

AQUAID LIFELINE FUND NEWS FROM MALAWI



Normal Service is Resumed.....

The smiles on the faces of our students from Umodzi Secondary School reveal their happiness at being back together, learning side by side in class, following the 6 month closure of all schools in Malawi due to the threat of Covid-19. I am very pleased to report that the pandemic has thankfully not had the devastating effect we feared, with very few cases being reported. Welcome back everybody!

Our lovely cook, Asiyatu, happily dishes out portions of nsima, the staple food of Malawi, to these hungry school girls. Next stop will be the large pots of vegetables with fish or meat to complete their tasty lunch. The enforced closure of our centres proved very challenging for many of our children who have no-one to love or care for them in their home villages. Happily our Child Welfare Officer, Chisangalalo Ntonio, was able to liaise with the Social Welfare Dept and quickly identify the children at risk of hunger or neglect who were immediately returned to our centres and placed back under our umbrella of care, where they belong.



❑ A Labour of Love!

Unable to travel to Malawi during the summer, Fund Coordinator, Josie Charter, decided to embark on filling a 40ft container, kindly donated by Inkorporate. "When it arrived, it looked absolutely huge", she laughs. Undaunted, she appealed to people near and far to help with locating items that would be of tremendous use to the [AquAid](#) projects in Malawi. The response was truly humbling and people were incredibly generous with time and donations. "I was amazed at how much we managed to fit in and the sheer diversity of items. We loaded

80 school desks and 120 chairs, 2 commercial sized polytunnels, tools to enable self-reliance, sewing and knitting machines for skills training, laptops for staff and students, bicycles, 40,000 items of clothing for the children, blankets, spectacles, medical equipment, a braille machine and, not forgetting a cement mixer!" When asked if she would do it again, Josie didn't hesitate to give a resounding "YES!"

❑ Introducing Betty!

Life in rural Malawi is hard. Life in rural Malawi if you happen to be born with any form of disability is almost impossible to bear. Betty, 22, was born with cerebral palsy which sadly leaves her unable to use her legs. She lives with her elderly mother and her father, who is blind. Life is very challenging for the family who often go to sleep without having taken any food that day. Betty's mother tries to find work in local gardens to earn a few kwacha but she is competing with much younger and fitter people also desperate for work. At [AquAid](#), we believe in equal opportunities for all and will be assisting Betty to turn her family's future around. Betty is going to be offered a suitable skills training course, given advice on how to run a small business and then mentored to begin her self-employment journey. Watch this space!



A Huge Thank you to our Partners

*It is with immense gratitude that we thank all of our loyal and generous partners for their continued support of various **AquAid Lifeline** projects.*



Looking back over the past 21 years, we recall the pledge made by CoolerAid, then a fledgling mineral water provider, to donate a substantial percentage of their turnover to the support of Aquaid Lifeline Fund. It was on this basis alone that our charity was first established. The testimonies of thousands of orphans and needy children, many of whom are now nurses, teachers, accountants, clinicians, bricklayers, carpenters, small business owners etc., bear witness to the integrity of CoolerAid, who have faithfully honoured the promise, made in 1999. The trustees of the Lifeline Fund are grateful to acknowledge the outstanding loyalty of the CoolerAid management over so many years. This comparatively small family company have been the means of relief to thousands by the provision of clean drinking water, food to the hungry, education to those too poor to afford school and college fees and healthcare to the sick. To all the staff at CoolerAid, we say, on behalf of so many, thank you.



St Mary's Church,
Hitchin

When St Mary's Church, Hitchin, heard about the plans to build a children's centre at Gomani, in memory of one of their congregation, Philip Veale, they backed the project whole-heartedly and, 10 years on, continue to do so each and every month, fully funding the running costs of this amazing centre.

The original little grass hut has long been replaced by a day-centre with a girl's residence. In addition there is a boys dormitory, a skills training centre and, the newest development, a school classroom with library. The centre is home to 27 orphaned children looked after by House Mother, Besse, with another 120 attending daily for breakfast and lunch. The Skills Training Centre delivers a variety of useful courses and the classroom can always be found buzzing with the lively chatter of the children enjoying their after-school extra tuition. Last year, the top student of the whole of AquAid came from this centre. what an achievement! Well done Lupacitio, who begins studying Agriculture at University in January 2021.



Dalitso Project



Following a trip to Malawi by a Church Youth Group from Arbroath, Scotland in 2007 to witness the work of AquAid Lifeline in person, the commitment of this dynamic group has been nothing short of inspirational and has led them to form the Dalitso Project, which means 'Blessing'.

Their phenomenal fund-raising has enabled them to build a day-care centre and residence at Thyolo including a classroom facility. They also fully support the Kambilonjo centre and have added a vocational skills training facility and a clinic which was desperately needed and much appreciated by the local community.

It has been wonderful to watch the children at the centres grow up into young adults. Some have become teachers, nurses, a doctor, an accountant and an engineer. Others have been supported to learn a trade and to find employment.



Inkorporate®

We are very excited to be working together with Inkorporate, a London based creative design and production company. Inkorporate have chosen to be fully involved in the brand new girl's hostel at our centre and school in Namaritha. Opened in time for the new school term, this place of safety will transform the lives of the 45 girls who now call it 'home' The residence was built to address the poverty-driven problem of teenage girls being forced into early marriage or even prostitution. We look forward to watching these beautiful young ladies fulfill their potential. When asked what they liked best about living here, they replied "Sleeping in a bed for the very first time!". Since arriving, they just can't stop singing....wonderful!



The Citystay Group have felt so privileged to play a small part in the lifechanging work that the Aquaid Lifeline Fund achieves for its beneficiaries, those children and vulnerable adults in need in Malawi.

Since Citystay's inception in 2008 being able to donate directly to this work every time someone stays in one of our apartments has had such a motivational effect on our team.

Knowing that providing luxury accommodation here helps provide housing, clothing, food and education to those in dire need adds meaning to what we do.

Having an association / partnership with the Lifeline Fund provides the Citystay team with a deeper purpose and appreciation of what matters.

Citystay and Checked Inn are sister companies. The group is growing as we now have InnClusive also and we are excited that all our brands will have an association/ partnership with such a great cause.

Thank you, AquAid Lifeline, for using the donations to such great effect!



Spring Lake Church,
Wisconsin, USA

Spring Lake Church began their partnership with AquAid Lifeline in 2007 initially by supporting the centre at Funsani. The plight of Malawi's countless orphans touched their hearts and prompted them to fly out teams of nurses and a doctor each and every year. They conducted children's health checks, assisted with local, rural clinics and provided medical supplies and equipment that were so desperately needed. Their commitment and fund-raising grew stronger and they now also fully fund the centre at Lisungwe. Spring Lake church members run 'Sponsor a child' campaigns and a charity 5/10K run. Both centres have been greatly enhanced by the partnership with Spring Lake Church who, as well as building dormitories and teacher's houses at both centres, have also constructed a brand new secondary school at Funsani - what an achievement! The children certainly look forward to the annual visits from their good friends from Green Bay, Wisconsin!

Spring Lake Church is now bringing Mission Guides, a Wisconsin organization, into the partnership as they begin to roll out their plans to bring more spiritual training and resources to our Malawian friends.

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At the end of what has been a challenging year, AQUAID LIFELINE would like to extend a huge gratitude of thanks to all our loyal supporters. Without your donations, we would be unable to offer hope or opportunity to the thousands of children and vulnerable adults throughout Malawi. Your kindness literally changes their lives every single month.

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