

Together WE can
CHANGE a GIRL'S
future

ATSIKANA PA ULENDU FALL 2012

www.malawigirlsonthemove.com



Henry and Agogo Sheila Haywood

It is hard to believe that Atsikana Pa Ulendo (means Girls On The Move in Chichewa), founded in 2006 and opened in 2008, has just started its sixth year of operation. To date, APU has educated 480 girls and graduated 160 from Secondary School. We know that each one of these girls is already having an impact on her immediate family, her village, and her community and we know that the ripple effects of this impact is spreading throughout the country.

Finding sponsors for our students remains a continuing challenge, and finding funding for construction is unpredictable, however despite these challenges, APU, Girls On The Move Secondary School is thriving!

APU has changed my perspective of what it means to be a woman. Before APU, and having been raised up in a community in which no woman is educated, all I knew was that women are born, then help with the household chores in the family, turning 15, 16, 17, they marry and serve THEIR men, bear a number of children-6-7-8 which today I find it scary while at that time, to me, It was nothing but the way people live.



My time at APU has helped me to realize that women can do anything, EVEN more than men can do sometimes. At APU I saw Memory as the director of the school, so many female teachers: Bertha, Gweneth, Lucy, Matilda and Khadidya, independent women who were earning a living by money from their work. These women changed my perspective of what it means to be a woman. Being a woman has nothing to do with going through all those hardships before and after marriage. We have the ability to contribute to making the world a better place to live in only if someone invests in us and we will do the rest. Therefore, after APU, girls will be aware of what it means to be a woman. And after APU, we are no longer the same which was and is our song today.

If all this will be possible, I see a new-born generation out of APU. I see a generation that is educated and employed. A generation that is able to send its children to school or that will be able to afford education for its children. I see a generation that will reach other people's lives and bring change just as what you are doing. I see so many women being role models right in primary schools rather than me who had role models at my high school, later in my life. This means that more girls will get inspired and continue with their education. A GENERATION, A NEW-BORN GENERATION, OUT OF APU.

**If you educate a woman,
you educate a nation.**

Written by Maness Samuel,
APU Graduating Class of 2011
Currently studying her second year of IB at
Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, United
World College, in Victoria, British Columbia.





Graduates 2012

ACHIEVEMENT AT APU

The results for both the Junior Certificate Exam (JCE) and Malawi School Certificate Exam (MSCE) have been published and our teachers and students at APU are celebrating their amazing success. Although the results for the JCE were made available in September, the results for the MSCE were only made public yesterday.

These exams were written by last year's Form 2 and Form 4 students in June 2012.

APU Form 2 students achieved a 100% pass rate on their Junior Certificate Exams. The national pass rate was 66%.

APU Form 4 students achieved a 91% pass rate on their MSC Exams. 77 APU students wrote this exam and 71 of them passed. The national pass rate was just 51%. Not only did 91% of our girls pass, but they passed with grades

that are far higher than our last year results, putting APU on the map as one of the top girls schools in the country.

This class of 77 girls started Form 1 at APU in our second year of operation. Every one of these students was on full scholarship and were selected out of thousands of applicants. This selection process was not based on academic achievement, but on the fact that they had all demonstrated courage and determination in their quest to remain in school despite their stories of hardship, orphanhood, poverty and in many cases, abuse. The fact that these girls have achieved grades equal and superior to students attending the best government and private schools in the country is truly astounding.

APU teachers have a great deal to be proud of.





RC Olds Cheque presentation



Maness at Women helping women

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS 2011/2012

This year has been an incredible year for fundraising and construction at Atsikana Pa Ulendo. Four major projects have been undertaken and completed within the year thanks to our donors, large and small.



-The Interac Club of Dawson Creek raised \$30,000 at their annual Dinner Auction. To date, this club has raised over \$150,000 for construction at APU.

-Calgary Downtown Rotary Club donated \$10,000 towards construction of Hostel #5

-The Rotary Club of Lethbridge donated \$55,000 to build staff duplex #3

-Circle Of Women, a nonprofit organization founded by Harvard University students, has raised \$80,000 to construct Class Block #4



-Rotary Club of Olds donated \$8,000 towards the Teacher's Training College.

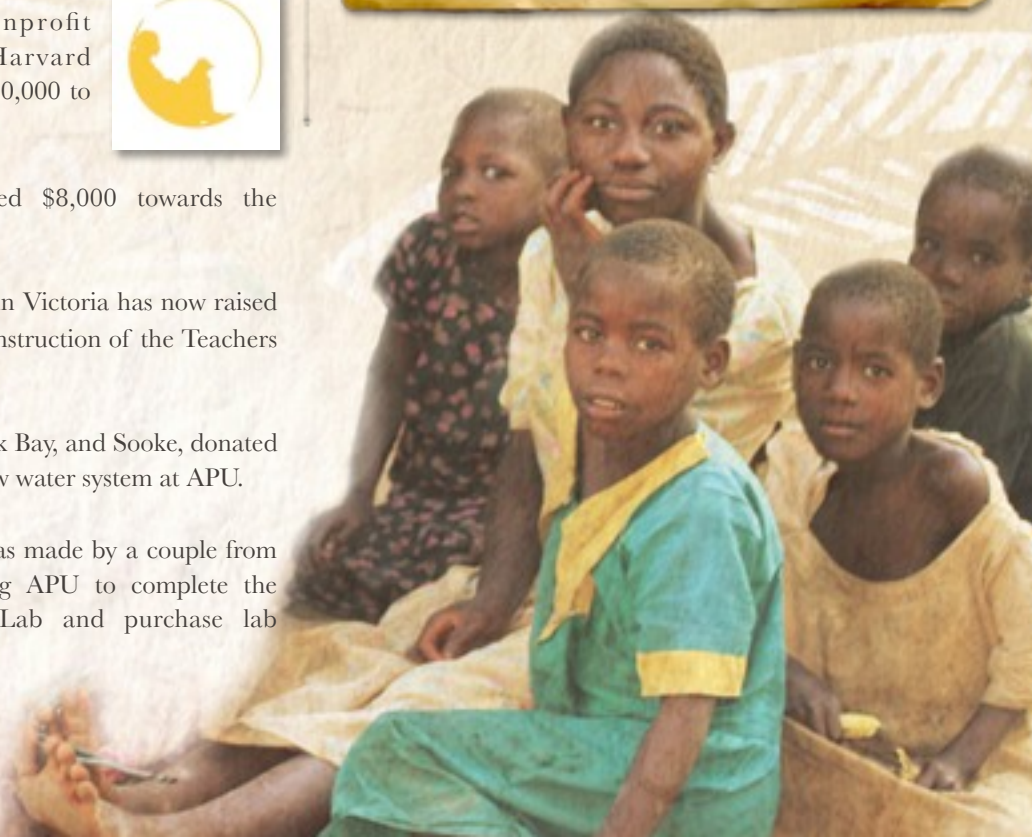
-Women Helping Women group in Victoria has now raised a total of \$50,000 towards the construction of the Teachers Training College.

-Rotary Clubs of West Shore, Oak Bay, and Sooke, donated a total of \$17,500 towards the new water system at APU.

-A major donation of \$35,000 was made by a couple from Victoria in April 2012, enabling APU to complete the construction of the Science Lab and purchase lab equipment.

THE APU RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

- The all-girls setting has removed the threat that girls feel in a class of mixed gender.
- APU teachers are all certified teachers with either a diploma or degree while other secondary schools are employing teachers that may only have completed Form 1 or Form 4 themselves. There is a serious shortage of qualified teachers in the country.
- Our students live at the school and unlike day scholars, they do not have to spend all of their out of class time walking to and from school, or doing household chores. Instead, they have time to study.
- APU administration has a zero tolerance policy with regards to sexual harassment from teachers. Sadly, it is a common occurrence in Malawian schools for girls to be sexually harassed and even assaulted by their male teachers.
- APU students have enough healthy food, clean drinking water, and sleep under mosquito nets at night.
- APU is under the direction of Memory Mdyetseni, a young Malawian woman who knows exactly where her students are coming from. She holds her students and teachers accountable for their behavior and actions and has high expectations of each and every APU student. APU girls have a female role model that they can respect, admire and trust.



Construction at APU ... Our Campus is Growing!

We have recently completed four major construction projects at APU, bringing the total number of buildings on campus to THIRTEEN!

September was an exciting month at APU, with the final touches being put on our Science Laboratory, Hostel #5 and Staff Duplex #3.

In addition to these three buildings, our water system was completely upgraded with a new and very deep well being drilled, three new storage tanks purchased and the installation of a solar powered submersible pump.

These projects have employed hundreds of local tradespeople, most of whom have been employed on a full time basis since 2007, providing an enormous boost to the local economy. In addition to providing employment, unskilled workers at APU have been trained on the job to become competent bricklayers, metal workers, and carpenters. These workers are now earning higher wages in recognition of their skill level. When construction is complete at APU, these people will take their skills with them, making them more employable and able to earn a higher income to support their families.

SCIENCE LAB

The science lab has been our second largest construction project to date, second only in size to the Cafeteria.



Science Lab 2

In order to construct this building, we needed to fundraise \$105,000 over a period of two years.

Our first major donation came from a group of women lawyers in Ontario who formed their own organization WAKE (Women Advocates for Knowledge Everywhere). Their donation of \$25,000 gave us the boost we needed, and other donors followed suit. Rotary Club donations included the Rotary Club of St. Albert (\$15,000), Stony Plain (\$10,000), Whitecourt (\$5,000), Spruce Grove (\$8,000) and Calgary Downtown (\$5,000). Our late Canadian Agogo (agogo means grandfather in the Chichewa language) Ken Haywood, contributed \$10,000 and the final \$25,000 came from a couple located on Vancouver Island who wish to remain anonymous.

The construction of this facility, which includes two state of the art laboratories, and two lecture theatres, will enable APU to give our students a hands on science program. This is something that none of our students will have experienced before, as they are coming from primary schools that did not even have textbooks, let alone microscopes and bunsen burners!

Thank you so much to our donors. You have likely begun the career of many of Malawi's future scientists and physicians!.

HOSTEL #5 (FUTURE TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE STUDENT HOUSING FACILITY)

The construction of APU's fifth student dormitory is largely due to donations from Women Helping Women group in Victoria (\$50,000), Rotary Club of Olds (\$8,000) and a donation of \$25,000 from Sherrard Kuzz LLP in Ontario.

Until our Teacher Training College is up and running, this hostel will be used to house students from our APU secondary school.



Hostel



On site carpentry



STAFF DUPLEX #3 SUPPLIED BY ROTARY CLUB OF LETHBRIDGE!

Funding the construction of adequate teacher housing on campus has been one of our biggest challenges right from the start as it is not seen as an exciting project compared to funding classrooms, hostels and student scholarships. We managed to build one staff duplex in 2008 and were so desperate for a second duplex that our board members donated the funds for the staff duplex themselves.

In 2010, APU was employing 15 teachers but was only offering housing to four of them, with the others having to rent small houses (without running water or electricity) in the nearby trading center of Nsalu.

Our vision is to bring HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION to poor girls in the rural areas to give them the very best chance of achieving their dreams and becoming self sufficient, independent leaders in the future. To achieve this, we need to attract (and manage to hang on to) highly qualified and experienced Malawian, preferably female teachers. This is a real challenge as APU is located in the rural area, away from the safety, security and amenities of the city, which is where the majority of qualified teachers choose to live. To attract these teachers we need to provide them with a place where they want to stay and raise their families. Our teachers need to be taken care of, respected, and supplied with secure, well-maintained homes with running water and electricity. With great teachers working together under the direction of our Director, Memory Mdyetseni, towards a vision of achieving excellent academic results, we will be able to move even more quickly towards our

sustainability plan so that within the next 5 years APU is providing its own locally generated scholarships to students without relying on support from Canada.

When the Rotary Club of Lethbridge heard of our need for staff housing, they took action and within a very short time were able to supply the funds (\$55,000), matched by the Alberta Government, to construct our third staff duplex. Some of APU's best teachers have remained at APU because they were promised housing. Because of the Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Lethbridge, we were able to keep this promise. **THANK YOU ROTARY CLUB OF LETHBRIDGE!**

WATER PROBLEMS SOLVED THANKS TO ROTARY

Over the past few years it has become increasingly obvious that the original well, water tower and storage tanks were simply not adequate to supply the water needed by our growing school. Our well as not producing enough water, the tower and storage tanks were inadequate, and we were having to truck water from a nearby dam four times a day just to meet our school's basic needs.

In November of 2011, APU sought the advice of Nancy Gilbert, Rotarian with the Westshore Rotary Club and representative of WASRAG, Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group. Nancy quickly helped us get the ball rolling by putting us in contact with water expert Robert Wubbena who then arranged for a trusted hydro-geologist and groundwater expert to make a site visit to APU to assess the situation.

In a matter of weeks, \$17,500 of the needed \$35,000 were raised by the Oak Bay, West Shore and Sooke Rotary Clubs. By the end of May 2012, the well had been drilled, a solar powered pump installed, and three more storage tanks purchased.

We are absolutely thrilled to report that our water problems at APU are SOLVED! There is enough water being supplied by this single well to fill all of our tanks and keep them full even during peak capacity in the middle of the dry season.



APU Carpenters



APU Labourers



Cafeteria

APU Graduates Find Their Voice

APU has now graduated 155 students from Form 4 and these girls are determined to continue moving forward. Despite the fact that the majority of our girls can not afford further training, they have all made plans, with the help of their APU teachers, to start small businesses, volunteer their services to gain skills and knowledge, or find employment so that they can help to support their siblings and parents.

Many of our students earned grades on their MSCE (Malawi School Certificate Examination) that were high enough to allow them admission to the university of Malawi. Because our students are unable to pay for their own university education, they were competing for the few government scholarships that are granted each year.

This year, only 908 scholarships were awarded country-wide and we are thrilled to announce that two of our graduates, Tiyamike Brave and Bridget Guzani, were both awarded scholarships. Tiyamike will be enrolled in a B.Sc. in nursing and mid-wifery at Kamuzu College of Nursing and Bridget will be enrolled in a B.Ed. in Chancellor College. This is an almost unheard of achievement for these two girls and we are unbelievably proud of them. Congratulations Tiyamike and Bridget!



Tiyamike Brave

If you are not already sponsoring an APU scholar, or even perhaps if you are, please consider contributing to our University Scholarship Fund.

ZIONE MBIZO

When Zione Mbizo started Form 1 at APU in 2008, she was extremely shy and unable to meet the eyes of her teachers. She was also a weak student.

Zione started school at APU in January 2008 and remained in school despite her continued struggles through to the end of her Form 4 year. Zione graduated from APU in July 2011.

As graduation approached, Zione, along with the rest of her APU classmates, was very concerned about her future. She didn't want to leave APU. She didn't want to stop learning, but like the others,

she had no way to continue her education.

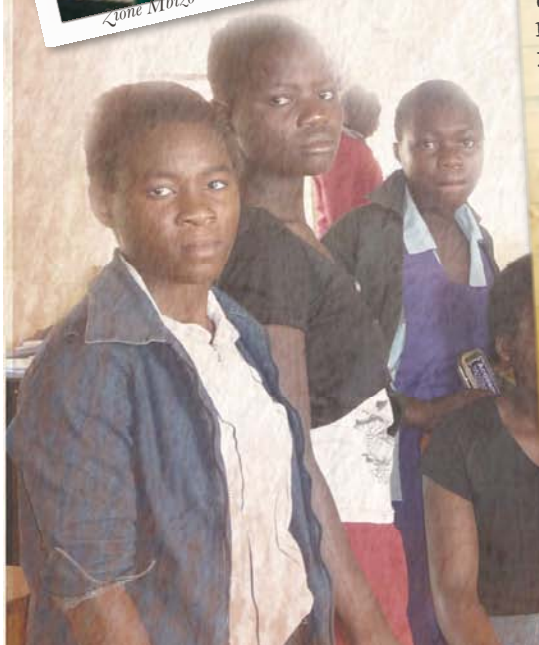
One evening following the graduation ceremony but before her Form 4 exams started, Zione made her way up to Memory's house and asked if she could speak to her. There was a power outage so they spoke in the dark for over an hour with Zione peppering Memory with questions about how she first came up with the idea of starting APU.

You see, Zione is driven by the desire to make her country a better place to live. She wants to make change. And she knows that Memory can advise her about how to do this.

This is the letter that Zione has just written to Memory about what she has been doing since her graduation from APU.



Dear Madam,
My name is Zione Mbizo . I would like to inform you whatever I am doing here at the world to help in developing our area/community. The things are as follows:
Firstly, when I went back home from school, I started business for tearoom. The main aim of that business was to keep myself busy rather to just be staying at home like an idol.
Secondly, when I was still doing that kind of business, I received a letter from our group village headman Kadala then the letter was informing me that I am badly wanted at Msakambewa Community Based Organization (CBO)
When I went there, I met with the Director of Msakambewa CBO Mr Kadziwonere. Then he told me that I have called you here because I would like you to be the secretary of Msakambewa CBO and he continued that you will be working as a volunteer but I told him that don't worry, I will do that work there is no any other problem. Then I started the job.
When I started I found it so hard because of people who were talking bad things for me because I am working as a volunteer, but little by little I tried my best not to use those such kind of things up to now because one day Memory explained to me the importance of volunteer work. That was like encouragement to me. I am the secretary of Msakambewa CBO. I write many things which are needed in our office.
Thirdly I told my Director that we should have orphan care committee members whereby we should have centres of meeting orphans so that we should be encouraging them about school and business for them to be earning a leaving.
Fourthly I also told him (Director) that we should have nursery schools for only less than five years he also agreed to my ideas. As of now we have got 23 nursery schools and 44 volunteer nursery school teachers but I am one of the teachers who teach them. I think you can see how I have helped my Director with those ideas including having orphan care committee members and nursery school.
Lastly I teach people on how they can reduce the spreading of HIV/AIDS, they should try to have family planning in their families, so that they should have a good number of children which they will manage to care for them and provide basic needs for them, encouraging boys and girls to be going to school encouraging people to be doing sports in order for their bodies to be physically fit. I also teach about gender so that they can work together any other kind of work whether is a woman or a man.
On top of that I also teach people about human rights in order for them to know their own human rights and no one should violate their rights.
Those are the things, which I am doing here in our community. I think now you have got more information of what ever I am doing.
Therefore, my request to you is this, if you will come at Atsikana Pa Uleno , try to communicate with Memory that I would like to go to Zione Mbizo so that I should see/prove what ever she reported to me.
Yours,
Zione Mbizo



APU STUDENTS NEED SPONSORS!

Each of the girls below has been selected as form scholarship recipients for the 2012/2023 school year. They were selected from thousands of girls who applied for these scholarships and they each have an incredible story of hardship, struggle, survival and strength that has brought them to APU. Now all we need to do is find sponsors for them.

For 85\$ per month, or \$1000 per year, you could provide full tuition, uniforms, room and board, medicine, textbooks, examination fees and field trips for one of our students. If you are already sponsoring one of our students, thank you so very much. If you are not, or perhaps even if you are, please consider changing the life of one of the girls whose pictures are provided below.



CHANGE A GIRLS FUTURE!



LOOKING AHEAD 2012 – 2013

The focus for the next two years is to fund the construction of Staff Duplex #4, Hostel #6, and a building that we are calling the APU LEGACY BUILDING. This two-story building will be a joint use facility that will be used by both the secondary school students as well as students attending our APU Teacher's Training College.

Our Teacher's Training College, or the APU TTC, is scheduled to open in Sept 2014 with 60 students. This program will offer graduates of APU Secondary School the opportunity to become certified primary school teachers. The TTC program will include 12 months of coursework at the APU TTC followed by a year of practice teaching.

The Legacy Building will be built in 2 phases. It will be a major construction project that is estimated at \$205,000. This year we are hoping to raise \$80,000 to lay the foundation and begin the construction of the first level of the building. The building, when complete, will have rooms dedicated to computer studies, a library, health center, micro-credit loans office, administration offices for both the secondary school as well as the TTC, and learning spaces for the TTC students.

The LEGACY BUILDING has been chunked down into bite sized funding goals so that donors can contribute to particular rooms in the building.

Over the next couple of years, we will be looking to complete the following construction projects. These projects are listed in order of priority.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| a. Computer Lab | \$35,000 |
| b. Health Center | \$25,000 |
| c. Library | \$30,000 |
| d. Micro-credit loans office | \$15,000 |
| e. Teacher learning spaces | |
| 2 Classrooms at | \$20,000 each |
| f. Administration Offices | |
| 4 Offices at | \$15,000 each |



INVEST IN A GIRL ... AND SHE WILL DO THE REST!

APU MALAWI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Canadian Charity Registration Number 808514657RR000

Your receipt will follow by mail. The APU Malawi Education Foundation respects your privacy. Your personal information will be used to prepare income tax receipts and keep you informed of the outcomes from donor's gifts, funding needs, sponsored student progress, and construction progress.

General Information

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss ☐ Dr.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Company Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

Province/State _____ Country _____

Postal/Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Donation Information

\$ _____ (please enter decimal places)

☐ Sponsor A Girl's Education

☐ I am a new sponsor

☐ I am a continuing sponsor for (girl's name) _____

☐ Partial Sponsorship, please specify _____

☐ Donate towards construction of buildings.

☐ Other designation, please specify _____

Donation Type

☐ One-time donation

☐ Monthly donation to commence this month

☐ Yearly donation to commence this month

Cheques Payable To: APU MALAWI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Mail to: APU Malawi Education Foundation

PO Box 434

St. Albert, AB T8N 7A2

APU MALAWI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Return form by mail to:

APU Malawi Education Foundation

PO Box 434

St. Albert, AB T8N 7A2

How did you hear about us?

Rotary Presentation ☐

Existing Supporter ☐

Family or Friend ☐

Internet/Website ☐

Newspaper or Magazine ☐

Other _____

My Gift is ...

In Memory ☐

In Honour ☐

Name of person _____

Your relationship to him/her _____

Occasion for gift (e.g. birthday, Christmas) _____

Group or Team Sponsorship

If your donation is part of a larger group donation towards sponsoring an APU student, please identify the other members of your group below OR identify the name of one member of your group to act as Group Leader.

Group Leader _____

OR

Name of Group _____