



**July 2013**

## **Billy's Malawi Project**

P.O. Box 312

West Springfield, MA 01090

413 736-4938

[www.billysmalawiprojectusa.org](http://www.billysmalawiprojectusa.org)



### **Board Members:**

Tim Allen

Suzanne Meserve

Judith Kappenman, SSJ

Lynn McDonald

Caroline Murray

Marilyn Murray

## **An update with a plea for volunteer help**

### **The American organization**

We are writing to our faithful donors to let you know the state of our organization. We are not asking for donations at this time, although you know tax-deductible donations are always welcome. In fact, we are working to refocus our energy, hoping to recruit volunteers both as board members and committee members, and seeking fundraising ideas. We have lost several board members, have welcomed a few new members and are already finding a new energy.

### **Miles for Malawi**

In 2012 we did not host Miles for Malawi on Thanksgiving morning for various reasons. Though we have hosted successful race/walk events for five years, last year we felt that we raised less money than we had hoped each time, even after much work. We discussed ways to find a more efficient way to run the event, or work to change the day or the venue but in the end decided to take a year off.

### **Donation sent to the clinic**

Because of the generosity of our donors who responded to our direct mailing holiday appeal, we were able early this year to send a substantial grant to Billy's Clinic for the purchase of medicines. We are most grateful to all who support us with donations both large and small.

### **Big E exhibit**

We are planning our September Big E exhibit

where once again — in fact for the 10th year, we will tell the story, sell some Malawian wares to raise awareness and funds, as well as introduce Mags Riordan to our donors and supporters of the cause she established in memory of the son for whom the medical facility is dedicated.

We will call again on Elms College and Springfield Technical Community College students and other volunteers to serve as ambassadors of the cause. We hope you can help; call Suzanne at 413 736-4938.

### **A new look for our web site**

We are working to give a new look to our web site to make it more representative of the American non-profit organization, as well as more user friendly with a way to contact us, and make donations directly through the Internet.

### **Plea for volunteers and ideas**

Our monthly board meetings are open and we welcome you to consider joining us with your ideas and willingness to help. We would love to hear any ideas you have for fundraising efforts as well. Call the number listed above to talk to Suzanne or email [judith.kappenman@yahoo.com](mailto:judith.kappenman@yahoo.com) I will forward your message to the board members and we will get back to you.



*"Billy's death breathed life into the village."*

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### **A short history of the organization**

Since the early 2000s Mags Riordan has devoted her life to improving the lives of the people of the village of Chembe at Cape Maclear. We met her when she came to the Big E in 2004 with a model of the village, her story and handouts. Inspired by her passion and dedication to this worthy cause, the Irish Cultural Center hosted fundraisers for her work over the next several years. Each year we saw a larger audience and raised more money for Billy's Malawi Trust.

Visit her website at [www.billysmalawproject.org](http://www.billysmalawproject.org)

We established Billy's Malawi Project USA in 2007 and hosted a reception for Mags Riordan to announce our official status. Since then we have conducted fundraisers with twice yearly direct mailing campaigns, an annual race/walk and a Big E exhibit where we sell goods from the Malawian village. We have met with several organizations and individuals to tell Mags story and the work of the clinics in Africa. We send the donations received to Malawi for the purchase of medicine.

Billy's Malawi Project USA is a 501 (c) 3 organization (EIN 20-8980832) aimed at assisting Mags Riordan and Billy's Malawi Project.



### **About Malawi**

- Where: Sub Saharan Africa: borders with Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania.
- Population: 14.8 million.
- 80% of population live rurally and engage in subsistence agriculture
- Life Expectancy: 53 years.
- 52% of the population live in extreme poverty
- 14 percent of population are HIV positive.
- 20% infant mortality rate among children under 5 years.
- 20% of children under 5 suffer malnutrition
- 72% of people live on less than \$2 per day.

We ask you to consider when purchasing items on the Internet that you use iGive.com as your search engine and designate Billy's Malawi Project as your charity. A portion of your purchase price is given to our organization and we send it on to help supply medicines for the people of the village.