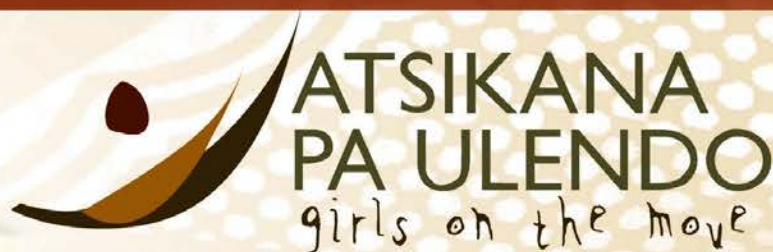


# GIRLS ON THE MOVE RIPPLE EFFECTS

WINTER EDITION 2015

[www.malawigirlsonthemove.com](http://www.malawigirlsonthemove.com)



## MESSAGE FROM FOUNDERS



*Christie and Memory Founders of APU*

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It has now been 10 years since Memory first shared with me her dream of opening a school for girls in rural Malawi. These years have been filled with hard work and extreme challenge as well as joy and great achievement. The school that has grown up during this period of time has become one of Malawi's finest schools for girls and can boast an academic record equal to the best schools in the country, all the while catering largely to girls who are coming from backgrounds of extreme poverty and hardship. Almost 400 young women have graduated and are making their impact known in their families, villages, and communities throughout Malawi.

We have only managed this feat with the help of hundreds of champions who have supported us financially through sponsoring our girls and helping to fund the construction of our buildings. Many of these champions are Rotarians and Rotary Clubs, school children, businesses and the families and friends of our board members both in Malawi and in Canada. Memory and I have you, our champions, to thank. Like us, you believe that education is the greatest force for change that we know. It is the key to combating poverty. It is the key to promoting the human rights that are often denied to young women living in poverty. Thanks to all of you who have believed in our vision and have made APU a force for change in Malawi.

## APU MALAWI EDUCATION FOUNDATION HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS!

We have a new mailing address! Please send all of your mail, including letters to sponsored students and **donation cheques, to:**

**APU Malawi Education Foundation  
PO Box 225  
108-800 Kelly Road, Victoria, BC  
V9B 6J9**



## MEET THE GRADUATES

To understand the true impact that APU is having in rural Malawi, you need meet our graduates. Speak to them of their future plans. Witness their optimism and hope for the future. Then go with them to meet their families. See them in their home communities amongst their peers, particularly those who have not been lucky enough to access secondary education. The difference in these young women is striking. They stand out. And they are making change.

### RACHEAL BANDA



Racheal Banda graduated from APU in 2013. She is attending Bunda College in first year agriculture extension. Racheal attributes her confidence in speaking English and communicating and her ability to make decisions without relying on others to her years at APU. She is "especially looking forward to identifying and learning about the things that are impeding farmers from achieving maximum production". Her dream is self-employment; owning her own farm and employing others in a supportive working environment.

### FERISTER KACHINGWE



Ferister graduated in 2014 and is pursuing a BSc in Horticulture at Bunda College. She is originally from Nsaru Trading Centre where APU is located. Looking forward to being "self-independent" Ferister dreams of having her own business growing and selling fruits and vegetables and providing employment for other members of her community. She particularly liked the discipline of APU any felt protected and safe while at the school.

### FYDES BOSTEN



Fydes Bosten graduated from APU in 2013. She is in her second year of a BSc in Horticulture. Fydes had ideas about improving crops when she was just a little girl but didn't think they were possible due to challenges in her life. When she came to APU she realized that not only were they possible but that she "had the strength and skills to accomplish her dreams". Patient and steady with a ready smile, Fydes is a natural mentor with the younger girls.

### DINNA MWALE



Dinna is animated and lively with an easy-going manner. She graduated from APU in 2011. Since graduation she has attended teaching college. After a few months of practice teaching, she decided that teaching was not for her and is currently in first year Agriculture Extension at Bunda College. Her ultimate goal is to make a difference by "advising farmers on the upcoming technologies which will ultimately improve their lives".

### IREEN HARRISON



Ireen Harrison graduated from APU in 2013. She is in her second year at Bunda College pursuing a BSc in Agriculture and specializing in seeding systems and crop production. Ireen eloquently describes how she has changed since she came to APU. "I didn't have a future before I can here," she said. "I thought I will marry, have a child, raise him and die. Now I speak English. When I have to speak in a group of people, I feel confident. I need to help those girls who don't know who they are in life. Ireen's dream is to have her own farm where she can apply her knowledge to run her own business and increase production by using more appropriate crops.







## APU PRIMARY SCHOOL

By September of 2013, it had become clear that our teachers and directors at APU were truly struggling with the fact that although they were providing high quality education to girls at APU, their own children did not have access to adequate primary education. With APU located in a very rural area, the only primary schools available were desperately substandard with teacher pupil ratios of 1:100. We were losing teachers each year, and our Directors, Henry and Memory Mdyetseni, were having to board their young children in town. This made life at APU very hard indeed.

In June of 2014, the group of educators calling themselves 'Women Helping Women', located in Victoria BC, held their annual Garden Party Fundraiser and raised all of

the funds needed to build our first class block. Within a month of the fundraiser, construction began. By September 2014, the school opened with two mixed grade classes, an early primary class (Preschool and Kindergarten), and a Grades 1 – 3 class.

While APU Director and Founder Memory Mdyetseni began pouring her energy into the academic side of creating a primary school from scratch, APU Project Manager Henry Mdyetseni put his considerable talents and vision to work in constructing a truly charming two classroom class block with flush toilets and a wonderful playground, funded by the Rotary Clubs of Sidney By The Sea and Oak Bay.

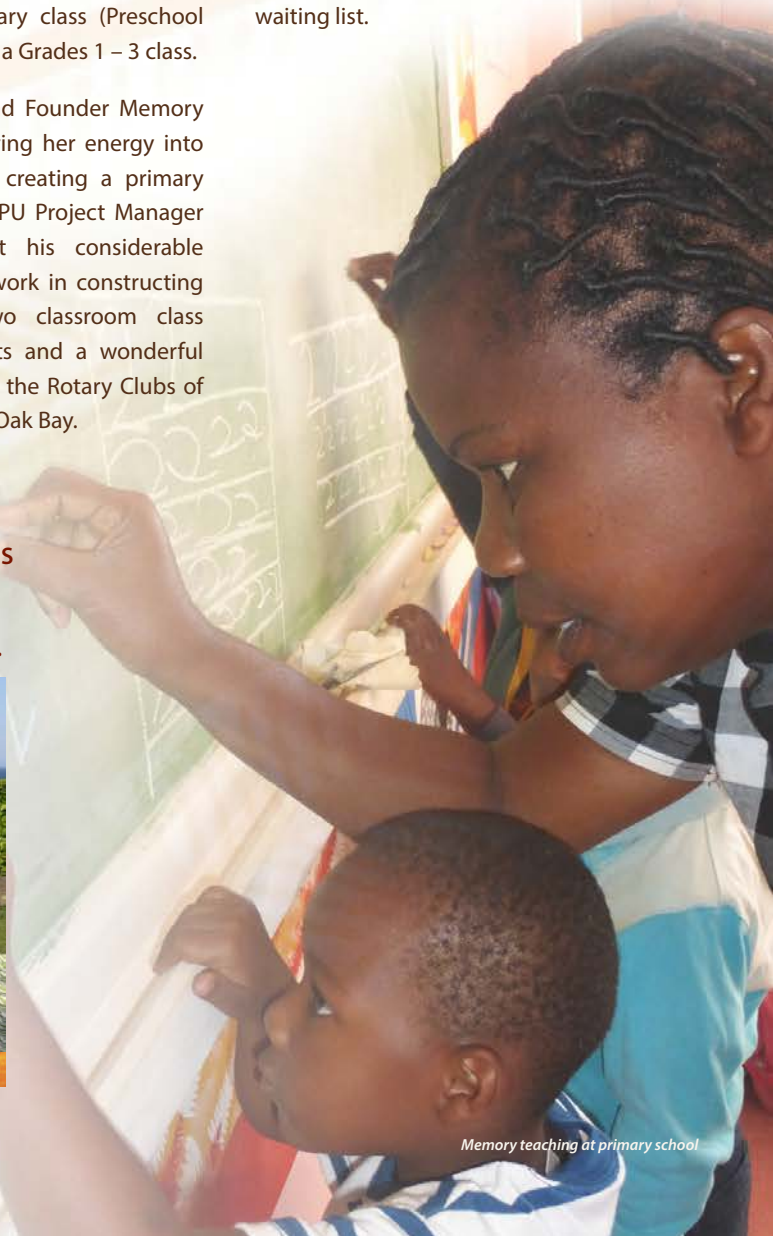
The APU Primary School is now in its second year of operation and has doubled in enrolment. Our two classes of students are now filled to capacity and there is a long waiting list.

**THE COMING OF APU PRIMARY HAS HAD AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF OUR APU TEACHERS.**

**OUR GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS IS IMMEASURABLE.**



Women Helping Women Group



Memory teaching at primary school



## APU'S ASTONISHING (BUT NOT SURPRISING) ACADEMIC SUCCESS

APU has continued to build on its astonishing academic success this year by producing a 99% MSCE pass rate from our graduating class of 2015. The MSCE is a set of national exams written at the end of Form 4.

**THE NATIONAL PASS RATE FOR  
THIS EXAM WAS 55%. APU'S  
PASS RATE WAS A FULL 44%  
HIGHER THAN THIS.**

In September, we learned that our Form 2 class received a 100% pass rate on their Junior Certificate of Education Exams with a national pass rate of 68%.

Our APU teachers are working hand in hand with students and parents to produce stunningly high results and their students truly recognize and appreciate their efforts. During my stay at APU in June, I had the privilege of observing this team of teachers in action. Their dedication to their students was incredible to witness. Many of our APU teachers are working 12

hour days, full weekends, going to class at 6:00 am to help students get ahead in their exam preparations, and staying well into the evening so that they are around during evening studies.

With this level of dedication, it is not surprising that our girls are putting APU on the map with their exam results.





## CAPITAL PROJECTS 2015/2016

This year we have our goals set on funding two urgently needed upgrade projects, the construction of our second Primary School Class Block, and the completion of our Legacy Building.

PROJECT NAME	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDS RAISED TO DATE
APU Water Expansion Project	\$10,000	\$2,000
APU Solar Power Project	\$10,000	0
Legacy Building Phase 2	\$115,000	\$22,000
Primary Class Block 2	\$35,000	0

### APU WATER EXPANSION PROJECT

In 2013, APU had WASRAG – Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group – come to APU to advise us on how to improve our water system. They drilled a very deep well and also had a solar pump and panels installed. It is this system that is currently keeping APU going, but with the growth of the school, combined with the increased rationing of electricity in Malawi, it is no longer sufficient to meet our needs.

Malawi is having a country-wide crises with regards to electricity. As a result, APU only gets electricity for 4 hours a day. Our electrical water-pump is unable to pump enough water to meet the needs of the school. Currently we have two wells. One well is using an electrical pump and one well is using a solar pump. Without the solar pump, which is able to pump for 9 hours a day, APU would be having to truck water in at huge cost.

To solve our water problems, we need to drill a third well that would use a solar pump. We would also need to purchase storage batteries and additional solar panels so that we can pump water through the night.



Legacy Building construction



## APU SOLAR POWER PROJECT

Malawi is having a country-wide crises with regards to electricity. As a result, APU only gets electricity for 4 hours a day. Our students need to study in the evenings in order to do well on their exams. We do have a generator but the cost of fuel in Malawi is very high so we can't afford to run it all of the time. Even at full capacity, the generator can only provide enough electricity to keep our security lights on and give the girls light in the hostel at night.

During the lead up to our Form 4 exams last year, we managed to fund the purchase of enough solar panels to light the Form 4 classroom only.

The proposal would be to provide enough solar panels to get APU 'off the grid' with regards to lighting of the classrooms, hostels and staff duplexes. It will cost \$1000 per building to pay for the purchase and installation of solar panels and batteries.

For \$10,000, we could 'light up' 10 buildings. We have 5 hostels, 3 class blocks and 4 Staff Duplexes requiring solar panels. The Form 4 Block has already been done.

This would make a huge difference to the entire school, including the living conditions of our on-site teachers. It would also make a huge difference to the functioning of the computer lab!

APU is halfway to having a building that can house our library, computer lab, administrative offices, medical clinic, and future Teacher Training College classrooms. This building has been a long time in coming and is badly needed, as currently, our library, staffroom and computer labs are all taking up critically needed classroom space. Needless to say, we just can't wait to finish this project!

The construction of the Legacy Building is our most challenging and exacting project undertaken so far at APU. When it is completed, it will change the entire feel of the school from one of 'pioneering and making do' to that of a complete and high -functioning school. We will no longer be limping along, squished into shared classroom space. Our teachers will have the preparation and meeting space that they deserve and our administrators will finally be able to have offices.

We still need to raise the final \$60,000 to complete Phase 2 and we know, that dollar by dollar and brick by brick, we will achieve this goal! To help us finish this project, visit our website at [www.malawigirlsonthemove.com](http://www.malawigirlsonthemove.com), and click on the How You Can Help button. You can hold your own fundraiser, donate directly online, or send in your donation cheque.



Legacy Building Labourers

**IF YOU HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN OUR BRICK BY BRICK CAMPAIGN TO HELP US BUILD THIS REMARKABLE SCHOOL, THIS PROJECT IS FOR YOU!**



Solar panels and water tower



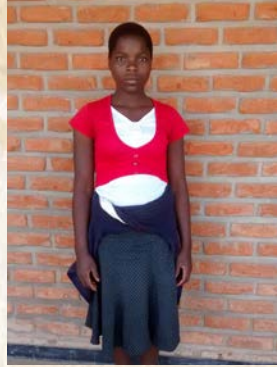
TIYAMIKE MAKANGA



SEKERANI DAVID



ESTHER CHITIMBO



RUTHNESS MASAUO



RACHAEL NTIMUNI



### MESSAGE TO OUR SPONSORS

MANDALIZA KAPALAMULA



Meet our new Form 1 scholarship students! Eight of these scholarship students are not yet sponsored. If your previous sponsored student has graduated, please consider investing in the education of one of these amazing young women. If you have never participated in our sponsorship program and would be interested in giving this gift of education, please contact me at [cjohnson@pearsoncollege.ca](mailto:cjohnson@pearsoncollege.ca) and I will personally match you with one of these girls.

Sponsors of our current students can expect to receive pictures and letters from your sponsored students as an early Christmas present in late November.

BRENDA KALEBE



LEFINAT NYANGU



VERONIKA MPINGA



SEKINA CHISENGA



PRUDENCE PHIRI



ALICE FRIDAY



### POEM BY LEAH PHIRI

Form 4

.....  
**Your dreams are always yours**  
**Fulfillments in your own hands**  
**But if you want to live a regrettable life**  
**Play now**  
**Remember no one can tell you of what you want to become.**

**Your dreams are always with you**  
**Just ask yourself how, when?**  
**You can surely do it.**  
**Do not be anxious of your dreams**  
**But work towards them.**

**Your dreams are what you want to be in life.**  
**If you dream without applying effort**  
**Do not expect something to happen.**  
**Remember there is no sweet without sweat**  
**No harvest without planting**  
**And so there are no achieved dreams**  
**without effort.**

Together WE can  
 CHANGE a GIRL'S  
 future





### SPORT'S DAY AT APU!

Every year, students and staff at APU participate in a school-wide sports day. This day is filled with both silly and serious competitions and brings the entire school together in an atmosphere of fun. This day is one of many special events that makes APU unique in Malawi. It demonstrates the family-like community that is fostered between teachers and students.



### MOTHER'S DAY AT APU



Lori in Mother's Day

Today is Mother's Day and this morning I was greeted with hugs and best wishes by about 30 students. It was just wonderful! Bob managed to squeeze out the door and grab a photo of the last of them!

newsletter designed by Berenice Sanders: studio745@gmail.com

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

#### APU MALAWI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Canadian Charity Registration Number 808514657RR000

All receipts will be mailed to you in February. Please let us know if you require your receipt earlier than this and we will accommodate you. 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

#### Return form by mail to:

APU Malawi Education Foundation  
PO Box 225  
108-800 Kelly Rd, Victoria, BC  
V9B 6J9

#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_