



Billy's Buzz

Billy's Malawi Project

P.O. Box 312 | West Springfield, MA 01090 | (413) 736-4938 | www.billysmalawiprojectusa.org

February 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Happy New Year 2015	1
Thank You	1
Meals for Malawi/ Urgent! Help Wanted	1
A visit to Billy's Clinic	2

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015

2014 was an eventful year for Billy's Malawi Project USA. In March, we began the year with our new annual fundraiser "Meals for Malawi". Participants engaged in a day of fasting, experiencing the everyday plight of a villager's lack of food. Through sponsorship donations, we raised over \$1000.00!

Big news came in April with the publication of "This is Paradise", authored by Suzanne Strempek Shea. In the Fall, Mags arrived and accompanied Suzanne on a book tour of New England.

Don't miss out! A further book signing and fundraising tour is planned for the early months of 2015. A play based on the book is currently being written, helping us reach our goal of getting the word of the Project out to a wider audience.



We are so very grateful to Ms. Strempek Shea and her commitment to telling the story "This is Paradise". For more information about readings or to buy a copy, go to <http://suzannestrempekshea.com/>

In November, Suzanne Meserve had the privilege of presenting Mags Riordan with a \$30,000 grant! This was only possible because of our generous donors, the Friends of Billy.



To John Sullivan, from the West Springfield Lions Club, Springfield Technical Community College Student Ambassadors, and the Big E for their efforts in collecting and donating 120+ eyeglasses to the newly established Eye Clinic!

To Mary Gramaris who donated much needed and valuable medical supplies. Both of these donations are greatly appreciated!

BOARD MEMBERS:

Suzanne Meserve
Lynn McDonald
Rosemarie Santiago
Leila Haddad
Beth Zeimba
Kendra Meserve

Meals 4 Malawi

Urgent! Help Wanted

The Second Annual Meals for Malawi will take place on March 28, 2015. We are asking you to help in this fundraising effort by participating in an authentic village experience or by sponsoring a participant. A \$5.00 registration fee is suggested. Three packets of oatmeal are included; this is comparable to the meal of corn maize a village eats twice daily.

. SEE PAGE2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The need for funds to help the clinic is **URGENT!** The rainy season has caused devastation in Malawi and the Chembe Village. Below is the most recent message Mags posted on Billy's Malawi Project Facebook page on January 24, 2015.

"Malawi has been battered and bruised by the rain season so far. Many people have lost their lives and others have lost homes and crops. Passing through Mangochi and Ullongwe yesterday, one week after the floods, we were moved to tears seeing the devastation along the roadside. Families are now trying to salvage or replant their maize crop in the muddy ground in a desperate effort to ensure their food supply for 2015."

These terrible conditions bring high rates of Malaria, Typhoid and other health concerns translating to the need for more medical supplies.

Please go to www.billysmalawiprojectUSA.org or our Facebook page, Billy's Malawi Project USA, for information on registration or sponsoring. Everyone is welcome to be a Chembe villager for a day. What better opportunity to make a difference and save a life!

A visit to Billy's Clinic by Suzanne Meserve

I bring you greetings from the village of Cape McLearn and Billy's Clinic. I recently returned from the village this past November and the experience is still having its impact. It was a wonderful fact-finding mission! Finally seeing the clinic and the village that for so long I have only known from websites, pictures and stories was truly a life changing experience! Where do I begin?

Malawi is called the warm heart of Africa. Some of the warmest and happiest hearts reside in Chembe village. Amid the most impoverished places in the world, its people are industrious, resourceful, and resilient. The struggle to survive has a daily presence there.

When I walked the dirt roads of the village I would meet a villager who would tell me the difference the clinic has made in his or her life and in the life of the village as a whole. It has saved them, their families and the village. More than once they called Mags and the Project a savior. It was not prompted, but was sincerely expressed and unscripted.

During my visit, I met each one of the craftsmen that we order merchandise from. Ideed, who makes the "Happy Bags", was thrilled to make us more! Jefferson, of the "Paper for People Project", invited me into his bamboo fenced-in yard where I saw the primitive "factory" where these amazing journals and

cards were made. Finally, I met Shakespeare, who welcomed me into his mud hut and showed me step by step how he creates the paper beads for his jewelry. I, of course, ordered more items from all of them to bring back with me. All of these men will use their profits to buy seed to plant their crop of maize and to feed their family for this coming year. Had the purchase not been made, they would not have the seed, nor would they have the food they need for their families to survive.

There is so much to tell about the village, its people and the excellent work the clinic is doing. How amazing the volunteer nurses and doctors are! What extraordinary care they are giving their patients! Billy's Clinic has done wonders in the past 10 years since it first opened its doors. It continues to make a huge difference in the village and the lives of the villagers. I can assure you that the dollars you donate are being put to very good use. They are saving lives. I saw it with my own eyes.

If you would like to read more and see other pictures regarding the trip to Malawi, check out Billy's Malawi Project USA on Facebook.



If you would like to make a donation to Billy's Malawi Project please go to www.billysmalawiprojectusa.org and click



Subscribe to our newsletter; please send us an email to BillysmalawiprojectUSA2@gmail.com,

