

Together WE can
CHANGE a GIRL'S
future

June, 2010

Issue N° 4

www.malawigirlsonthemove.com

It has been another busy, exciting, and inspirational year at the school site in Malawi as well as on the fundraising side in Canada. And all of this is thanks to our sponsors and donors in Canada and the United States. It truly is amazing what a **student by student** and **brick by brick** teamwork approach to fundraising can produce. This year, our third Class Block, third Hostel, and 2nd Staff Duplex were constructed. Even more thrilling was the fact that both the water and electricity projects were successfully completed.

Memory and Christie managed to complete their 2nd annual speaking/fundraising tour, the APU Malawi Education Foundation in Canada was established and has made great strides in becoming its own Charitable Organization, and 80 new sponsors came on board just in time to support our Jan 2010 intake of 80 students. With the help of our donors, Atsikana Pa Uleno (Girls On The Move) Education Project is clearly **ON THE MOVE!**



APU assembly

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES 2009-2010

SPEAKING TOUR 2009

With the help of board members and volunteers in both Alberta and BC, Memory and I managed to complete another marathon speaking-tour this year, presenting to more than 60 groups during the six weeks that Memory was in Canada. It was a challenging time for both of us, as Memory was five months pregnant and I was still undergoing the last of my chemotherapy treatments (for breast cancer – diagnosed in May 2008).

Continued on Page 5

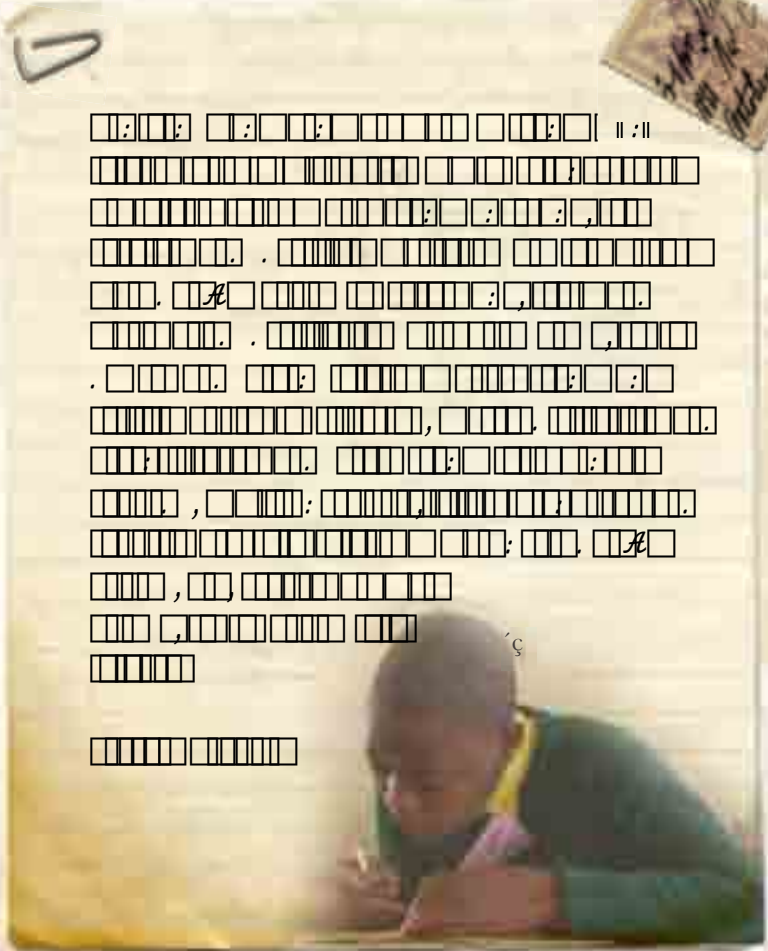
SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

January 2010 marked the third intake of 80 students, bringing the total student body to 240 girls, all on scholarship from generous donors in Canada (and some south of the border as well).

Continued on Page 5

1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped
 out of the plane was the beautiful
 scenery. The air was fresh and the
 sun was shining. I felt like I had
 reached a new world. The people
 were friendly and the food was
 delicious. I was in good luck.
 2. The second thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were
 kind and the food was good. I was
 in good luck.
 3. The third thing I noticed was the
 beautiful scenery. The air was fresh
 and the sun was shining. I felt like
 I had reached a new world. The
 people were friendly and the food
 was delicious. I was in good luck.
 4. The fourth thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.
 5. The fifth thing I noticed was the
 beautiful scenery. The air was fresh
 and the sun was shining. I felt like
 I had reached a new world. The
 people were friendly and the food
 was delicious. I was in good luck.
 6. The sixth thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.
 7. The seventh thing I noticed was the
 beautiful scenery. The air was fresh
 and the sun was shining. I felt like
 I had reached a new world. The
 people were friendly and the food
 was delicious. I was in good luck.
 8. The eighth thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.
 9. The ninth thing I noticed was the
 beautiful scenery. The air was fresh
 and the sun was shining. I felt like
 I had reached a new world. The
 people were friendly and the food
 was delicious. I was in good luck.
 10. The tenth thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.

1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped
 out of the plane was the beautiful
 scenery. The air was fresh and the
 sun was shining. I felt like I had
 reached a new world. The people
 were friendly and the food was
 delicious. I was in good luck.
 2. The second thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.
 3. The third thing I noticed was the
 beautiful scenery. The air was fresh
 and the sun was shining. I felt like
 I had reached a new world. The
 people were friendly and the food
 was delicious. I was in good luck.
 4. The fourth thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.
 5. The fifth thing I noticed was the
 beautiful scenery. The air was fresh
 and the sun was shining. I felt like
 I had reached a new world. The
 people were friendly and the food
 was delicious. I was in good luck.
 6. The sixth thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.
 7. The seventh thing I noticed was the
 beautiful scenery. The air was fresh
 and the sun was shining. I felt like
 I had reached a new world. The
 people were friendly and the food
 was delicious. I was in good luck.
 8. The eighth thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.
 9. The ninth thing I noticed was the
 beautiful scenery. The air was fresh
 and the sun was shining. I felt like
 I had reached a new world. The
 people were friendly and the food
 was delicious. I was in good luck.
 10. The tenth thing I noticed was the
 warm welcome. The people were
 smiling and the atmosphere was
 welcoming. I felt like I had found
 a new home. The people were kind
 and the food was good. I was in
 good luck.





Girls Dancing



Grace Chazeza

CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITY

The Malawian government has thrown APU a bit of a curve ball in that it has changed the school calendar, shortening the school year by 4 months. This means that instead of starting our fourth year (and fourth intake of students) next January, we need to be ready to start the school year in September, 2010.

There will be **four fewer months to construct buildings** and to find sponsors for the final intake of Form 1 students. To deal with this challenge, the Board of Directors and staff at APU have decided to bring in only one class of 40 Form 1 students in September, rather than the previously planned 80 students.

Sponsors must be found for these 40 girls before September 2011. Please spread the word to your friends and family, local schools, service clubs, and church groups.

DAWSON CREEK INTERACT CLUB

The community of Dawson Creek has once again astounded us with their timely and much needed support. The Dawson Creek Interact Club held an amazing silent auction, raising more than \$40,000 towards the construction of the third Class Block.



Dawson Creek Interactors with Memory and Christie

Without this single fundraiser, the third intake of students this past January would have had no classroom to learn in. In fact, without the Dawson Creek Interact Club and the community of Dawson Creek, we would likely be a full year behind in sponsorships and construction, so they can take credit for the transformation of at least 80 of our current students.

Thank you Dawson Creek!

INVEST IN A GIRL AND SHE WILL DO THE REST

For \$80 per month or \$1000 per year you could become a sponsor for one of these incredible young girls. We are currently looking for sponsors for our 80 girls who will be starting school in Jan 2010.

www.malawigirlsonthemove.com



Construction Update

2007	2008	2009	2010
Class Block #1	Class Block #2	Class Block #3	Class Block #4 (Science Labs)
Staff Duplex #1		Staff Duplex #2	Staff Duplex #3
Hostel #1	Hostel #2	Hostel #3	Hostel #4
			Cafeteria/Kitchen

APU is well on the way to completing the important construction goal of building Class Blocks, Staff Housing, and Hostels to accommodate the growing school. The original goal was to construct one Class Block, one Staff Duplex, and one Hostel per year for four years while the school grew to its full capacity of 80 girls – two classes of 40 girls each – in each of four Forms. With 240 students now enrolled, we are $\frac{3}{4}$ of our way to accomplishing our goal of having 320 girls in Forms 1 – 4.

The construction timeline has followed the plan shown in the table below. Black text indicates completed structures, blue text indicates buildings under construction that are already

fully funded, and red text indicates buildings which for which funding is currently sought.

Funds are needed for construction of the fourth Class Block and the 3rd Staff Duplex.

We encourage any of our readers who are business owners, to approach their business or places of work to invest in these construction projects. You can be assured that your investment will be used wisely and that the resulting buildings will be of the highest possible quality.



Inside the Hostel



Foundation for Hostel #3, donated by the Haywood family.

Help Construct Class Block #3

We need \$50,000 to construct our third classblock so that our intake of students in 2010 have a roof over their heads! Remember that this entire school has been built brick by brick and donation by donation so whatever amount you can give is valuable.

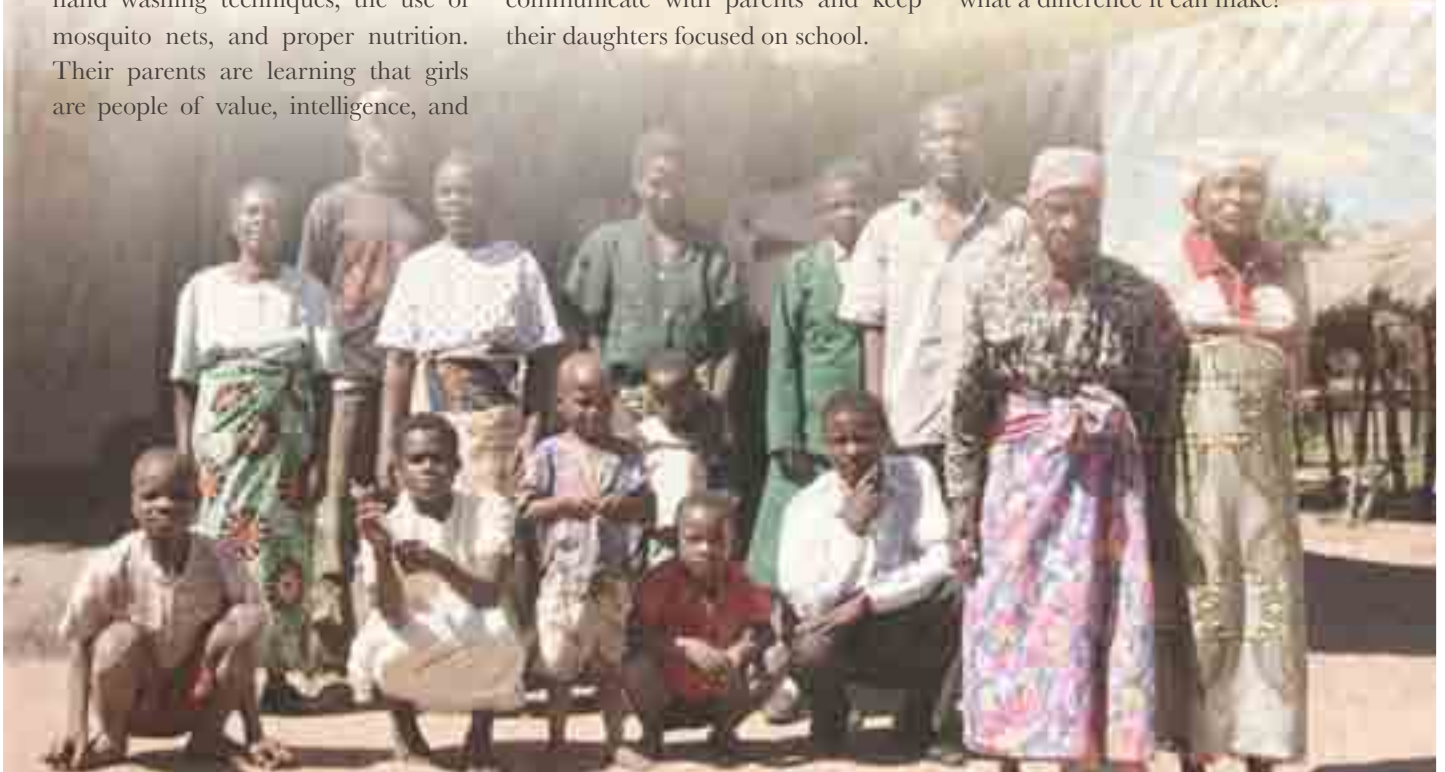
Ripple Effects... A word from Christie

In our presentations, Memory and I stress the fact that the ultimate goal of APU is to educate rural girls. The truth, however, is that the learning and transformation that is occurring in each of our girls extends far beyond each individual student. Our selection process insists that no more than one girl from each village can come to APU at any given time. Therefore, each girl represents an entire village. Each village consists of between 100 and 300 extended family members living together. These girls have become role models for their villages, for their young sisters, cousins, brothers and parents. They return home on holidays and hold tutoring sessions for children in primary schools. They are teaching their parents to write their names and read simple sentences. They are taking their lessons on sanitation home with them, teaching about proper toilet use, hand washing techniques, the use of mosquito nets, and proper nutrition. Their parents are learning that girls are people of value, intelligence, and

even power. Their advice is being sought by elders who are unable to read or write. They are being used as interpreters when visitors from other countries come to their village.

In other words, the entire power structure that has been in place for thousands of years in the rural villages in Malawi, is being overturned naturally, through the power of education. Girls and women who have always been seen as people of lower intelligence, ability and worth, and treated as servants and commodities to be worked to death while their husbands marry multiple wives to increase their status, are starting to see themselves differently. Fathers are valuing their daughters and insisting they stay in school rather than marry at 12 or 13 years of age. Fathers are also attending PTA meetings regularly; this helps Memory and Henry to communicate with parents and keep their daughters focused on school.

The ripple effects are astounding and far reaching. And the ripple effects caused by educating hundreds of girls in hundreds of villages are even more powerful than Memory and I had originally hoped for. When the next famine, drought, flood, or disease hits these villages, they will have a secret weapon to help them survive. They will have educated girls who can think critically, solve problems, communicate their needs to the outside world, and break out of their cycle of poverty. These girls are gaining tools for independence and they are proud of themselves. And they are proud of the sponsors helping them to gain the tools that they need to lead successful, happy lives. On behalf of our APU girls, their extended families and future children, I'd like to offer you, our sponsors, heartfelt thanks for taking the step to make this change possible. \$3 a day – what a difference it can make!



SPEAKING TOUR 2009

However, we managed to raise sufficient money to fully fund the third intake of 80 girls. It seems that once people heard the inspiring history of this project spanning 10 years of partnership, and the incredible success that was being achieved at the school site in Malawi, they joined our team with gusto and enthusiasm, making the dream even more achievable. Thanks to our chief tour organizers

Marie Rickard, Tim Schilds, Larry Johnson, David Stocks and Brian Davison for all of your efforts in setting up the speaking events, and to all others who helped with driving etc.,

to ensure that Memory and I were able to complete each engagement. This was truly a team effort.



Christie and Memory

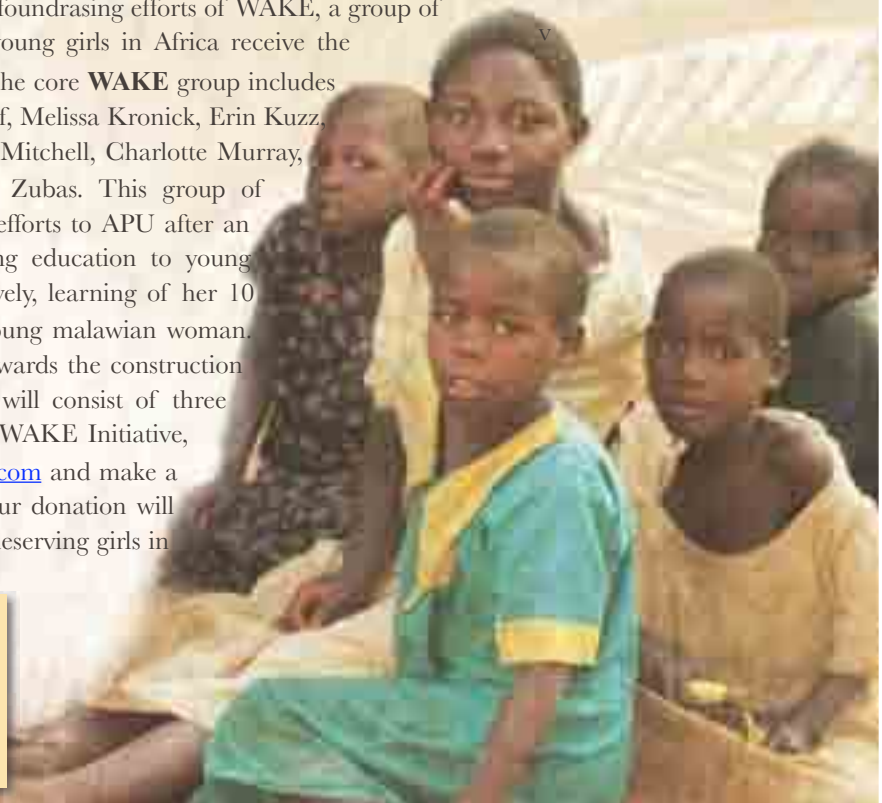
UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE ROTARACT CLUB

In February I was asked to be the guest speaker for a Gala Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction hosted by the University of Lethbridge Rotaract Club. I was so impressed by the passion and energy of these students I rushed home to share pictures and stories of the event with Memory, who in turn shared the story of the fundraiser with her APU girls. The money raised at this event, more than \$6000, is being put towards the construction of the much needed cafeteria/kitchen complex.



WAKE (WOMEN ADVOCATES FOR KNOWLEDGE EVERYWHERE) INITIATIVE

APU is thrilled to be the recipient of the fundraising efforts of WAKE, a group of women who have come together to assist young girls in Africa receive the education we in Canada take for granted. The core **WAKE** group includes Katherine Ford, Victoria Grabb, Paula Knopf, Melissa Kronick, Erin Kuzz, Briana MacLeod, Deb MacLeod, Elizabeth Mitchell, Charlotte Murray, Sue Philpott, Laura Trachuk and Loretta Zubas. This group of women, chose to dedicate their fundraising efforts to APU after an exhaustive search of organizations providing education to young women. They interviewed Christie extensively, learning of her 10 year partnership with Memory educating young malawian woman. The money raised by **WAKE** will be put towards the construction of the fourth and final Class Block which will consist of three science labs. If you would like to join the WAKE Initiative, visit the website www.malawigirlsonthefly.com and make a donation towards the WAKE Initiative. Your donation will provide years of knowledge to hundreds of deserving girls in rural Malawi.





Henry in the APU office Mdyetseni



Bringing electricity to APU

ELECTRICITY ARRIVES AT APU

The challenge of connecting APU to the electrical grid has been a two year struggle but it is finally happening. With donations from various Rotary Clubs and a final push from **Ken Haywood**, APU's official Agogo (grandfather in the Chichewa language), the transformer, electrical poles and wires were finally connected this February.

No longer will APU have to rely on its gas-guzzling generator to produce light in the classrooms for evening studies. No longer will the girls be afraid to leave the hostel for the dark trek to the pit latrines outside. No longer will the night watchmen have to use torches to patrol the perimeter of the campus to keep the girls safe at night. With reliable electricity, the girls have light at the flick of a switch when they are scared at night in their hostels. When the cafeteria is constructed, electrical appliances can be used to cook their food which has, to this point, been cooked over open fires, using up valuable firewood and filling the makeshift cafeteria with smoke.

Having electricity in the staff duplexes means that APU will be able to attract highly educated teachers, who expect a standard of living comparable to what they are used to in the cities. Most importantly, APU can now run its photocopier, computers, and telephones for more than a couple of hours per day. The next goal is to achieve reliable Internet connections and put a live webcam on site that can be controlled through the APU website so that donors and sponsors in Canada can see what is happening in real time at the school in Malawi.

HELP BRING MEMORY TO CANADA

Memory is coming to Canada for our 3rd. Annual APU Fundraising Tour in November 2010.

Please consider donating your AIR MILES to APU to help us pay for Memory and her son Teloni's airline tickets. To DONATE AIRMILES contact Ken Haywood at kghaywood@shaw.ca



CLEAN RUNNING WATER BECOMES A REALITY FOR APU STAFF AND STUDENTS

Thanks to the efforts of the **Oak Bay Rotary Club members**, who donated in excess of \$11,000 to complete the water project, APU now has a deep well, an electrical pump, and a water tower with two tanks supplying clean running water to the houses and hostels on campus. One of the major concerns over the past two years has been the fear of cholera, a disease transmitted through drinking unclean water. The girls have had to rely on two hand-pump borehole wells, often waiting in line to fill their buckets for hours on end. When girls got tired of waiting, they sometimes resorted to taking water from open wells and ditches, putting their health in danger. With the new water system in place, the girls, staff, and laborers are safe from cholera.



Water tower and tanks



TREE PLANTING, SUSTAINABILITY AND SERVICE LEARNING AT APU

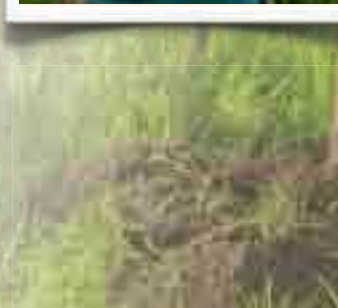
Twice a week, the APU girls *give back* to their school, their community and their country. Sometimes they tutor primary school students, at other times they work at the local clinic, or carry bricks, sand and water for construction at the school site. Earlier this year, their service learning *gave back* to their country on a

larger scale. Thousands of native fruit bearing trees were donated to the school by one of the APU Malawi Board members who is a horticulturalist. these trees were distributed to the students and the girls were taught how to plant and care for their precious saplings. Over the years, these trees will provide much needed shade, as well as fruit for the students. The girls also

learned about the country-wide problem of deforestation and how it is impacting their Malawi. This *reforestation day* will continue once a year with the goal of bringing back many local species that have been cut down and used as firewood prior to the land being donated to APU.



Mphatso Mkwende plants her tree



AN ENCOURAGING TRIP

ROTARIANS AND SPONSORS MARIE AND STEVE RICKARD VISIT APU

When Christie invited me to visit APU, I thought that it would be absolutely impossible. Well, everything fell in place. Steve and I were visiting Liberia and Kenya and why not add Malawi and APU to our African visit. We spent two days in early March with Memory and Henry, Teloni and new baby Trevor on the school site. These folks sure do work hard. We would awake around 5 am to hear the chattering of the girls from their dormitories, already getting ready for their day and this was the weekend. We were welcomed into the APU community with an assembly where the girls performed skits and songs, some quite humorous, about life's circumstance in Malawi around schooling.

I was able to meet the student our family sponsors at APU. Memory Jovati had been sick and had just returned to school. I was happy to meet her and to introduce myself and Steve. It is clear from our visit that

the girls are disciplined and healthy. They respect their teachers and the living and working environment where they live. They are accountable for their belongings, their studies and their own well being. Also there are caring, loving people committed to educate, inspire and protect these young girls.

Thanks APU for hosting us. I have been personally touched and inspired by the work of Christie, Memory, Henry and all the dedicated APU staff and Board Members.

Marie Rickard



Steve with Memory's son Teloni



Marie showing textbooks provided by the Calgary West Rotary Club



SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

Sponsors include more than 30 Rotary Clubs in three different Rotary Districts, many Rotarian families, seven Interact Clubs, one Rotaract Club, ten schools, and hundreds of non-Rotarian friends and family members. Most of the sponsors have begun communicating with their sponsored students and have committed to continuing their sponsorship for the four years that "their" girl is attending APU. Sponsorships are the lifeblood of APU,

as they pay for food, teachers' salaries, textbooks and school supplies, school uniforms and shoes, mosquito nets, and medicine.

Eighty-five dollars per month or \$1,000 per year for four years will transform the life of one of these incredible young women. Only \$3 per day will change a life and the lives of their families, communities, and future families forever. You will never find a better investment for your money.

If you are already sponsoring a girl, consider taking on another one! lately we have been getting sponsorships being given as gifts to celebrate the birth of a child, or to honor the life of a loved one who was passed away. A sponsorship truly is the gift of life.

GIRLS BEFORE STARTING SCHOOL AT APU AND THREE MONTHS LATER. WHAT A TRANSFORMATION!

LINDA CHIZUMO



Before

After

RUFINA MWALE



Before

After

CHRISTINA CHIYENDA



Before

After

MADALITSO MAJOMEKA



Before

After

JACKLEEN KANTHENG



Before

After

GLADYS CHAWANGA



Before

After

100% PASS RATE FOR FORM 2 GIRLS – AN UNHEARD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Secondary School in Malawi consists of 4 Forms, similar to grades 9 to 12 in Canada. Government exams are conducted at the end of Form 2 (Junior Certificate Exam or J.C.E.) and at the end of Form 4 (Malawi School Certificate of Education or M.S.C.E.). Passing these exams is of critical importance, as schools are publicly ranked in Malawian newspapers according to their pass rates. APU must achieve and maintain a high ranking in order to gain the reputation it needs to attract private students to the school. Part of the long-term sustainability plan is to have half of the students paying a tuition amount that will be high enough to pay for scholarships for the other half of the students. Our first intake of 80 girls wrote the J.C. Exams in Sept. 2009 and everyone was holding their collective breath while waiting for the results. Only 27% of the girls at the public secondary school close to APU

passed this exam this year, a typical result for girls in Malawi. When Memory called with the news that 100% of the APU girls had passed the exam, -I was in shock- said Christie, so was she. This is unheard of, and our success has put APU on the map in Malawi as one of the best girls' secondary schools in the country. We still have to prove ourselves over the coming years, but we have made a phenomenal start.

Congratulations to APU's first 80 girls.



APU CANADA GOVERNANCE

The APU board here in Canada has made huge strides towards self governance this year. An application has been lodged to attain charitable status under the name APU Malawi Education Foundation. Currently there are six Board Members: Rob Fricker, Larry Johnson, Fern Proulx, Ken Haywood, David Stocks, Tricia Timmermans, Samuel Pérez and Christie Johnson.

Until charitable status is achieved, the Sooke Rotary Community Organization continues its invaluable support in accepting and writing tax receipts to our donors. Thanks to the SRCO for keeping this project afloat.



Founders Update



Memory with new son Trevor



Christie and Memory on Tour



Christie at the "Run for the Cure"



Baby Simon

Memory and Henry welcomed another Boy On The Move into the world. Trevor Mdyetseni was born in early April. Both mom and baby are healthy, although there was a rough go when Memory contracted cerebral malaria just weeks after his birth. Teloni, Memory and Henry's three year old son, insists that Trevor is the hospital's baby and should go back there as soon as possible! Memory and her husband Henry continue to pour their efforts into ensuring 100% accountability for the use of donated funds and are committed to improving the lives of the hundreds of girls in their care.

After two years of treatment and post-chemo complications, Christie's breast cancer is in remission and she is free from the pain that plagued her for months following her treatments. She and her partner welcomed their own baby boy Simon on May 30th. Next year Christie will continue her work as a houseparent to 40 teenagers from around the world at Lester B. Pearson College while continuing to pour her energies into APU.

