

Malawi Children's Initiative



FALL 2023



REFLECTING ON 2023 & LOOKING TOWARD 2024

As we enter the last quarter of 2023, we at Malawi Children's Initiative would like first to thank you for all the support you have continued to give our organization over the past 6 years. The nearly one million dollars in donations we have raised over that time has provided full-time jobs to 15 healthcare professionals at Kamuzu Central Hospital for four years, supported thousands of hours of pediatric nursing care, given scholarships to more than a dozen current and future doctors and nurses, and funded multiple other projects related to healthcare, education, and nutrition in Malawi.

We are truly grateful for everything you have given, and we are asking for your ongoing support. As you know, the MCI model is not to fund short-term missions or projects, but to invest in Malawian people by employing them as skilled professionals working to strengthen the local healthcare system and to build healthcare capacity through scholarships for pediatric nurses and physicians in training.

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We hope that you will continue to give generously to Malawi Children's Initiative this year. The nearly one million dollars that MCI has contributed to Malawian healthcare, education, and nutrition has helped to transform the Pediatric Department at KCH and changed the lives of thousands of children and their families. Yet each year we worry about raising enough money to meet our annual budget and maintain our commitment to our Malawian colleagues, their patients, and their families. Your contribution, especially as a monthly sustainer, will help us meet those commitments and continue to grow.

Our vision for MCI for the next year is bold. With support of a local donor, our organization is in discussions with KCH and government to build a Pediatric Acute, Critical Care, and Cardiac center on the hospital grounds. The dream is to support our partners on the ground in providing the quality of care to Malawian Pediatric patients that every sick or injured child deserves. We will keep our supporters informed as this incredible possibility unfolds.

While the problems of the world can sometimes feel overwhelming, know that your donation to our organization will be impactful, providing focused, sustainable support for people caring for some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable children. We thank you again so much, and wish you and your loved ones peace.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald Founder and President of MCI



LONESS ELIYAH

Our team on the ground is thriving! Two of our employees, Mr. Samson Banda (a lab technician) and Ms. Chimwewe Sangoh (a nurse) have continued toward advanced degrees with MCI funding, and Ms. Loness Eliyah has received a full scholarship from a US organization to begin a Masters in pediatric critical care nursing. These dedicated MCI employees provide high quality clinical care to pediatric patients while working to improve their knowledge base and skills.



STEPHEN NKHOMA

In the last year, MCI has continued to focus on supporting the Pediatric Department of Kamuzu Central Hospital, especially the Pediatric Laboratory and the Nutritional Rehabilitation Unit (NRU). We recently hired Mr. Stephen Nkhoma to a full-time position in the lab; with three technicians, the lab will expand its hours to include evenings and weekends, providing increased access to laboratory testing to acutely ill children.



OUR TEAM

Our NRU staff provide comprehensive care to patients with severe malnutrition; we provide dedicated nursing care to these vulnerable children, and education and social support to their families. MCI provides supplies for the ward and the families being cared for, including heaters, blankets, and food supplies. MCI has recently committed to funding tuition for two KCH pediatric nurses, Mr. Robert Milazi, and Ms. Cynthia Kalinda. Both will be receiving their Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Midwifery from Daeyang University in Lilongwe.



DR. BANDA (L) & DR. LOZANI (R)

Malawi Children's Initiative has expanded its provision of scholarships this year, focusing on investments in doctors and nurses specializing in pediatrics. Dr. Isaac Banda is entering his second year of Pediatric residency with continued MCI support, and is joined by Dr. Noel Lozani, who began his residency in April of 2023. MCI has committed to providing all tuition, expenses, and a living stipend for both physicians through our Doc to Doc Initiative, where physician donors can support their colleagues in training in Malawi.

