

## GLAD TIDINGS ORPHAN CARE ANNUAL 2021 REPORT

### **Background**

Glad Tidings Orphan Care (GTOC) is a faith based organisation, established in 2004, which is located in Ngolowindo Village in Maganga, Salima district. The project is run primarily for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC's).

### **Nursery Programme**

Children come into the four nursery schools every day from Monday to Friday 7:30 to 12:00. These very rural centres provide support to families who would otherwise not have any nursery care available and reduces the number to a manageable level at the main centre.

The main G.T.O.C nursery started in 2004 and now runs 4 classes, the Moyo Nursery has 3 classes which started in 2010, Jonasi Nursery has 3 classes which started operating in 2010 and Kundayi Nursery has 3 classes and opened in 2011.

### **Daily Programme of activities at the Nurseries:**

7:00 Nursery Teachers arrive and prepare equipment needed

7:30 Children arrive and are welcomed

7:45 Assembly

8:15 Children in class learning

9:15 Indoor games

9:45 Outdoor games

10:15 Clear away all toys

10:30 Meal (porridge)

11:15 Story time or health education and closing prayer

11:30 Home time



## Staff per Centre

### G.T.O.C (10):

- 1 Project Manager (f)
- 2 key workers (m)
- 2 Teachers (f)
- 3 Nursery Assistants (f)
- 2 Watchmen (m)

### Moyo (5):

- 1 Key worker (f)
- 2 Teachers (f)
- 2 Nursery Assistants (f)

### Jonasi (5):

- 1 Key worker (f)
- 2 Teachers (f)
- 2 Nursery Assistants (f)

### Kundayi (5):

- 1 Keyworker
  - 2 Teachers (f)
  - 2 Nursery Assistants (f)
- Total : 25 staff

Note: The keyworkers, as part of the nursery staff, also provide oversight for GTOC's registered OVCs - working with their guardians in the local communities to ensure the children's good health and welfare. With the holistic support from Starfish Malawi, the children receive clothing, food, and healthcare along with a significant preparation towards primary education.

## New Resources

All 4 centres have been equipped with new playground equipment which have been locally built. This has made a great difference to both the children and is deeply appreciated by their parents.



## Challenges

Sadly, after two warnings and a period of suspension, the G.T.O.C management had to dismiss a member of the nursery staff in November due to excessive drinking. However she has now been replaced by teacher, Tabitha Smart, who was a former Starfish sponsored student.

Tabitha shares, 'I am **Tabitha Smart** and live at Kundayi Village. I was born on 13<sup>th</sup> 1991. I am unmarried with three children – two boys and one girl. I attended Mvera Community Day Secondary School and have a Junior Certificate in Education. I was sponsored by Starfish back then. I love working with GTOC- kids has always been my passion, thank you for this opportunity'.



## Nursery Schools update

Children in all four nurseries performed well during the 2021 academic year. School closed on 13<sup>th</sup> December and parents were invited to talk to teachers if they wanted to find out more about their child's progress thought the year.

The list below shows the number of children moving to Ngolowindo Model Primary School from each nursery:

School from each nursery:

Children registered in September 2021 academic year who attended the following nursery schools:

Nursery Centre	Boys	Girls	Total
G.T.O.C	72	85	157
Jonasi	83	74	157
Kundayi	52	61	113
Moyo	49	37	86
Total	259	257	513

## After School and Holiday Clubs

In the afternoon the main GTOC centre is open for an After School Club for children attending Standards 1 and 2 in the local primary school where they are given a meal and continue to be supported in developing basic learning skills. However, during the school closure period due to the pandemic, the After-School club could not be run and the parents noticed a significant detrimental effect on their children's educational achievement and confidence.

Also, during the holidays children are able to come to the centre for a Holiday Club where they learn and play different games with other children in the community.

## Saturday Children's Club

Every Saturday children from local communities attend a Saturday club at GTOC which is run by the keyworkers to develop life skills, give spiritual encouragement through Bible stories and singing, and of course, lots of play. During the festive season children gathered on 18<sup>th</sup> December to attend a Christmas party where they sang songs, danced to music, had food to eat and received a Christmas present of a blanket, jumper and clothes.



*Photo lunch the party*

*4: Chisomo, enjoying her Photo 5: Children*



*Christmas dancing at*



*Photo 6: Children with their Christmas gift*



### **New Everlands Special Needs Centre**

Starfish Malawi will shortly be opening the new Everlands Centre recently constructed on the GTOC site to offer children with special needs a primary education. Many of these children are simply not able to access education and this will make a significant difference to both them and their parents. This centre has been kindly donated by the Michael Jackson Legacy. Two primary teachers, experienced in special needs education, will be running the programme.

### **Hope Clinic**

There is now a well-established clinic which Starfish Malawi constructed on the GTOC site along with housing for the medical staff. The registered OVC's along with many children and adults from a wide region use this facility, which is run by government health workers and supported by staff employed by Starfish Malawi. In 2021 a total of 41,883 patients were treated in both the outpatients and specialist clinics.



### **Impact of COVID on Education**

Schools were opened on 4<sup>th</sup> January last year, but after only two weeks of learning, they were closed again due to increase of infections in local communities. They then reopened on 24<sup>th</sup> May as protective measures were put in place by the ministry of health (children and staff were encouraged to wash hands frequently with soap and avoid touching their eyes and noses) and the vaccine programme was rolled out. However the take up of vaccines has been slow due to widespread suspicion of its safety, despite government promotion.

At each GTOC nursery centre and in many local schools, safe washing facilities were erected provided through Starfish. And overall attendance in class has improved.

### **Impacting stories of GTOC**



**Sharif Kachere** and **Rashid Kachere** are brothers - Sharif was born on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 and Rashid was on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008. They were registered as OVC's at G.T.O.C. on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 after the death of their father.

Since then Starfish has been assisting them through G.T.O.C. Rashida, the mother to the two, was desperately in need when her husband died and is thankful to starfish for the following benefits the children have received over the years:

They are given examination fees  
Free health services, using Hope Clinic  
Clothes and blankets  
Feeding programme - maize supply



### **Challenges**

Regarding the safety of children at the GTOC centre, it would be helpful if a fence was constructed around the school to protect children from running into the road as it is sited on a very busy road.

### **Conclusion**

Over the years GTOC has made a significant impact on Ngolowindo village and the surrounding communities. The investment sown by Starfish Malawi continues to be deeply appreciated.