

2018 GLAD TIDINGS ORPHAN CARE (GTOC) REPORT

EDUCATION

GTOC started in 2004 and has since been helping vulnerable and orphaned children. A key impact has been the development of nursery care. Recognising the great demand for nursery services provided by GTOC a further two more nursery centres at Moyo and Jonasi were opened in 2010. Furthermore, distance from the centres has been another challenge for these children which has led to the opening of another centre at Kundayi in 2011. These 4 centres have been working hand in hand to achieve a good standard of care across the centres which all serve the wider community of Ngolowindo.

GTOC continues to provide good, safe sanitation to the children by constructing toilets in all the four nursery schools.

Below is a table showing current data on the four nursery schools.

Centre	Year started	No. Teachers/centre	No. male children	No. of female children	Total
GTOC	2004	4	76	67	143
Moyo	2010	3	36	43	79
Jonasi	2010	3	41	64	105
Kundayi	2011	3	47	52	99
				TOTAL REGISTERED:	426

Mary Mwenda, the manager, commented on the achievements that these nursery schools are making in the lives of children from Ngolowindo community.

Date: 16th January, 2019
 From: Ngolowindo Model Primary School
 To: Star Fish
 Dear sir/madam,
RECOMMENDATION LETTER
 Number of learners sat for first term examinations in standard 1 were 340. Out of 340 learners, 164 learners passed the examinations representing 36% passrate.
 Out of 78 learners that attend afternoon classes at Glad Tidings Orphan care, 52 learners passed the examinations representing 67% passrate.
 Looking at Glad Tidings Orphan care learners results, it shows that these learners did a very good job.
 On behalf of standard 1 teachers, I recommend that the programme should continue because it is helping learners a lot.
 Yours
 Mrs. K. Issah
 On behalf of standard 1 teachers.

GTOC provides the best foundation in education for the children that attend their nursery schools. This has been reflected by the performance of the children who go to enrol for primary Standard 1 at Ngolowindo Model School. Some of these children come back to GTOC for extra lessons that are conducted in the afternoon which help them to maintain their grades as best students in their respective classes.

All the children are able to spend some hours without their parents and guardians, giving parents time to farm, do household chores and care for younger members of the family. The children become confident to interact with teachers and other children when they start their primary school (year 1).

Letter showing Standard One results

GTOC not only believes that the provision of learning and writing materials is key but also offering a balanced meal is a good way to motivate the children to work hard and come to school every day and most importantly in the physical development of their mental capacity.



Mrs Issah, a teacher in class one at Ngolowindo Model School

Mrs Issah is a teacher at Ngolowindo Model School. She has appreciated the teaching methods at GTOC nursery school. Mrs Issah confirmed that the children from GTOC nursery perform better in primary school since they have a good foundation. The teaching methods have helped in increasing the pass rate of the children compared to the ones who did not attend the nursery school. The following table shows first term performance records of children attending Ngolowindo Primary in Standard 1 and 2 and comparisons of pass rates of those who attended the GTOC nursery to those who did not – a marked improvement in the second year.

The table below shows first term results for Standard 1 and 2.

Year (first term)	Class	Total number that sat for exams for both GTOC and Ngolowindo	Total number that sat for exams for GTOC	Total number that sat for exams for non GTOC
2018/2019	Standard 2	347	39	308
2018/2019	Standard 1	309	41	268

Grade 4 = Excellent

Grade 3 = Good

Grade 2 = Average

Grade 1 = Need support

STD 2 first term results

% of GT pupils achieving grade 4	% non GT pupils achieving grade 4	% of GT pupils achieving grade 3	% of non GT pupils achieving grade 3	% of GT pupils achieving grade 2	% of non GT pupils achieving grade 2	% of GT pupils achieving grade 1	% of non GT pupils achieving grade 1
23.0%	6.1%	20.5%	8.7%	28.2%	35.7%	28.2%	49.3%

STD 1 first term result

% of GT pupils achieving grade 4	% non GT pupils achieving grade 4	% of GT pupils achieving grade 3	% non GT pupils achieving grade 3	% of GT pupils achieving grade 2	% non GT pupils achieving grade 2	% of GT pupils achieving grade 1	% non GT pupils achieving grade 1
21.9%	1.49%	26.8%	14.1%	34.1%	21.26%	17.1%	63.05%

You will see the tremendous difference Glad Tidings makes in early years' progression. We will continue to track this difference throughout primary & secondary school.

Glad Tidings Orphan Care also continues to give excellent care to orphans and vulnerable children in the wider community. 240+ orphans and vulnerable children are supported in different areas of their lives which include education, health, psychosocial and physical wellbeing through a keyworker system. Five keyworkers are employed to visit the children in their own homes to check on welfare, offer advice and play a liaison role with the school.



One special way GTOC fulfilled its objective to care was by hosting a Christmas party on 22nd December 2018 at GTOC. The party was organised for these orphans and vulnerable children as a way of making their Christmas memorable and exciting. They were given a chance to participate in fun games as well as enjoying the 'feast'! The children also received Christmas presents such as clothes, shoes, blankets, jumpers, toys and many more.

Children enjoying their food at a Christmas party at GTOC on 22nd Dec 2018

Volunteer, Ali Beckett

The further development of good teaching skills and results have been down to Ali Beckett, a British primary teacher, who joined the team in April 2018. After a period of observing, she started teacher training sessions in September for all the staff and helpers at the nurseries to ensure understanding and the implementing of new methods of teaching rather than 'rote' learning and also how to use their resources effectively. Also she has regularly been going into the four nurseries to help staff sort, wash and store resources in labelled containers for each nursery. And at the end of the summer term she took all the children on a coach trip so that they could experience – many for the first time of seeing Lake Malawi.

For the first few months she regularly visited the physio clinic for disabled children led by Elias at the Glad Tidings Centre - taking things to do with the children which would stimulate their senses or help with their fine motor control. Here, she met Thandizo, a girl of 14 years with cerebral palsy. For the first couple of months she taught her at Ngolowindo primary school and helped her to prepare for her final exams - going through maths and English but also helping her to control her pen so that her writing could be legible to the examiners. She was also involved in helping to find the right secondary school for Thandizo that could help with her special needs. She continues to keep in touch with Thandizo and her family and has enjoyed going to visit her at her secondary boarding school. For several weeks she also went into the villages with one of the key workers, Lenia, to visit the vulnerable children and their families there.

During the summer Ali coordinated a five-week summer school for the five-year-olds that were preparing to begin at the local primary school in September. Ali worked hard work and the children made great progress. On average 75 children attended each day over the five weeks and since September 2018 Ali has coordinated an after-school club three afternoons a week for these same children and regularly gets between 55 and 60 children coming each day. She felt this was crucial to further reinforce the educational platform established – not wanting them to lose skills gained from being in a class of 100+ at the primary school.



Nativity Play with Ali

Finally at Christmas she coordinated a nativity play with the nursery ‘graduates’ which was greatly appreciated by the 100+ parents, guardians and local community who attended. Her aim is to have a Christ-centred place where the children feel safe and happy and can learn effectively.

Literacy Leaders Programme

Mrs Issah is also benefiting from the Literacy leaders programme at Ngolowindo Primary, introduced by Rachel Ormrod, a British teacher from the UK. Starfish supported the introduction of this program to improve the teaching skills and performance of the teachers there as well as other schools in the district. The program has improved the performance of the learners. Since the inception of the program in the 2017/2018 academic year there has been positive impact on the teaching skills of the teachers and the results of these children.

Academic year	Learners entered exams	Full Pass	General Pass	Failed
2016/2017	59	9 (15%)	27(61%)	23
2017/2018	59	17(29%)	38 (93%)	4

The data above shows a 32% improvement on pass results.



Literacy Leader Teachers

GATEWAY

The GTOC Centre staff have played a significant part in the Starfish GATEWAY programme by establishing a sewing group which makes sanitary kits for girls in schools. Furthermore, the leader of this sewing group conducts training for other women sponsored from groups throughout Malawi wishing to also follow the GATEWAY model.

Students with kits

In 2017 GTOC produced 263 sanitary kits while in 2018 the group produced 800 kits and Ngolowindo Primary is one of the schools that have benefitted directly. In 2018, 227 sanitary kits were distributed to the girls at the school which was an increase from the 152 kits that were distributed in 2016. As a result, the kits have helped reduce the absenteeism rate of the girls.



Michael Jackson Orchard

Another programme that has made an impact at GTOC is the introduction of the Michael Jackson Orchard established at the back of the GTOC site. This programme is being funded by the Michael Jackson Trust to enable a gardener to plant and care for numerous trees such as mangoes, pawpaw, guavas, lemons, and passion fruit for the educational benefit of students at the Ngolowindo Primary School and to enhance the diet of children at GTOC, Ngolowindo primary and the community around it. The idea is for the children to learn and adopt this practice and implement it in their respective communities.



Passion fruits in the garden

In particular, one of the subjects taught at Ngolowindo Primary is Agriculture and the Michael Jackson Orchard acts as a model garden for this subject. Learners take part doing some of the activities that take place at the orchard. These activities include watering the trees, clearing up the ground, applying manure and also replanting of the trees where they have dried out. These learners are interested in the programme and take turns in the activities. They have just finished harvesting mangoes, and will soon start eating passion fruit and guavas which are going to be ready very soon. The learners are looking forward to learning more from this garden and adopting the system to improve their diets in their homes and of course, enjoy the fruits themselves!

Beautiful papayas that are going to be harvested soon

The nursery school also benefits from the fruits that are harvested from the garden. These fruits are helpful because they are used to supplement their diets and when they have excess they are even allowed to take them home with them to share with their families.



HEALTHCARE

Most people living in rural locations have little access to affordable healthcare. Public transport to the nearest hospital (12 kms away) is prohibitively expensive. People delay seeking medical attention until their condition deteriorates and sometimes becomes life threatening. Therefore, as well as developing educational services, in partnership with the Salima District Health Office Starfish has supported the provision of health services to the community of Ngolowindo i.e. Starfish fund the transport and lunch allowances of health Surveillance Assistants and nurses (also supplementary drugs) who run the following specialist clinics. Data is captured from the second half of 2018 to show attendance:

Physiotherapy Clinic

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total females	18	19	13	8	7	5
Total males	8	11	11	7	4	4
Cerebral palsy	23	22	18	12	10	9
Hydrocephalus	3	1	4	1	1	2
Orthopedic condition	0	0	0	1	0	0
Down syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hemiplegia	1	0	2	1	0	0
Quadriplegia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burn contractures	2	1	1	1	0	0
Elbow contracture	0	1	1	0	0	0
Developmental delay	0	0	1	0	0	0

Appliances provided at the Physio Clinic

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Standing frames		1				2
Neck Collars						1
Bandages	6					3

Antenatal clinic

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total women attending Clinic	17	13	13	12	32	25

Family planning clinic

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Women attending clinic	115	109	76	170	140	75
New patients	8	23	7	17	7	2

Ant-Retroviral Therapy Clinic (ATR)

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Women	28	19	28	21	16	17
Men	7	6	7	3	3	2
Children	4	4	4	8	11	6

HIV Testing and counseling clinic

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Male		1	0	3	0	0
Female	5	9	4	4	19	3
Pregnant women	7	5	6	11	9	9

People tested for HIV by age

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 – 14 Years	1		1	1		
15 – 24 years	4	8	6	7	14	5
25 years above	7	7	3	10	14	7

Results for HIV testing given to service users

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Negative	11	15	10	18	28	12
Positive	1	0	0	0	0	0

Village Under 5 clinics

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Female children	32	33	20	28	39	33
Male children	27	35	20	22	30	28
Malaria positive	37	16	18	15	11	6
Malaria negative	13	20	11	7	17	18
Diarrhea	8	13	13	10	18	19
Coughing and f/breathing	2	39	18	23	50	34
Fever	34	38	28	23	22	22
Eye		5	1	3	7	9

Under Five Immunisation and Growth Monitoring Clinics

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total immunized	93	31	45	47	95	45
Growth monitoring	128	85	81	92	120	75

Ambulance use

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total number of patients transported to physiotherapy clinic at the GTOC Centre	26	30	24	0	0	0
Total number patients referred and transported to SDH	0	0	7	0	0	0
Total number of medical staff transported to GTOC	0	11	0	0	0	0

Volunteer Barbara Almond

Another British volunteer who has made a significant impact over the years is Barbara Almond. She has a broad experience of working and teaching in Malawi with health and childcare workers since 2005 and specifically introduced the GTOC Child Protection Policy and Child Development Surveillance Programme. Her qualifications include MSc Public Health & Health Promotion in the Developing World, BSc (Hons) Health Studies, RGN, HV Dip, Cert Ed, Cert in Tropical Nursing, and Obs Cert.

In August 2018 she visited Malawi and led teaching sessions with the key workers and nursery staff which were enthusiastically received. Approximately 20 people attended each session. They had specifically asked for teaching on elephantitis, deafness, hepatitis, A, B and C and cancer. Furthermore, highly interactive sessions were held on women's health issues. This included puberty, menstruation, conception, family planning, pregnancy and birth. Within these sessions the normal processes and complications of each were explored through questions and answers.

In particular, the topics of female genital mutilation (FGM) and early child marriage were also discussed. Barbara reflects, 'All recognised that early child marriage occurred in Malawi (50% of girls are married before the age of 18) and many present had themselves been child brides but wanted things to be different for their daughters. Concerning FGM some present were genuinely shocked that the practice still occurs within Malawi, while others were quiet and subdued possibly because they themselves had been victims of this practice.'

She was encouraged to note that following Q&A a significant amount of teaching from previous years had accurately been remembered. It is also worth remembering the ripple effect of this teaching as those present apply it not only in their roles as key workers, but also pass it on within their own homes, families and communities.

Finally, Barbara took the opportunity to visit the weekly physio clinic and reported, 'The concept of play is not well understood in Malawi and many adults have not had childhood experiences of play

themselves and therefore they do not easily grasp the value of play in stimulating children's development especially in the instance of children being disabled. Notwithstanding, I witnessed standing frames and support chairs made by the local carpenter being put to good and effective use. Mothers were being supported in providing passive exercise for a number of children with significant disabilities. They were also being aided to fit support splints appropriate to specific children.'

Clinic and Medical Staff House

Starfish are now looking to take healthcare a step further and in partnership with the Salima District Health Office plan to construct an Outpatients Clinic to run five days a week at the GTOC site as well as continue with the above specialist clinics. This new clinic will be managed, staffed and resourced by the health authority. Furthermore, a staff house for medical personnel will ensure a permanent healthcare presence – this is also being built on site, again funded by Starfish.

Ambulance

In addition, a large ambulance is currently being shipped from Japan to replace the current motorbike ambulance which has limited seating and has become unreliable due to constant breakdowns.

This vehicle will be used as an ambulance to assist patients (clinically referred or emergency) to be transported from the new Health Clinic to Salima District Hospital and other health facilities as required. Also the ambulance will transport disabled adults and children from surrounding communities to attend the physio clinic at the Ngolowindo Glad Tidings Centre and to also access health services in Lilongwe or Blantyre. Finally, the ambulance will assist medical staff to be transported to and from Salima District Hospital to the Ngolowindo health clinic in order to run a full-time Outpatients Department as well as specialist clinics.

The provision of this ambulance along with the clinic has been secured through an agreement between Starfish and the Salima District Health Office under Salima District Council with the specific objective of providing local communities with access to essential medical services in order to improve the health and well-being of the community at Ngolowindo. And along with the commitment and dedication of the staff at GTOC and Starfish a good model of healthcare and education to the wider Ngolowindo community is being achieved.

All the staff at GTOC appreciate the funding and donations that comes through Starfish to sustain the above programmes, construction and ambulance.

Feb 2019

