

Newsletter
December 2024



Changing Lives in Chongwe District - Charity No. 1106904

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Dear Friends of CLinC,

These are just some of the children and teachers who have benefitted from the support of CLinC in 2024.

Thank you to everyone who has enabled us to help them.



School income.

Community schools receive no financial help from the government and depend on parental contributions. These are insufficient to pay the teachers and cover essential school costs.

For example, at St Mark's last term, K16,450 was received from the parents. This equates to around £1.80 per child for the term. At Modern City School the average parental contribution was only 53p per child for the term. Without outside help, community schools are unable to survive.

The money that CLinC is able to send is gratefully received by all of the Schools, especially as the cost of living continues to increase.

Teacher support

December 6th was the end of the school year in Zambia.

We are pleased to say that there have been no changes to the teachers at the four schools we support. We have been able to provide all 21 teachers and 5 carers with a basic wage each month, including holidays. This means that the teachers, who are all voluntary and receive no pay from the government, have not been forced to leave the schools to find jobs that will bring in enough money to live on. This continuity makes a huge difference to the children and schools.

Over recent years we have enabled many of our teachers at St Mark's and St Anne's to gain diplomas or degrees in Primary education. John Nyirenda at St Mark's is about to start a distance learning diploma course. He will continue teaching at St Mark's during his course and for a minimum of two years afterwards.

We have also ensured that all our qualified teachers have been registered and many have acquired their teachers' license.

School	Teachers	Carers	Pupils		
			boys	girls	total
Modern City Community School	6	1	136	166	302
St Matthias Anglican Comm. School	5	1	115	100	215
St Mark's Anglican Comm. School	5	2	177	119	296
St Anne's Anglican Comm. School	5	1	150	134	284
Total	21	5	578	519	1097

Feeding Programme

We have continued to provide a twice weekly meal of nshima and relish for all pupils and staff at St Mark's and St Anne's. We hear that children from the local community often join in and receive a meal too!

At St Matthias school, the feeding programme has always been seen as essential.

Jailos, the headteacher says "*we understand that a well-fed child is able to focus, learn and thrive.*" With help from the charity 'Convoy of Hope', they manage to provide a meal of rice for the children before school starts. This term an additional donation from a well-wisher has enabled them to give the children nshima twice a week as well.

Hopefully this will continue.

There is no feeding programme at Modern City school. We have considered providing money towards this but as we already pay the rent for the rooms the school uses; we are reluctant to start something we cannot be certain we can continue to support financially. We will continue to consider this.

Buildings and repairs.

All schools are short of teaching space for the number of children enrolled. It is hard for the schools to turn away children who are desperate to learn. We constantly look at how we can help with all their 'challenges'. These include:

- There is a shortage of land at St Matthias and St Mark's, and we do not have the funds to build more classrooms.
- Some of the buildings require painting as well as repair to walls and floors.
- There is a shortage of desks, and many existing desks require repair.
- The shortage of toilets is another problem. At St Mark's we have been helping build a new toilet block and hope this will soon be finished.

Teaching materials

There is a constant need for textbooks, pens and pencils for pupils.

Due to a shortage of pupil textbooks, teachers' guides are essential in all subjects. Work from these is copied onto the blackboard.

The photocopier is essential for producing examination papers and servicing is required each year. The school computer is also causing concern!

In addition to the basic teachers' pay, feeding programme and teacher training, next term CLinC will send an additional £200 to each school for them to spend on repairs or purchases that are needed most. We hope this will help make a difference.

Community involvement

We are continuing to encourage all schools to look for help and support from the local community. This will be vital when CLinC is no longer able to support them.

The new priest at **St Anne's and St Mark's schools**, Father Joseph, has plans to encourage the church to be more involved in the running of the schools and has good intentions of getting the community involved as well. It is hoped that parents might offer their time and skills to repair desks, paint walls or carry out other small tasks.



St Matthias school already works with the community. As well as receiving help with the feeding programme, children are invited weekly into the local library for a DEAR program. (Drop Everything And Read). The children have 30 minutes to read library books at the end of the day.

At Modern City School, the children celebrated Independence Day, described by the headteacher as “*a special occasion that allowed both students and staff to reflect on our nation’s history and progress*”



Fundraising

The **Christmas Coffee Morning with Crafts** on Nov 2nd was a great success. We raised a total of £1,072 from refreshments, raffle and craft sales. This will enable us to send the additional money to each school next term. Thank you.

On Nov 23rd we were at **The Charities Fair** in Wotton and raised a further £430.

Looking ahead, we have already booked Cromhall Village Hall for **the Easter Coffee morning with Crafts** on April 5th next year.



News from one of our first pupils at St Mark’s.

Mulenga was one of the first pupils to be sponsored through secondary school by members of CLinC. We lost touch with her until I received a text this week. Mulenga graduated from University in May and writes to thank CLinC for enabling her to continue her education.

**On behalf of Mulenga and all teachers and children, past and present,
THANK YOU all for your continued support and interest.
Without you, we could not do it.**

Ann (on behalf of trustees)
27/12/ 2024