

Lifeline Malawi

210, 1289 Highfield Cres. SE • Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 5M2

www.lifelinemalawi.com

Fall 2006

Expanding Our Centre of Excellence



Arrival of 250 more VitaMeal supplements for our ARV patients



PAOM Pastors with new bikes



VCT Cup



Mobile Clinic



Community Housing

PLWA (People Living With Aids) Receive Vita-meal Supplements

Naming themselves "Umodzi" (Chichewa word for "unity"), this group is another success story in the making. Eric, our Clinical Officer, facilitates their biweekly meetings and the group is gaining amongst our ARV patients. Soon they will become part of our community outreach, as they courageously come forward to give public testimony of what it is like to LIVE with HIV/AIDS. Thanks to the Blessings Feed the Children program, we started receiving free vita meal supplements - 10 kgs per person per month for every qualified ARV patient and Home Based Care patient we enroll in our programs. Being able to tell the community that we can offer free nutrition to those who are suffering most with effects of AIDS should help to break down walls of resistance and stigma and get more people coming forward to be tested.

Bicycles for Local Pastors

Thanks to the generous support of several individuals (some of which were former Short Term Mission team members), five local Pentecostal Assemblies of Malawi (PAOM) pastors received brand new bikes. You can tell by the smiles on their faces that these gentlemen are very thankful for the receipt of the only mode of transportation that may ever own. Since many of their parishioners live in very remote rural areas, this is the most efficient and "cost effective" method of getting around. Thanks to the donation of additional second hand bikes, we were also able to provide this convenient mode of transportation to our Community Outreach Team Leaders.

VCT Cup

In true Malawian style, plans continued to be changed up to the last minute for this June event. With the TV Malawi camera crew and reporters joining the enormous turnout for the final match (which was estimated at 10,000 people), Lifeline Malawi received some great exposure on the V. (Volunteer) C. (Counseling) and T. (Testing) efforts that are taking place at the Ngodzi clinic. A thank-you goes out to the LNHC staff, Gift Dulla, and Dr. Chris Brooks for all the hard work that they put in to ensure this wonderful success. The "Behaviour Change" message, which was communicated at each soccer match leading up to and including the final event, challenged people to take the testing to determine their HIV status as seriously as their love for soccer.

Mobile Clinic Outreach – Chitipi

June also brought the launch of our first mobile outreach clinic in the community of Chitipi, located about 10 kms. from the Lifeline Ngodzi Health Centre. Although we treated only 56 patients during this first outreach, our team demonstrated the capacity to see at least three times that amount. This clinic will continue to operate every two weeks as we begin to expand further into other outlying centres in the Salima district. In a recent community ceremony, Dr. Brooks and Eric Mwale were presented with a key to the clinic facilities constructed by the community – a traditional African hut with a thatched roof.

Community Housing

Thanks to receiving financial support from three (3) separate groups of donors, we were able to break ground for the new community staff housing project that will eventually house twelve staff and their families. The first ring of 6 homes was staked out, the land cleared, bricks purchased and the first foundation laid in preparation for the arrival of the Short Term Mission Team from South Calgary Community Church in August. Although the current funding only allows us to start to build three (3) homes designated for our non-professional staff that work at the Health Centre, we are hoping that other partners will soon join the challenge. These people currently live in very difficult circumstances within the Ngodzi region.

BRINGING LIFE-TRANSFORMING HOPE AND HEALING TO A NATION



Bobby Maynard (TECS) and Dr. Brooks with MOH Medical Assistant

Integrated Child Labour Elimination Project (ICLEP)

Under the leadership of TECS (Together Ensuring Child Safety), June 22nd saw the launch of the new Integrated Child Labour Elimination Project with three other agriculture, education and safe water partners respectively: Total Land Care (TLC), Creative Centre for Community Mobilisation (CRECCOM) and Church of Central Africa Presbytery CCAP (Nkhoma/Livingstonia Synod in Education). This partnership will allow Lifeline to replicate its centre of excellence in another rural district of Malawi. In addition, the hiring of 26 new staff for this Program will see the Lifeline Malawi medical operations double in size and our total staff compliment increase to almost 60. (Thankfully, our Field team is implementing automatic banking deposits for payroll).



Kasese Sod Turning

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Dr. Cheri Nijssen-Jordan, Interim Medical Director, and Barbara Mikus, Director, Canadian Operations were on hand in August for the un-official sod turning ceremony for a new 800 square meter Health Center. This recently commenced project, which is 2/3 funded by ICLEP, will be the centre of action in a brand new endeavour to bring hope and life-transforming healing to over 70,000 vulnerable children and their families in the Kasungu and Dowa districts north of Lilongwe. Lifeline is currently seeking partners to fund the remaining 1/3 cost of constructing this building (\$60,000 CDN).



Dr. Cheri Nijssen-Jordan treating young patient

Staff Transition

In July, Lifeline Malawi welcomed Dr. Cheri Nijssen-Jordan and her family for a six month term as Dr. Brooks transitioned his role from Medical Director to assume the role of President for the organization. In addition, the Field team bid an emotional farewell to Andy Boettcher and his family as they completed their two year tenure and returned to Canada in July. On September 8th, we welcomed our new Field Managing Director from Toronto Pat Laforet (and his wife Ann). Gift Dulla, who had been an amazing Executive Assistant for the past 2 years, was promoted into the Program Director role. This leadership team will be instrumental in the future of Lifeline's success and growth in the country.



Hydraform Machine

Hydraform Brick Machine – Cost to fund = \$25,000 CDN

The Hydraform building system replaces conventional bricks and mortar by making blocks that are manufactured by hydraulically compressing soil and cement mixtures. In addition to its simplicity of use and the speed in which blocks are made, its environmentally friendly benefit allows blocks to be created without the need for wood for brick-burning. In a country that is quickly being de-forested, this benefit alone makes the investment worthwhile. Lifeline desires to purchase the machine that it is currently renting. Once the construction of the Health Center is complete, this machine would be used to construct other buildings required in the community.



A Glimpse into Future Community Outreach Clinics

Fall Campaign Calendar

- October 22 – South Calgary Community Church (Calgary)
- October 29 – West Edge Church (Mississauga, Ontario)
- November 4 – 6:30 pm Ripple Church (meeting at Esso Auditorium, Calgary Zoo, Calgary)
- November 5 – Immanuel Church – To be confirmed
- November 10 – Annual Dessert Reception & Silent Auction (Dream Centre, Calgary)
- November 12 – Bridges Church (Calgary)
- November 18 – Annual General Meeting (new Calgary office)
- November 19 – First Assembly (Calgary)
- November 26 – Tsawwassen Alliance Church (Delta, BC)

(for further details, please visit our web site or contact our office)

Notice: On Sept. 1st, the Canadian operations for Lifeline Malawi moved into their new office: #210, 1289 Highfield Cres. SE, Calgary, Alberta T2G 5M2 Phone 403-214-7780