#### Spring 2023 | Newsletter

# If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go *Pamoza*.





Save the Date: Miles for Malawi 2024, May 18th



## **Meet Carol Austin**





# Joseph Food Bank Initiative: Phase 1 Done

Food. It's a basic need. Yet in Malawi, nearly 4 million people face acute food insecurity defined as "a person's inability to consume adequate food, putting his or her life in immediate danger." (FAO-UN)

Malawi's already-fragile food system has been further assaulted bv the devaluation of the Malawian kwacha; fertilizer price increases resulting from the war in Ukraine; and Cyclone Freddy, which killed 500 people, displaced half a million people, and washed away more than 86,000 acres of farm land.

The next hungry season (October -March, when people typically start running out of food), is expected to be bad. unless we act now.

#### Behind the Scenes

It takes many people to make Pamoza's work successful. Some of these people work behind the scenes and never seek any recognition. This quarter, we want to highlight one of our volunteers, Carol Austin (pictured on the left). Carol has served on our Board of Directors since 2015, making her one of our longeststanding board members. Learn about her at *pamoza.org/behind-the-scenes*.

In April 2023, Pamoza launched the Joseph Food Bank initiative with support from the Tyndale Foundation. We will buy corn while prices are low and store this corn so families can purchase it at-cost during the hungry season. This approach protects families from price gouging during their most vulnerable time. Phase 1 is done: renovated 3 buildings for corn storage. Phase 2: purchase corn and hire staff.

Austin Kalungu, pictured above fixing one of the buildings, told us, "This year there will be terrible hunger in our villages. Pamoza's program will be very helpful because people will be able to find corn they can afford right here."

Learn more: pamoza.org/josephfoodbank.

## **Missions Trip 2023**

summer. Springton This Lake **Presbyterian Church** will be sending its second missions team to Malawi after 10 years! The team of 14 will be traveling from June 27 - July 14 and will be working on technology innovations, health programming, communications training, and program enhancements. Interested in a missions trip? Send an email to twright@pamoza.org.

www.pamoza.org P.O. Box 23804 Philadelphia, PA 19143 P: (267) 422-2837

## Agriculture



It's harvest time! This is when you see the Pamoza spirit the most. Harvesting is labor-intensive, so working together is a must. **Pamoza founder Dr. Mtika** (pictured above) joined members of Zowe community as they shelled corn from their community farm.

At our Pamoza Farming Institute (a 70acre demonstration farm we use to model best practices), we planted 7 acres of **corn**, 7 acres of **beans**, **soya beans**, and fruits such as **bananas**. We also continued **poultry and fish farming** and invited students from 3 schools for a field visit to our farm.

We look forward to having the mission team taste some food from our farm!

## Education



We encourage **student leadership.** Pictured above are two girls who attended our inaugural **Girls Rise Leadership Conference** sharing what they learned with their peers.

This quarter, we **served 8,546 people in our education programs**. This included scholarship recipients, Girls Rise participants, parent education committees, vocational skills training, school breakfast, and adult literacy.

#### Education continued....

Due to the shortage of corn, several schools were unable to adequately prepare and serve children school breakfast. We managed to feed **428 students**, a significant reduction from our typical 2,000+ students.

We have been working with **15 newly recruited learners** in our tailoring program. In addition to theory, our learners get hands-on sewing practice.

## **Christian Outreach**



We reached 8,490 people with the Gospel in the past quarter. We:

- **Ministered to patients** at our clinic every Thursday by sharing the Word of God and praying with them.
- Taught weekly Bible lessons at 13 schools, reaching **6,655 students**.
- Had **41 people** attend fellowship meetings across 3 communities
- Continued to support **45 Bible study groups.** Bible study is integrated into our other programs and we invite people to start their own group. **634 people attended** Bible study groups.
- Facilitated family life skills trainings where we help married couples work better together. A total of **54 married couples attended** and we trained an additional **20 couples** from surrounding communities.
- Hosted leadership training for 22 pastors and church leaders.

We are thankful for all the community volunteers who help facilitate prayer meetings, fellowship gatherings, Bible study groups, and trainings. We couldn't reach people with the Gospel without their enthusiastic participation.

# **Economic Empowerment**



We model how people can earn income through agribusiness ideas like poultry farming. **We have been selling eggs** from our Pamoza Farming Institute (pictured above) and reinvesting the profit into programs.

We have **967 members** participating in our Village Savings and Loans Associations. These groups provide much- needed capital for big expenses by allowing members to borrow from group savings.

This quarter, **we had 151 members save**. We have seen a reduction in savings lately due to the high cost of commodities, **especially corn**, which **increased more than 500% in price**.

## Health Care



Last quarter, we had **1,773 patient visits** at our clinic. There was an increase in upper respiratory tract infections as well as malaria.

**155 children** received immunizations and growth monitoring services. We also had monthly antenatal check-ups for expectant mothers.

**77 households** participating in our C.H.I.E.F. (Character, Health, Income, Education, and Food security) program improved their hygiene and sanitary practices by building kitchens, toilets, bathrooms, and dish racks on their premises.



## Together transforming the lives of children and families in Malawi

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