



PAMOZA



Malawi

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Pamoza News

Oct. - Dec. 2014

Welcome to Secondary School



Some students from Zowe are now attending Mtende Community Day Secondary School

In the United States, it's automatic that once you complete 8th grade, you move on to high school. However, in Malawi, things are not so easy. First, as an 8th grader, you must take an intense three-day national exam which determines your acceptance into high school. The results also determine what type of high school you can attend. The higher your score, the better your options. But just because you pass and are selected into a high school, does not mean you will attend. That's because high school is not free in Malawi. School fees range from \$40—\$700 per year depending on the school.

That's a huge cost especially for people in rural communities like the ones Pamoza serves. That is why Pamoza

financially helps students selected for high school, particularly those who are from poor families that cannot afford the fees. This year, 62% of the 8th graders from the two schools in the communities Pamoza serves passed the 8th grade national exam and 60% of them (28 students) were selected to their local high school. Pamoza is paying fees for many of these students and it has given them a remarkable opportunity.

"I feel very great now that I am in secondary school. This has motivated me to work even harder than I used to perform at primary school such that my grades are improving. I want to achieve my dream of becoming a nurse so that I can assist people in my community in future" .

-Lyness Nyirenda (pictured above on far left)

Malawi Night 2014

Pamoza hosted its 2nd annual Malawi Night on Friday, October 24 at Russell Elementary School. We thank the more than 100 people who attended. It was a night full of fun, and we enjoyed providing a taste of Malawian culture like *ku-baba mwana* (a mother putting her



baby on her back, which frees her hands so that she can attend to other things).

A special thank you to Marple Newtown School District and all our vol-

unteers who made the evening a success. We could not have done it without them!

Additional thanks to the companies that donated resources for the event: ACME, Dunkin Donuts, Fruit Flowers, Giant Food Stores, Maggie O'Neills, Panera Bread, Party City, Philly Pretzel Factory, The Rose Group, Russell Elementary School, ShopRite of Drexeline, Starbucks, and Vistaprint.

We can't explain the evening better than those who attended so here is what two attendees said:

"The event was amazing! I enjoyed the food, the silent auctions, and the fun activities. Overall, I had a great time! I look forward to working with you and attending your next event." -

Davisa Mills

"This event was spectacular. It was well organized and was culturally informative without being boring. It had activities for all ages." -

Aristea Slikas

Check out photos from the event on our [Facebook page](#).

Did you miss Malawi Night? Well, you don't have to wait until next year to experience it. Pamoza can work with you to host a Malawi Night at your church, school, or missions event. Just call Janet Daly at (610) 291-3981 or send an e-mail to info@pamoza.org.



Guests enjoying Malawian cuisine

Snowflakes for Africa

The students at Russell Elementary School are taking on a new project for their sister school, Zowe Primary. Their goal: raise \$1,600 to purchase school desks for students in Zowe. The desks, which will be made locally in Malawi will provide seating for 50 students.

To kick off their efforts, Russell students will be making snowflake postcards for students in Zowe. Each snowflake will be uniquely decorated by a Russell student and will contain a message for a

Zowe student. The goal is to provide a connection between the students while also providing an educational lesson about winter in the U.S. versus non-winter weather in Malawi.



Pamoza's Executive Director, Temwa Wright, visited Russell in November and shared her first memory of snow. Having grown up in Malawi, she had never seen or touched snow before so the experience was amazing (and very cold).

Ms. Wright will carry the special snowflakes to Malawi in 2015 and will provide Zowe students a lesson about snow and winter in the U.S. This allows both groups to learn something different about each other while deepening their connection.

What is a *Nkhokwe*?

What do you do with the food you bring home from the grocery store? Most likely, it goes in the fridge or in your food pantry. In the rural communities of Malawi, there is no refrigeration of food—that would require electricity and a lot of it. But people in the village



A traditional *nkhokwe*

have their own process for storing food. One way is to build a *nkhokwe*, a structure that is used to store dried food (like corn on the cob).

Families construct *nkhokwes* using malleable twigs and tree bark to make a circular structure which stands about a foot off the ground, keeping moisture and animals away. This year, Pamoza is working with community members to construct larger storage structures made from bricks. The structures will be used to store extra corn from the community farms. This is very good news because in the summer of 2013, we



Near final stages of a *nkhokwe*

were not so sure if these same communities would have enough to eat due to a very poor harvest, but farmers did better this year and have enough to store away. We also expect surplus production from community farms in 2015 and are thus constructing these corn storage structures now to prepare for later.

Program Updates

Christian Outreach

Our Christian Activities Facilitator, Timothy Gondwe, was selected to a two-year pastoral training program in Lilongwe, the capital city. His tuition is being covered through a partnership with Springton Lake Presbyterian Church and Epiphany Fellowship in Philadelphia. We are so grateful for this opportunity!

Entrepreneurship

We are strengthening our current businesses by providing more training. We continue to support four community businesses and two micro businesses, one of which is a chicken business operated by people living with AIDS.

Education

In addition to having 28 students

selected for high school, we were able to partner with Global Hope Alliance to support a female college student currently working to be an electrician. [Click here](#) to read her story. We have also expanded our services into a fourth school in the Mseza community. The school is currently serving 125 students.



Medical Services

We are pleased to announce that construction has started for the Mchingasanya under-five clinic.

Once finished, this clinic will provide much needed health care services to children in that area.

Agriculture & Food Security

We trained over 80 people in various farming strategies including agroforestry, manure making, land preparation, and livestock production. One of the farmers received a small loan to start a tree nursery, which is going well. The nursery will serve as a demonstration project for other farmers.



A tree nursery in its early stages

Meet Damaseko Nyirongo: Our New Programs Manager

The Pamoza staff family is expanding! We are happy to welcome Damaseko Nyirongo as our new Programs Manager. We are blessed to have found him. Here's some insight into who he is and why he chose Pamoza:

Your previous job paid more and was in Lilongwe, which has many more amenities than the village. Why did you leave that job for this one?

I have a passion for the people in the village and I want to be part of the process of people's transformation directly. I will now be able to do that since my job will be done right in the communities people live.

How does your family feel about relocating from Lilongwe to Zowe?

Excited, humbled, and scared at the same time. Excited because this is their first time to relocate into a rural area since 1992 and this will be adventurous. Humbled because God has called us into this ministry. Scared because there are not enough facilities for education and economic development for family members compared to life in the capital city.



Damaseko Nyirongo, Pamoza's new Programs Manager

What work are you most excited about as Pamoza's new Programs Manager?

I am very excited with the community dynamics in their approach to community projects because this will help the organization as we think about the strategic process for the next five years

What is one thing you feel people should know about Pamoza's work in Malawi?

Pamoza is really having an impact in the community. Because of our programs, people are able to read the Bible and fellowship together; school attendance has gone up 60% due to school breakfast; community members have access to health care in their own communities instead of having to walk 6-7 miles to the nearest hospital; and so much more!

Thank You St. Anastasia Church



This year, Christmas came early for Pamoza thanks to St. Anastasia Church in Newtown Square. The church's *Christmas in July Giving Tree* project brought in more than 20 bags of medicine, spoons for our breakfast program, musical instruments for our children's ministry, and empty pill bottles to be used at our medical clinic. *Christmas in July* was started by Donna Hislop, a member of St. Anastasia Church, who saw a need to support local charities during a time they typically receive less support. Pamoza is extremely grateful for these items and will put them to good use. Thank you!

Prayer Corner

We welcome your prayers for the people of Malawi and for Pamoza's programs and services. We specifically ask that you pray for:

- The successful transition of our new Programs Manager. Pray that his family will be blessed for moving into the village.
- Our new school and community partner: Mseza. Pray that we will be able to meet its needs.
- New and existing partnerships. Pray God continues to open doors for our ministry.
- The rainy season in Malawi, which occurs Dec.—April. Pray that God will provide sufficient rain to yield a successful crop.
- All the young people we work with both in Malawi and the U.S. Pray that this generation of youth will be leaders of change and will model how to work *pamoza* (together).
- People will develop positive relationships with each other and with God because of Pamoza's work.