



One day at a time...

THE NEWSLETTER OF
OPEN ARMS, MALAWI

Welcome to our Spring issue

We have had many visitors since the last edition, and chief among them was Ms Annie Lennox to Open Arms in February. She was in Malawi as a special envoy for the Scottish Parliament and called in to meet us. She spent three hours hearing about what we do, and making a short film. We loved having her with us.



Annie Lennox meets little Joe
www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7_XdWDYHM8

We were also visited by Santa Claus in December. He paid a special visit to the newly opened Rosemarie's House where 30 children attached to our Foster Houses had a wonderful day.

The Ball committee



The major fundraising event for the year was the Ball to mark the 10th year of our establishment as a registered charity in England and Wales. The Ball was organized by the UK Trustees on the 9th of April and took place in the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. Jill Carding and the Open Arms USA Trust were represented by her brother Daniel Howard.

Neville Bevis, Mrs Phiri and Ms Nasiyaya represented Open Arms from Malawi.. During the visit they were able to visit and speak at a number of schools that support us.

In Blantyre we were also delighted to welcome members of the Scottish Parliament, our first official visitors to Rosemarie's House. We have received a great deal of support from the Scottish Parliament and its members. They also spent time in Namalo village, where they continued their involvement.

We sent 11 of our ladies on training courses in Montessori and basic nursery education. They responded well to the courses.

Persistent fuel shortages and rapid rises in its price have hit our Outreach activities. We are having to rationalize these in a way we've never had to before. Readers might be surprised to learn that there is little difference in the price of fuel between the UK and Malawi.

In May we entertained four groups of volunteers from DePuy International. The company and its employees funded the cost of construction of a new house and kitchen at the Mangochi operation. About 25 men and women from all over Europe toiled at the two sites for a month. We are busy preparing the 3 projects that will occupy Ashville College on their 10th biennial expedition.



Patrons Lord and Lady Hope, Mrs Phiri, Derick and Christabel England, and our Director Neville Bevis at the Ball in Harrogate.

Events at Open Arms Blantyre



Students from the Malawi Institute of Journalism make a presentation after their fundraising initiative for Open Arms.



The acclaimed Malawian poet, Jack Mapanje, visits St Aelred's RC School to talk about Malawi and Open Arms. The pupils collected gifts for Rosemarie's House children for Christmas.



The European Space Agency sponsored 3 washing machines! This is a big improvement to our laundry.



The winners of the staff raffle, sponsored by well wishers, wave before boarding their flight to Lilongwe. One of the winners, Maggie Phiri, passed away shortly afterwards. The recent loss of a second staff member reiterated the tragedy of the HIV pandemic. The deaths might well have been prevented had the stigma and superstition surrounding the disease not remained an issue in Malawi.

The first triplets in the history of Open Arms arrived in April: Lucia (1.2 kg), Lyna (1.5 kg) and Nesi (1.9 kg). The children were removed at birth by the Social Welfare Department from their mother and placed in care with us.

Despite the intense efforts to help them through, such as hourly feeds and hospital visits, two of them did not survive. The full story can be viewed at www.openarmsmalawi.org/blog



New Admissions, Discharges and Long-term Residents



Isaac Bright is a lively 3 year old who came to Open Arms last year when his mother was admitted to Zomba Mental Hospital. After her rehabilitation she wanted to take Isaac home to live with his newly born younger sister. Matron Phiri closely monitored his progress and repeatedly found Isaac in poor condition.

We suggested that he return to Open Arms, and his mother accepted. Isaac is now one of the 9 residents of Harrogate House and his mother visits occasionally.



Opening of fourth Foster House: Rosemarie's House



Six of our 'graduates' live at the new Rosemarie's House with three foster siblings. All attend the nearby Ladybird International School. The hard work of Australians Peter and Carol-Anne, along with our workmen, made a wonderful job of converting and renovating our fourth Foster House, named after the late Rosemarie Bevis. On Christmas Day all 40 of our older children assembled there to celebrate with gifts from Santa.



Below is Edina in her brand new chair which she uses to get to school.



You can now donate to Open Arms Malawi by text message through 'Justgiving' Please text OAIH02 (and include the amount you would like to donate £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10) to this number : 70070

The full amount goes straight to OpenArms, no administration fees are taken. Or go online to - <http://www.justgiving.com/openarmsmalawi/donate>

Open Arms Mangochi

We have had an eventful few months here in Mangochi, with the current number of 34 babies keeping all of our caregivers busy. Matron Chiku discharged our first child of the year, Fatsani Lester. Fatsani returned to Kafulimira Village where Chimwemwe Nursery School / Feeding Station was built by DePuy last year.

With the arrival of a new contingent of DePuy volunteers hailing from all over Europe, work has commenced on the Foreman's House and a kitchen at the Kafulimira Feeding Station.

At the end of December, thanks to The Laura Case Trust, we were able to send four teachers from our Outreach Stations, including our own teacher from OAM, to a two week intensive course in Blantyre at the Playgroups Association of Malawi. The course focused on early childhood development, adding to the practical knowledge of the teachers.

Since Open Arms opened its doors in Mangochi, 17 children have been returned to their villages. Their progress is carefully monitored by Matron Chiku. George was one of the first babies admitted to Open Arms Mangochi back in January 2009. His father brought him to us following the death of his wife, who was HIV positive. George was successfully returned to his grandmother at the end of 2010. Unfortunately his father has since disappeared, while his grandmother manages six other orphans in her home. The support provided by Open Arms, in the form of food and medical care, is crucial for the family. Other key visits from donors and friends have included Andrew Henderson and family from Scotland, and Carlijn Hooijmans who does an immense amount to support Open Arms from Holland. Carlijn, a volunteer, has visited Open Arms on at least 6 occasions. She works in conjunction with Missions and Charitable organizations on our behalf in the Netherlands.



Open Arms staff with senior managers of DePuy Int: Leavor, Lynskey and Chris Norman.



The teacher from Chimwemwe Nursery School completes the training course.



Chiku administers medication to George on her monthly Outreach visit



Carlijn on her 6th visit to Open Arms

Open Arms Malawi is a registered charity, number 1090655



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