

EDUCATION MATTERS

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM | Malawi Children's Village

SEPTEMBER 2019



EDUCATION MATTERS.

Education matters. The diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy (CP) in Malawi is frequently a result of cerebral malaria or malnutrition, which is often secondary to poor health awareness and/or lack of education. As a pediatric Physical Therapist, the first education I offer to families is not necessarily how to help their baby/child move, but discussions about nutrition and the importance of bed nets to prevent the malaria parasite, transmitted through mosquitoes, infecting their child. The Special Needs Program provides mosquito nets to each child and ensures healthy nutrition by offering a flour consisting of mixing ground maize (corn) and pounded ground nuts (peanuts) together. It is called "likuni phala." The care provider then mixes this flour with water and salt to form a porridge. Health education comes before movement education.



SUCCESS LAST YEAR

- **243:** Number of clinic visits
- **191:** Number of total clients
- **82:** Standing frames built
- **54:** Cerebral Palsy Chairs built
- **34:** Wheelchairs built
- **18:** Tricycle wheelchairs built

COSTS

- **\$216:** Tricycle Wheelchair
- **\$162:** Manual Wheelchair
- **\$75:** Accessibility ramps for schools or homes
- **\$34:** Wooden Stander
- **\$34:** Wooden Adapted Chair
- **\$27:** Walker
- **\$27:** School Uniform

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Donate online:
MalawiChildrensVillage.org
Designate for
Special Needs Program

Write check to:
"MCV Special Needs"
Mail to:
Mary Pomeroy
10420 Lone Tree Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99507

Education matters.

1. The Special Needs Program promotes education through the 3 areas:

Village-Based Care:

Catherine, one of the Outreach Coordinators from MCV, continues to travel to 39 villages to check on families or care providers who have children with special needs. There are 191 clients in the program. Many children are orphans, having lost one or both parents to AIDS. Through the years, I have provided education to Catherine about how to observe for movement disorders or to watch for babies who aren't reaching their developmental milestones. There are 2 MCV volunteers in each village who are also learning how to be observant for movement challenges.



Wheelchair/Equipment

Workshop:

The MCV Vocational Program continues to fabricate manual wheelchairs, walkers, wooden chairs and standers. Education has been provided on how to measure for this equipment and how to assess if fitting properly. Children with special needs are now going to school.

2.

CP Clinic:

Every week a Physical Therapist ("Physio") comes for a morning to provide therapy and educational training to parents / care providers. Data from Jan-Aug 2019 includes 243 visits.



Since the above programs have been initiated, the **Malawi School of Medicine Physiotherapy Program** sends students every year to train at Mangochi Hospital with weekly visits to the CP Clinic at MCV. They are involved in a "learning by living" program (through the University) where they live with a local family for their month rotation. These PT students are being educated; they are learning how to live with children with special needs. **Education Matters.**

The Special Needs Program is directly a part of the MCV budget, goals and mission to provide a continuum of services in the Mangochi area for orphans and other vulnerable children within 39 villages.

My husband and I will be returning to Malawi in November for our 11th visit and I can't wait to see all the wonderful progress that has been made for children who live in the "warm heart of Africa," Malawi.

We leave Nov 6, however, money can be donated anytime!! Know that many children with special needs are now going to school or are walking for the first time because Education Matters and you care.

Zikomo (Thank you),
Mary Pomeroy

