



PAMOZA



Malawi

Pamoza International  
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# Pamoza News

## April - June 2014

### Planning for the Year Ahead



Village chiefs and steering committee members meet to discuss plans of action and budgets for next fiscal year

The end of our fiscal year is a very busy time for Pamoza International. Like most non-profits, we must wrap up our finances, submit reports to the IRS, and fulfill all our obligations. But unlike most non-profits, we engage the communities we serve in determining the budgets and activities for the next year.

During the period of April through June, Pamoza staff conducted over fifteen meetings and trainings attended by village chiefs, committee members, teachers, and other community leaders. These meetings not only informed Pamoza about the priorities and needs of the community, they also reignited the commitment from local leaders to be part of the change they want to see in their own communities. It is an amazing process!

So here is what our communities want to focus on next fiscal year:

- Continue supporting successful programs like School Breakfast
- Build grain storage silos (*nkhokwes*) to store maize for the hungry season
- Strengthen existing businesses
- Designate large plots of land for community farms and provide training for farmers
- Increase HIV/AIDS awareness
- Start a children's ministry
- Expand Pamoza's programs to *Mseza*, a new community

Inherent in our name, *Pamoza*, (which means together) is the idea that everything we do in the community must be informed and driven by the community. This is not easy to do, but when done right, the results are powerful and sustainable.

## Russell Students Surpass Fundraising Goal

When Russell Elementary School took on the goal of raising \$6,000 for the School Breakfast Program in Zowe, the amount seemed daunting. Kim Polonsky, who was heading up the effort, had never set such a lofty goal, but the students at Russell were determined to reach it. And they exceeded their own expectations by raising more than \$7,000!

Russell's final event, the Walk for Malawi, was a tremendous success. During the walk, students had an opportunity to try different activities similar to children in Malawi, including tasting *bala*, the porridge children eat for breakfast.



Thank you to the following companies for helping make the Walk for Malawi a success: *Panera Bread* for sponsoring lunch; *IKEA* for donating supplies; *Cole and Heidi Hamels Foundation* for donating a signed baseball; *Suburban Seahawks Club*, *Sweet & Sassy*, *Oasis Family Center*, *Rita's*, and *Arnold's* for donating prizes for students. And of course, thanks to the many volunteers who helped out.

***"I was so impressed. I know the whole school must feel so proud of this accomplishment and ongoing relationship with the children of Malawi"***

*-Constance Bompadre, Asst. Supt. Marple Newtown School District*



Check out our [Facebook page](#) for pictures from the walk.

In May, Pamoza's Executive Director presented Russell's efforts to Zowe Primary School in Malawi. The students enjoyed watching a [video](#) about their school partner in America. For many of them, it was the first time seeing an image on screen. They were touched by Russell's efforts and especially enjoyed their singing!

## Desks for Zowe

Imagine sitting on the floor for more than six hours every day and trying to learn. It's not easy. In fact, it's very uncomfortable, but the children at Zowe Primary School are used to it so they rarely complain.

Now imagine the excitement at Zowe School when students



Students at Mzuzu Technical College constructed the desks

learned they would be receiving ten desks funded by St. Anastasia School. The desks, which fit three students each, were constructed by students at Mzuzu Technical College in Northern Malawi. Purchasing desks from the technical school not only provided a way for the college students to practice their skills, but also generated income for the local economy—a win-win.

The desks were given to the 8th grade, which is the



most challenging academic year in primary school because students often study into the night for national exams. Check out [this video](#) which was shown to St. Anastasia students after the desks were completed.

## More Bibles Please!

Since 2013, Pamoza International has been on a mission to distribute a bible to **every household** we serve. That's approximately 1,100 households! Last year, we distributed 600; this year we gave 500 more.

Mission accomplished? Not yet. While distributing Bibles, we were surprised to see so many young adults eager to receive one too.



Unfortunately, we only planned enough for one per household so we had to turn away many disappointed young adults (and some

other people too). The Bibles we distribute are in Tumbuka, the language spoken in Northern Malawi. Each Bible costs \$10 each, and we

are trying to purchase 500 bibles to be distributed next year.

If you would like to donate to our effort, please visit our website:

[www.pamoza.org](http://www.pamoza.org), click the donate button, and indicate "Bibles" in the purpose line.

## Program Updates

### Christian Outreach

We are excited to announce we will soon be starting a children's ministry based on the growing attendance of children at fellowships. The ministry will be designed as an afterschool program.

### Education

We are expanding our school breakfast program to a new school: Mseza Primary! The school has just started with 2 grades and 125 students. School breakfast at our other three schools continues to go well.



### Entrepreneurship

Strengthening and expanding our community businesses will be a key focus this year. Community businesses include 3 community shops and a grinding mill. Income from these businesses belongs to the community and is reinvested into programs. We've also supported 2 businesses with micro loans (poultry and winter farming) and will be supporting another business this year: bread baked by people living with AIDS.

### Agriculture & Food Security

Thank you for your prayers for a good harvest. The communities grew enough food and will be building grain storage silos to keep extra maize until the hungry period. Pamoza will be working with Total

Land Care, an organization in Malawi, to train farmers on how to improve their farming practices.

### Medical Services



People waiting to be treated at the clinic

Although medicine shortage continues to be a challenge, our Clinician, Mr. Matandika, and our Health Surveillance Assistant, Mr. Phiri, have done a phenomenal job addressing health issues in the community. This period, they treated 790 patients, immunized 255 children, and conducted 4 trainings.

## Why I Volunteer for Pamoza: An Interview with Maryanne Wood

Get to know Maryanne Wood, one of our hardest working volunteers!

### How did you get started volunteering with Pamoza?

My daughter Melissa went to live in Malawi as a missionary. When I visited her in Malawi, I saw the needs in the community and felt God calling me to be involved. I've been serving ever since.

### What are the different ways you have volunteered?

I've been to Malawi six times. While there I have helped serve school breakfast, interviewed families, and facilitated Vacation Bible School. In the U.S., I collect used cartridges for recycling, organize fundraising events, serve on the Board, and raise awareness about Malawi.

### Why do you volunteer?

It's a calling and I really believe in working the *pamoza way*. The greatest volunteer experience I had was helping to serve school breakfast. Watching the women in Ma-



Maryanne assists with washing bowls after school breakfast

lawi get up early in the morning, with babies on their backs, to fetch water, prepare breakfast, and serve it to students was a very powerful experience. They work so hard and when I saw how hard they worked to improve their own lives, it made me want to help more!

### Why should others volunteer?

There are so many people who need support in Malawi and the more volunteers we have, the greater our impact. The great news is you don't have to travel all the way to Malawi to help. There are many ways to volunteer in the U.S.—raise awareness, work at one of Pamoza's events, recycle ink cartridges and cell phones, collect medicine, help organize supplies going to Malawi... the list is endless!

*If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, send an e-mail to [info@pamoza.org](mailto:info@pamoza.org)*

## Welcome on Board: Carol Austin



Pamoza welcomes our newest Board member Carol Austin. Carol is passionate about international issues and Christian ministry. Her extensive experience working with non-profits, especially on education issues, will help Pamoza strengthen our programs. Carol has traveled to over 14 different countries and hopes to add Malawi to her list.

Pamoza is excited about Carol's involvement with our ministry. Please join us in welcoming her!

[Click here](#) to read Carol's full bio.

## 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:

- Adequate funding to support our program activities this year.
- People to experience the love of Christ through our work, and to continue desiring the Word of God.
- The country of Malawi: political stability, continued peace among citizens, improved economy, and continued open doors for spreading the Gospel.
- Our staff in Malawi: MPG Mtika, Emmanuel Maida, and Timothy Gondwe.
- The students at Russell Elementary, St. Anastasia School, Fugett Middle School, and other young people who have been touched by the needs in Malawi and have been inspired to do more.
- Successful farmer trainings and farm expansions.

# PAMOZA INTERNATIONAL

## WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE'VE BEEN, WHERE WE'RE GOING

You are invited to “Malawi Night”, an interactive, family event to learn more about Pamoza and their work in Malawi, Africa.

Enjoy a fun evening of sharing, learning, and networking.



**Friday • October 24, 2014 • 7:00 PM**

**Russell Elementary School  
2201 Sproul Road, Broomall, PA**



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