

Welcome to the 2019 Makupo Development Group News Update.
Thank you to Makupo's generous supporters and volunteers.
Please add our email address to your address book to help ensure that you receive these Makupo -
Moni Abwenzi Updates. Thanks again for all your support!



Moni Abwenzi

September 2019

Exciting News!!! Official recognition in Canada and Malawi

RECOGNITION IN CANADA

We are excited to announce that the Makupo Development Group, which started out as a small family-based NGO in 2005, has received charitable status from the Canadian government.

This means we can issue tax receipts for donations!

From our first project of building a well in Nellie Miller's home village of Makupo, our programs have grown and expanded to include the Chilanga Health Centre, which serves a catchment area of over 15,000 residents.

RECOGNITION IN MALAWI

After much hard work and many inspections, the Malawi Department of Health has recognized the Health Centre and will be including it in their upcoming budget.

This means the Malawian government will cover most of the health centre's expenses in the future, which is a major step toward achieving the centre's long-term sustainability.





Makupo Development Group 2019 Fundraising Campaign

GOAL = \$25,000

The Chilanga Health Centre is growing, and is now serving 80 patients a day. The Centre's dedicated healthcare team, Mike Besten (Medical Assistant), Sheila Sokole (Nurse/Midwife Technician) and Tina Mbewe (Ward Attendant), are working tirelessly to meet the needs of the community. Thirty Village Health Workers (all volunteers) support the team by sharing health education and prevention practices in their villages and encouraging early referrals to the centre.

There are future plans to expand existing programs, such as Palliative Care and Family Planning, to include "youth friendly" services, HIV testing and counselling, labour and delivery, to name just a few.

However, before moving forward we must first complete some infrastructure. The roof needs to be finished before the rainy season arrives in November. Only then can we paint and furnish the new section of the health center. We have a brand new well but indoor plumbing needs to be completed to ensure proper sanitation.

Here is how you can make a donation (please include your full name and address if you would like a tax receipt):

E-transfer: hicksm@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Personal cheque: Makupo Development Group, 160 Hébert, St-Laurent, QC H4N 2K5

PayPal: Visit our website at www.makupo.org where you can also learn more about our work.

We sincerely appreciate any donation, big or small. This health centre has already saved many lives and—with support from donors like you—will realize its potential to improve the health of thousands of rural Malawians. **Thank you!**

Gwen Schulman, Chair

Melodie Hicks, Vice-Chair & Health Advisor



Early days at the Health Centre: registration and baby-weighing outdoors



Outside the current building

The Centre's hard-working staff and volunteers





Bikes, some serving as ambulances, help staff reach nearby communities.

Zikomo

For generous contributions from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Social Justice Fund (OPSEU), Vanier College, Association des retraitées et des retraités de la FNEEQ (AREF), MIC Sisters (Sister Missionaries of Immaculate Conception), EKM Architecture, Engaging Networks, K2 Foundation, Royal West Academy and Norton Rose Fulbright Canada.

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