

# FRIENDS OF MALAWI

## BOOK PROJECT

### What Our Malawian Friends Say

In 2003, we sent a brief survey to schools and libraries in Malawi. Some of their comments follow:

“Your books have caused our school children to develop reading habits, there is improvement in spoken English and both pupils and teachers are performing well in education. Teachers get enough information and materials to teach pupils. As pupils read these books, they gain more knowledge which helps them to do well in tests or examinations. The pictures and drawings from these books simplify teaching and learning since they are very attractive and straightforward. The leisure time of

Book Shipments
1999 - 3,225 books
2000 - 6,200 books
2001 - 3,400 books
2002 - 3,280 books
2003 - 4,722 books
2004 (YTD-August) - 8,046 books

most teachers and students is spent well because of these books”. *Mr. C. S. M. Kwinyani, Mchenga Primary School, Ntambanyama*



“The books have made the pupils improve their vocabulary, spellings and even the way they speak English has greatly improved. Only those who are lazy don’t come and borrow books”. *Mrs. Lucy Nyirenda, Headmistress, Tikwele Primary School, Mzuzu*

“The library is its first kind in the district. The sciences, maths, geography maps and novels are used at the nearby secondary and primary schools. Teachers get information to teach from the teachers guides.

Kindergarten books are precious. Young children love the school because of the books”. *Mrs. Rose Nyirenda, Founder and Headmistress, HYFOM (Help Youth Finding Out More) School, Katumbi*

“There has been a tremendous change in schools because of the books you send us. The teachers are able to teach grammar in their various schools and pupils have improved much in speaking good English. Some teachers have benefited a lot in using the books to upgrade themselves”. *Mr. B. A. Tchongwe, Primary Education Advisor, Katowo Teachers Development Centre*

### Facts about Malawi

- One of the 10 poorest countries in the world
- Population of 12 million
- Adult Literacy: 63%
- Average class size is 102 students
- Most schools have no books or libraries
- English is the official language and is taught starting in kindergarten
- Telephones: 73,000
- ISPs: 17



FRIENDS OF  
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**FRIENDS OF MALAWI**

**The FOM Book Project**

has established relationships with many Northwest schools and libraries, and has a constant supply of like new text books and reading books. These books are sorted for appropriateness and quality and shipped to Malawian schools on a weekly basis. 100% of your tax-deductible cash donations are used on freight – there is no overhead.

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**NORTHWEST SCHOOLS SUPPORT BOOK PROJECT**

The Book Project has been the grateful recipient of support from many Oregon and Washington schools and individuals. For many years, the Catholic schools of the Portland and Western Washington Archdioceses have been generous donors of thousands of library books, text books and other educational materials. Thank you to the librarians, teachers and parishioners for their dedicated support!

Special thanks go to St. Agatha Elementary School in Portland. The students conducted an extraordinary book drive and donated thousands of like-new children's books to the children of Malawi.

Jackson Middle School of Portland, Oregon has been dedicated and active in its support of the Book Project for many years. In 2004, Jackson Middle School's Ms. Susan Fairchild's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes and Ms. Reba Parker, Librarian, took on multiple projects to support our efforts, including a book drive, a "readathon" fund-raising drive, and donation of library books. Some of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders have formed pen pal relationships with Malawian children at Tikwele School, one of our book recipients.

We thank all our supporters, who are too numerous to mention.

**More about Malawi**

- Life expectancy: 37 years
- HIV/AIDS adult rate: 16% (1999)
- Inflation rate 29%
- GDP per capita: \$600
- Labor Force - by occupation: Agriculture 90%
- Fertility rate: 6 children born/woman

**Friends of Malawi Book Project receives ASA grant**

In December 2003, the African Studies Association (ASA) Africana Librarians Council awarded the Book Project a \$500 grant. The \$500 grant was one of 7 awarded in 2003. This was the second grant FOM received from the ASA, having also received a grant in 2000. ASA offers a \$3000 annual grant program to assist book donation projects with shipping costs to send book donations to African libraries and schools. The grants are awarded annually and are intended to support worthwhile "community based grassroots project involvement with benefit to broad, non-sectarian populations".



*Pre-schoolers and kindergartners at HYFOM (Help Youth Finding Out More) School.*

**Your support is needed**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want to support a child and help send discarded books to Malawi. I have enclosed a contribution of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$40 (enough for one box of books) \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Friends of Malawi Book Project. Your gift is tax-deductible.

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