



PAMOZA

# Pamoza News

Nov. 2015 - Jan. 2016

## We Are Growing!



Malawi

Village members applying fertilizer on their community farm—the task is tedious and done by hand

In Malawi, we are at the peak of the growing season, a critical period for the people we serve. This is the time most crops.

But that is not the only growth happening around us. We are happy to inform you that Pamoza is growing in a number of ways.

**Growing Our Services:** As an organization, Pamoza remains committed to five key initiatives: Christian outreach, health care, entrepreneurship, education and agriculture/food security. Though our focus hasn't changed, our approach to getting the work done is becoming more collaborative. We are

expanding to other communities, engaging local leadership more, and collaborating with government agencies and local organizations to increase our impact.

One example is with our health initiative. Our clinic, which is accessed by more than 100 people a week, was selected by Malawi's Ministry of Health to receive more intensive preventive health services such as training families on proper sanitation and increasing the number of pit latrines (bathrooms). The families we serve will now receive additional resources which help them prevent illness instead of just focusing on treatment. This is a monumental opportunity for us and it helps grow our health services both in quality and quantity.

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## A Year of Service

Every January, many communities commemorate Martin Luther King Day by participating in service activities. This has been the case for St. Anastasia School for many years. However, this year, instead of doing a day of service, the school opted to do something deeper: a Year of Service. Here's more about the project.

For the past three years, St. Anastasia School, a Catholic school in Newtown Square, has been supporting community development work in Malawi by partnering with Pamoza.

Their support initially began when a former student, Carolyn Hislop, traveled to Malawi for missionary work. When Carolyn returned, she shared her experience with students at St. Anastasia School (SAS).

After learning about the needs in the country, the students (preschool—grade 8) raised \$3,600 over a two-year period to buy school desks, Tumbuka Bibles, and chickens for a poultry farm, and to help with the construction of a bridge into one of the communities.

In addition to raising money, SAS had a Malawi culture day where students experienced a taste of Malawian life by balancing water on their heads, learning how to carry a baby on their back, making their own soccer balls, using a make-shift pit latrine, playing Malawian games, and



SAS 3rd grade students pose with a picture of their partner class

making flour by hand. It was a fun and interactive way to learn about Malawian culture.

After a few years of partnership, the school decided to go deeper by engaging students in a Year of Service project which engages students in different monthly activities to help foster a relationship between two cultures and two countries.

Each classroom at SAS is partnered with a class in Malawi. They will be learning about them, writing to them, and finding ways to support them. In January this year, the school kicked off the Year of Service with drumming, singing, and reflection. It was a very exciting assembly and got everyone excited about the year ahead.

Some of the Year of Service activities include learning about children in Malawi, selling popcorn to raise money for the school breakfast program, hosting dress-down days, and having a student-organized culminating event at the end of the school year to capture all that's been done.

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Another example is our expansion to new areas. Twelve years ago, we started our work in just one community. Now we are in four communities and we have received multiple requests from nearby communities seeking assistance with school breakfast, health care, starting their own businesses, and etc.

**Growing Our Staff:** Pamoza has excellent staff on the ground. When we started, we only had one person responsible for managing all our work in Malawi. With additional support from people like you, we now have five full-time operations staff: a Programs Manager, Field Accountant, Agriculture and Food Security Coordinator, and two Christian Outreach Facilitators. It is critical for us to have the right people on the ground

because true transformation only happens through relationships; and we cannot do that without our staff visiting homes, meeting with local leaders, and engaging people in change.

**Growing Our Supporters:** God has opened doors for us to partner with churches, schools, and individuals who care about global outreach. If you found out about Pamoza for the first time last year, it is our hope that you will continue to grow with us and stay engaged with our work. Keep an eye out for opportunities to travel to Malawi, attend a local event, make donations, or pray for us. There's an old African proverb which says, "If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together." We want to go far, by working *together* (pamoza) with you.

## Program Updates

### Christian Outreach

The past three months have been exciting for Pamoza but also for our Christian Outreach Facilitators: Lymon Chitete and Timothy Gondwe. They were married within one month of each other. The weddings were beautiful and we couldn't be more excited that they have both found wonderful wives. Lymon, who was initially hired part-time, will now be working for us full-time.



Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Gondwe    Mr. and Mrs. Lymon Chitete

### Medical Services

Over the past three-month period, there were more than 1,000 cases of illness treated at the Zowe Clinic. Patients were primarily treated for anemia, pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria, which are most prevalent during the rainy season. There were also some cases of malnutrition and one of them resulted in the death of a child. Malnutrition is especially high during the "hungry period" (typically December—March), which is the time when most families start running out of food as they wait for the harvest in June/July. Our School Breakfast Program has been very effective in mitigating malnutrition rates among school children.

We are excited that our clinic was selected by Malawi's Ministry of Health to receive community-based case management services. The goal of the program is to provide preventive health services so that fewer people contract preventable diseases. The program will be implemented by UNICEF and Mzambazi Hospital in partnership with our Health Committee and the existing staff at our clinic.

### Education

In the past few months, we purchased some much needed school supplies for students. We were also able to provide high school scholarships to 47 students, the highest number we have ever supported.



The Education Committee, comprised of community members, decided that parents of each student must pay a portion of the high school fee, and the rest is covered by Pamoza. Students are also expected to maintain good grades. This ensures accountability across all partners and prevents families from relying completely on external support.

### Entrepreneurship

We continue to support four community businesses which are intended to generate revenue that can be used to meet community needs. The Zowe community shop made significant profit this period, bringing in more than 60,000 kwacha each month for the past four months. In dollars this is roughly \$100 per month, but is a significant amount of money in rural Malawi.

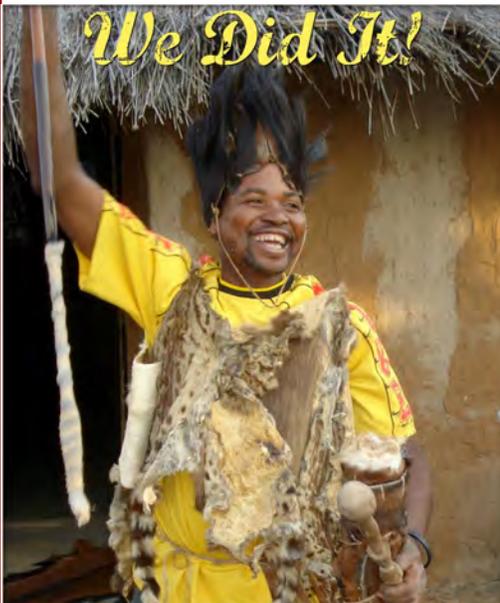
### Agriculture & Food Security

This is a critical time for farmers in Malawi, and we have been busy helping community members understand proper planting, weeding, and fertilizer application. There are more than 20 community farm plots we are



A Village Headman proudly stands in a healthy maize field tended by his village members

assisting. Most are doing well, but some are struggling. Our goal is to help community members work collaboratively on managing their farm so they can have a successful harvest.



If you donated to Pamoza anytime in November and December, then you contributed to our Double-the-Blessings campaign! Your donation helped us reach our \$60,000 goal.

This is a significant amount of money for us because it is enough to pay all our full-time staff in Malawi; buy a year's worth of medicine for our clinic; purchase 100 desks for students; supply seed and fertilizer for our community farms; provide school breakfast to 500 students; purchase 200 Tumbuka Bibles; and pay for a year of college tuition for 10 students.

**Now that's impact!**

**Thank you for making a difference in Malawi!**

## Announcements

**Church partnerships**—Is your church looking for opportunities to support missions work? If so, feel free to connect us with your pastor or missions ministry. We would love to engage your church in the work we are doing in Malawi. You can contact Temwa Wright, Executive Director of Pamoza, at 215-796-3223 or [twright@pamoza.org](mailto:twright@pamoza.org).

### Volunteer for Pamoza

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities? Do you have a special skill or talent you would like to contribute to Pamoza? If so, please e-mail us about volunteer opportunities at [info@pamoza.org](mailto:info@pamoza.org)

### United Way Workplace Giving

Does your company or employer allow you to set up automatic donations to the United Way? If so, supporting Pamoza is easy. Just look us up on the United Way agency list. Our member choice number is **52439**.

We also encourage you to check if your employer matches your giving.

**Do you shop on Amazon?** If so, check out [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Pamoza International

as the organization you want to support. Amazon Smile offers you the same products, at the same prices you will find on Amazon, with the added benefit of supporting your favorite charity.

**School partnership program**—If you are involved with a school and would like your students to learn about Malawian culture and/or engage in a service learning project, please contact our School Partnership Coordinator, Janet Daly, at 610-291-3981 or [jdaly@pamoza.org](mailto:jdaly@pamoza.org). We love working with schools!

## 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:

- Our collaboration with the communities we serve. Pray we will have great relationships with community leaders.
- People to experience the love of Christ through our work
- Our partnerships both within and outside of Malawi
- Protection from theft and malice, particularly for the community businesses.
- Our newly married staff. Pray their wives will also find purpose in working in and with rural communities
- Our Board, our staff, our volunteers, and the many people who sacrifice their time and energy for Pamoza.
- Adequate funds to do our work effectively
- The students we are supporting—pray they all succeed in school.
- A great harvest for all community farms



*“There is no medicine in my area, so I walk to Zowe clinic to receive help.”*

Lonika Gondwe

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*Together transforming the  
lives of children and families*

# Meet Lonika

## Accessing Health Care

At first glance, it’s hard to believe that Lonika is only 24. She has the grace and maturity of an old soul. In fact, most Malawian women in her position do. Her life experiences have made her strong.

When we met Lonika, she was waiting in a long line at our clinic in Zowe, waiting to be seen. She had her two boys with her, Progress, age 4, and Laston, age 6. Both were sick. “There is no medicine in my area, so I walk to Zowe clinic to receive help.” Her village is three miles away. Lonika, at the time, was seven months pregnant, but that didn’t stop her from walking to Zowe. That’s because medicine is in short supply across the country. There is a rural hospital near her community, but they never have enough medicine. Sometimes the doctors at the hospital refer people to the Zowe Clinic because they know medicine will be there. So Lonika found herself in a line among many other women, waiting for medicine.

She has become used to it—walking long distances to find what she needs for her family. In fact, she will be preparing for another long walk as she nears the end of her pregnancy because when a woman goes into labor in rural Malawi, there is no ambulance to call and no car to drive. Often, the fastest way to get to the hospital is on the back of someone's bicycle or on an ox-cart. To avoid that, pregnant women are encouraged to walk to the hospital several days before they are due and they remain there until the baby arrives. Some don’t make it and end up having the baby on the way. Some end up waiting at the hospital for weeks. Lonika hopes she will be one of the fortunate ones who won’t have to wait long. She also hopes that one day, Zowe Clinic will have a maternity ward and pregnant women can have their babies close to home. That is also *our* hope, and we are working hard to make it a reality.



Lonika with her sons, Laston and Progress