

PAMOZA



Malawi

Pamoza International
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Pamoza News

January - April 2015

Community Development the Pamoza Way



Engaging village headmen is critical to the community development process in rural Malawi

What does it mean to work *pamoza*, together, with people to improve their lives?

It means hard work, long hours, patience, and many, many meetings. But ultimately, it means sustainability because when you involve people in the change process from the start, they can carry it on long after you are gone.

How does Pamoza International do this? We engage community leaders and community members in recognizing their assets, assessing their needs, and developing solutions to address those needs. Once a solution is developed, the community owns it and must sustain it. Pamoza International then engages other people from various backgrounds to come alongside the communities to support the solutions.

One of the first projects we did in the Zowe community was the installation of a grinding mill. The women expressed their fatigue and frustration with pounding corn to make flour (a process that can take up to 3 days by hand). They had an idea—purchase a grinding mill, which would alleviate the burden on women but also serve as a community business because anyone wanting to use the mill would then be charged a small fee. The profit would then belong to the

community and be used for other development needs. With the support of some of our partners in the U.S., we were able to raise money for the mill and it is still in operation today and making money for the community. Now women can make flour in less than 30 minutes and also generate income for their community.

That's the Pamoza way —working together with people to create sustainable solutions.

Making a Difference Their Own Way

We love young people! There's no doubt about it. We love their energy, curiosity, and spirit. The only thing we love more than working with young people is working with young people who surpass our expectations and surprise us with their benevolence. So in this edition of *Pamoza News*, we wanted to highlight four fabulous youth who are working together, pamoza, with us to make a difference for people in Malawi.

Bags are precious in rural Malawi. That's because they can be used repeatedly to carry items and when your primary mode of transportation is your feet, it helps to have a bag.

Bailey Brillman understands the value of bags, especially for kids in Malawi who often go to school without anything to carry their few school supplies. That's why Bailey decided to sew some bags to be



donated to students in Malawi. She organized some of her peers from Girl Scouts along with family members and together they sewed 50 bags, using sturdy, recycled linen.

When asked why she did it, Bailey said "***I believe we are all one community even if we have different languages. If we educate the young, they will learn these lessons and benefit the entire community when they grow up so we can all have a better life.***"

Ian O'Connor is not your average teenager. He is 6'2", the oldest of three boys, and plays in a rock band. But there is another reason Ian stands out. Unlike other 17-year



olds living in America, Ian has travelled to Malawi and experienced life with limited amenities but what stood out to him most was the people he encountered. ***The people there are awesome. It was amazing to see how much we have in common although we live different lives. They were so happy to connect with us.***

And that connection coupled with the needs he witnessed was what led Ian to design a t-shirt that his band, Depths, could sell to raise money for Pamoza. The t-shirt would be sold along with Depths first album, which is due to come out this summer or fall. Proceeds from the sales will support the School Breakfast Program, which Ian had the opportunity to observe, and volunteer for, while in Malawi.

Stay tuned for information on how you can purchase a shirt and/or Depths album.

It was a typical hot day in Philadelphia when Pamoza's Executive Director received an unusual call. It was a 7th grader from St. Anastasia School with a question. "Can you tell me what the schools need in Malawi? My group would like to help." That was the beginning of a year-long effort led by Mikayla Dever and Anna Rago to organize a fun run to raise money for schools in Malawi. The two girls, who are both in 7th grade at St. Anastasia School, have worked to secure business sponsors, volunteers, runners, and coordinated other logistics to facilitate Miles for Malawi, a family-friendly run event on May 31st at Veteran's Memorial Park in Broomall.

Anna describes Miles for Malawi as a run for kids by kids to help raise money for schools in Malawi. Their goal is to raise at least \$1,000.

"I want kids to know that there are other people in the world who need our help and we should use our talents to help others."

You can register for the run at runtheday.com and search for Miles for Malawi.

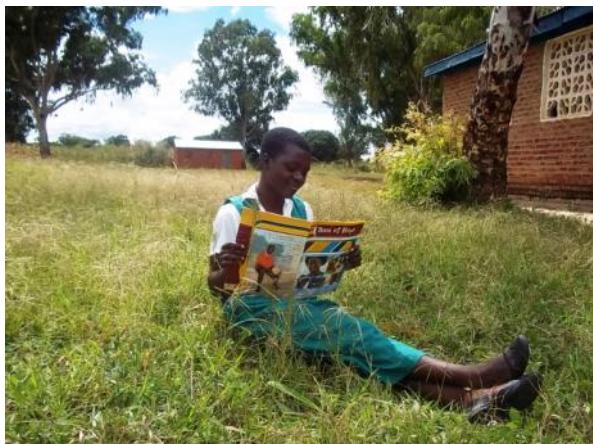


Mikayla Dever (left) and Anna Rago (right)

Program Updates

Christian Outreach

Pamoza reached nearly 1,300 people through Christian outreach this period. Activities included Bible studies, children ministry meetings, fellowships, and prayer meetings. Pamoza also partnered with the Student Christian Organization of Malawi (SCOM) to distribute over 600 Book of Hope magazines to students. The magazine presents Biblical principles in a youth-friendly and engaging way.



Zowe student reading Book of Hope

Entrepreneurship

Pamoza continues to support four community businesses we helped establish. These include a grinding mill and three shops . The Kahelele community shop was recently renovated (see picture below). We have also been busy providing training and support to two groups who received micro business loans.



Education

School breakfast continued for 1500 students. We also continued providing tuition support for three students in secondary school and two students in college.

Teaching and learning materials are limited in Malawi so Pamoza purchased several items for our four community schools: Kahelele, Mchingasanya, Mseza, and Zowe.

"We were desperate after our office roof was blown off by heavy winds and rains. We had no single piece of chalk. Thanks to Pamoza for coming at a time like this because now our work will be easier."

Mr. Nyirenda, Principal at Mchingasanya School

Medical Services

Pamoza continued to provide weekly clinics through a collaboration with Euthini Rural Hospital in Malawi. Over 600 people were treated this period mostly for malaria and pneumonia. Additionally, 500 children received growth monitoring and immunizations and 200 people participated in preventive health trainings.



Women and children waiting at Zowe health clinic

Agriculture & Food Security

Over 300 farmers received training and support in fertilizer application, weeding, and livestock production. One community member reached out to Malawi's Ministry of Water & Irrigation to request a dam and his efforts were successful. The government started constructing the dam in April. If implemented correctly, the dam would increase access to water throughout the year which should lead to better livestock production, alternative farming seasons, and irrigation possibilities.

Hungry for Change

Thank you to all the youth and youth leaders who participated in our Hungry 4 Change weekend, an event that challenges youth to give up food for 30 hours while learning about the needs of children in Malawi and raising money to support them.

We had an incredible time learning, serving, meeting new people, and finally eating after 30 hours.

Over 70 youth participated in the event, which took place in March at Camp Gretna Glenn in Lebanon PA. This year's Hungry 4 Change church partners included:

- Downingtown UMC
- Hopewell UMC
- Olivet UMC
- Springton Lake Presbyterian Church
- Thorndale UMC

Youth worked very hard to get sponsors.



One youth in particular caught our attention. Fifteen-year old Cheyenne Dailey has participated in H4C for the past four years. This year, she challenged herself to raise more money. She obtained over 30 sponsors and raised nearly \$2,000 for the school breakfast program.

When asked why she became involved, Cheyenne simply said ***"We are more fortunate here, we have more and we take that for granted. We should give some of what we have to others so they can also have something."***

Thank you Cheyenne and all the H4C participants for giving up something so others can have a better life.

Interested in hosting an H4C event? Contact us at info@pamoza.org.

Upcoming Events

Maggie O'Neills—Dinner & Music

Friday, May 29: 6—9 pm

1062 Pontiac Road

Drexel Hill, PA 19026

If you missed our Panera Night event in April, you need not worry. We have another opportunity for you to eat and support programs in Malawi.

Come dine at Maggie O'Neills on Friday, May 29 from 6—9 pm and they will donate 20% of all proceeds to Pamoza. You'll enjoy good food and live music by local artist Dana Cuddhy who will be performing especially for you that evening.

Miles for Malawi

Sunday, May 31 - 9 am

Veteran's Memorial Park

354 Lawrence Road

Broomall, PA 19008

Do you like to run? Do you have kids who like to run? Do you enjoy being outdoors in the Spring? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then make sure to join us on Sunday, May 31 at Veteran's Memorial Park in Broomall for the Miles for Malawi run event. You can register online at runtherday.com (search for Miles for Malawi) or register on site. Registration is \$10 per person or \$30 per family.

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:

- A successful harvest in May and June. Pray that the people we serve will have enough food.
- People to experience the love of Christ through our work.
- Our staff in Malawi—they work so hard to meet the needs of the communities we serve
- Our school partnership program—pray that all the students we work with will be forever transformed by the experiences we provide.
- Sustainable & successful business ventures in the community
- Our church partners and individual supporters. Pray that they will be blessed beyond measure.
- Safe travel to Malawi—Pamoza's Executive Director, CEO, and School Partnership Coordinator will be in Malawi from June 14-July 14, 2015.



I am now a free person and waiting upon my Lord to show me His way. I am ready to witness to other people and share what God has done to me."

Lizwe Botha

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*Together transforming the
lives of children and
families in Malawi.*

Meet Lizwe Botha

Free in Christ

Imagine being extremely sick and having nowhere to go. You try everything to get well but nothing works so you go to what is familiar. For Lizwe Botha, and many other families in rural Malawi, that familiar place is the witch doctor. When Lizwe (pronounced Leez-way) became very ill in 2013, his parents took him to the local witch doctor to be healed. This is what they knew. This is what they respected.

The witch doctor informed Lizwe that he was being chased by evil spirits and in order to rid them, he had to worship ancestral spirits and dance *vimbaza*, a traditional healing dance that often lasts hours. Lizwe followed the orders of the witch doctor but healing never came. As his illness continued, he fell behind in his studies and ultimately dropped out of school.

One Sunday, Lizwe happened to walk by the local church in Zowe and felt a strong desire to enter. He went in but left five minutes later. He didn't know what to think about church or how to make sense of his experience. The next day, he approached Pamoza's Programs Manager who prayed with him and Lizwe surrendered his life to Christ.

A week later, he sought advice from Pamoza staff and asked what he should do with the witch doctor's charms. He was advised to return them and that's exactly what Lizwe did. Now, Lizwe says he is living life free in Christ.

We couldn't be happier with his transformation.

"I am now a free person and waiting upon my Lord to show me His way. I've handed back all the things the witchdoctor gave me and I am ready to witness to other people and share what God has done to me."

The day Lizwe accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior was also the day he experienced true healing—physically and spiritually.

Lizwe has been made well.