

FRIENDS OF MALAWI

BOOK PROJECT



FRIENDS OF
MALAWI

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Book Project

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A Visit to Katumbi

From the small town of Rumphu in Northern Malawi, it takes two hours on a rough, rutted, dirt road to reach the village of Katumbi. During the rainy season, the road is impassable by vehicle, and any contact villagers have with the outside world, can only be accomplished by foot.

The very small village of Katumbi, is in a valley at the bottom of the Nyika Plateau. It is a beautiful place, but impoverished, as is most of Malawi. On the outskirts of the village, is a bright and



HYFOM classroom, Katumbi

shining jewel named HYFOM (Helping Youth Find Out More) Pre-School. It was founded by a teacher, Rose Nyirenda, with the assistance of a Peace Corps volunteer, Bruce Williams.

Rose's dream was to have an "American-style Pre-School" to serve the young children of Katumbi. The class size would be small, there would be brightly colored posters and other learning aids in the classroom, the children would have a library with hundreds of picture books from which they could practice their reading, children would learn their numbers and letters and be able to recognize animals, plants, etc. A small fee is charged of the children's guardians, but no child is turned away, if money is not available. Many of the pupils are orphans.

American donors, along with village labor and bricks, helped construct HYFOM in 2000-2001. Since then, dozens of children have "graduated" from HYFOM and become the most outstanding students at the government elementary school. The government school's class size averages more than 100 students, and after school these

Book Shipments

1999 - 3,225 books
2000 - 6,200 books
2001 - 3,400 books
2002 - 3,280 books
2003 - 4,722 books
2004 - 10,570 books
2005 (YTD September) - 4,155 books

HYFOM graduates are eager to supplement their learning by trekking to HYFOM in order to utilize the school's library and obtain additional help and encouragement from Rose. The library is open to all members of the community.

Friends of Malawi has sent hundreds of books to HYFOM as well as to the Katowa Teacher Development Center (TDC) in the center of town. The TDC provides continuing education and library resources to 100s of primary and secondary school teachers in a large catchments area. The TDC library is so well-stocked, that students from Mzuzu University will travel hours by minibus, bicycle or by foot to the TDC, in order to utilize the books.

Both HYFOM and the Katowa TDC send their American friends a huge YEWO CHEMENE/ ZIKOMO KWAMBIRI (Thank you) for their generous support of the children and community of Katumbi. Thank you!



HYFOM students, Katumbi



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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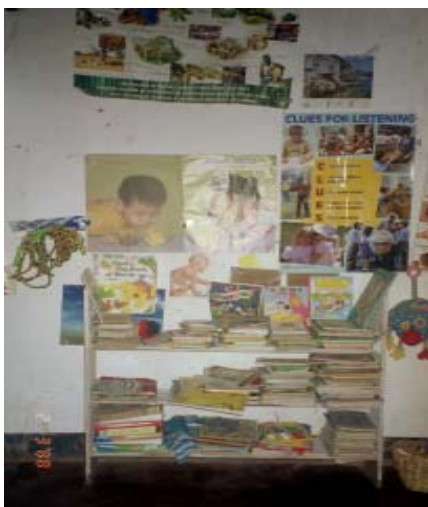
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NORTHWEST SCHOOLS SUPPORT BOOK PROJECT

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

Special thanks go to St. Agatha Elementary School in Portland. For the second year in a row, the students conducted an extraordinary book drive and donated thousands of like-new children’s books to the children of Malawi.

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



HYFOM classroom, Katumbi



Katowa TDC Library, Katumbi

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
- ISPs: 17
- Life expectancy: 37 years
- HIV/AIDS adult rate: 14% (2003)
- Inflation rate 12% (2004)
- GDP per capita: \$600
- Labor Force - by occupation: Agriculture 90%
- Fertility rate: 6 children born/woman
- Telephones - land lines in use - 85,000
- Telephones - Cellular - 135,000

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.

Tax ID 52-1557532