



Orphan Care Program

Mtendere Village



Children's Village Focuses on the Helpless

Mtendere Village, a child-care facility north of Lilongwe, serves as home for misplaced abused children. This includes children who have no parents, or parents who are unable to care for them. The name means, "a place of peace," in Chichewa, and the 24 houses of Mtendere offer an escape from a broken past, safety for present healing, and a future offering unimaginable potential.

The idea for Mtendere moved from concept to action in February 2003, when the Malawi Project and Napoleon Dzombe, a Christian businessman, broke ground for the child-care community. The units were designed to hold 24 children in each independent housing unit. Within weeks the shells for all 24 houses were taking shape. One year later, in February 2004 over 2,000 people, including the First Lady of the nation, celebrated the opening of the first unit, Chimwemwe, or Joy House.

The children were quickly integrated into the local public school, and their development, in spite of problems incurred before coming to Mtendere, was surprisingly swift. Their grades were quickly counted among the highest in the school.



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The Malawi Project



An Eye to Independence

Working closely with the developer, the Malawi Project set out to develop self-confidence and a life style conducive to independent living in the future. The children were instructed in everyday skills such as modern farming, using drip irrigation systems, the use of fruit trees for both shade, and as a source of food, homemaking, sewing, and other life skills. Boys made gamotos to sell to visitors, while the girls sewed pillows, blankets and small rugs for visitors and patients at nearby Blessings Hospital. A chicken coup was started to raise food, as well as egg sales.



The Move to Independence

In the early stage of Mtendere, a church group from the southern part of the United States developed an interest and strong attachment and accepted responsibility for its future development. The Malawi Project had achieved its goal of a village for homeless and neglected children, and was able to turn its attention to the care and support of children in other parts of the nation.



You Can Participate

Contributions can be made online at:
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