaries received maize and bean seed, NPK and Urea fertilizer.



Stella Chipangwi and our Mangochi Team



Stella, our Assistant Matron for the last four years, has moved to Mangochi, where she is our new Matron in Charge. In the picture she is holding baby Immaculate, who was found by the nurse on her left, abandoned in the Mulanje Hospital corridors at just a few weeks old. In Mangochi she is doing a great job of caring for the infants in our charge. We anticipate that all will go well & that we will reach capacity of 40 infants in 2009.



Thomasena O'Byrne has joined us from Strathclyde University to provide coordination and office management training to Mr Chipino and we are very glad to have her here.



Danger Chipino has joined us from Wilderness Safaris where he enjoyed a great reputation as a Game Scout and bird guide. He has been the Director of a very successful Community Based Organisation involved in Orphan Care funded by the celebrated John Humphries of BBC fame.