

SPONSORSHIP ANNUAL REPORTS 2021

Background

In 2005, Starfish introduced Secondary School Sponsorship in Salima and Kasungu districts in Malawi. The programme aims at helping students who are orphans and those living in extreme poverty, these students would not have been able to attend secondary school without this support. During the first five years, only a few students were sponsored but as the time went by, more sponsors were able to help students. These sponsors are doing a great job of sending the less privileged students to school. We at Starfish are very grateful for all the support.

Update on Progress

In the year 2021, we had 156 students in different secondary schools, 36 Form 2 students wrote their Junior Certificate Examinations and 35 Form 4 students wrote Malawi School Certificate of Education. We also have 36 students in different Universities, Colleges and Vocational Trainings in the throughout the country. Some of our past sponsored students are now working in government departments and others in NGOs.

Students in secondary schools are given pocket money and transport to school. They are also provided with a mosquito net, torch light, scientific calculators, English dictionaries, etc. Girls are also given the reusable sanitary pads and knickers kits.

During the holiday of each term, Starfish organise a students' meeting where students are advised, encouraged, and motivated to work hard in school in order to achieve their goals. Starfish invite guests from different governments or NGOs within the communities to motivate the students. The students are given shoes, clothes, and other gifts during these meetings. The best performing students are given presents for their hard work.

Stories from Former Students



Goodluck Banda shares, "I heard about Starfish Malawi when I was in Primary school as our school was linked with Benenden Primary School in UK through Starfish Malawi. I still remember Rachel and Chris on their tour at our school when I was in Standard 6. There were several activities they brought to our school, but there was one that brought a change in my life. It was the news that Starfish pays school fees for orphans and the underprivileged through secondary school. Being a boy from a poor family, this was a great motivation and I worked very hard. I was the overall best learner at standard 8

and got selected to Robert Blake Boys Secondary School. Starfish took me in, and my Sponsor paid for my secondary school education. Starfish made a profound difference in my life as it was always there to make sure that I am growing in all pillars of life. Through Starfish sponsorship I worked hard and got selected to the University of Malawi. My Sponsor through Starfish supported me all through the university years and now I have finished my studies. It is worthy to mention that I have been the luckiest person to be part of the difference Starfish is making in the lives of boys and girls in Malawi. Through the education and skills, I am planning and developing a Biomedical Technology Firm. I believe that the difference that Starfish has made in my life should be translated to my fellow Malawians through provision of excellent medical services in our hospitals and creation of jobs to my fellow youths when my firm has fully been established. Yes! Not all that glitters is gold but Starfish has been my gold and I will always be part and a brand of Starfish Malawi. I am always grateful for the opportunity that was mine through the support of my Sponsor and Starfish.



“I am **Mercy Mkumbira**, a student at Lilongwe Girls Secondary School. When I was selected to Lilongwe Girls, I very was excited that I had achieved something in my life. Sadly my mother told me that I could not go to that school because she could not manage to pay my school fees. I cried that night; in the morning she took me to Starfish to seek for help. I began to lose hope - I was at home while my friends had already gone to school. After 3 weeks my mother received a phone call from Starfish to say that they had a sponsor who wanted to help me and she was going to pay my school. I cried again but this time it was tears of joy. Now I am in Form 4, I study with peace of mind knowing Starfish has taken care of everything. I am grateful to my Sponsor and to Starfish for fees, transport, pocket money and other gifts.”

“I am **John Masauko**, the first thing you would notice about me is that I am deaf and dumb. It was hard growing up but I worked hard in school. After writing my standard 8 exams, I was selected to Ntcheu Secondary School. At that point I got worried - I thought it was the end of the road for my education because my mother could not afford to pay my school fees. Starfish came in as a saviour and introduced me to my sponsor who paid my school fees. I have finished my secondary school this year November without any fees problems. I am now waiting for the results. I, my mother and other relatives are grateful for the great work that Starfish has done and to my Sponsor who took me in - despite my condition”.



Conclusion

Starfish Sponsorship continue to make a difference in the lives of young girls and boys who are unable to complete their education in different secondary schools and colleges in Malawi because they have no one to pay for their school fees and other needs. We plan to continue this on into 2022 and beyond, through the kindness shown by individual Sponsors from the UK.

