



Linda's Fund

Newsletter January 2022

**Celebrating 16 years and
31 bursary students**

**A Fund for Education in
Malawi in Memory of
Linda Nelson 1954 – 2006**

Message from the Trustees

This is our fifth Newsletter to everyone who has helped us or expressed an interest in the Charity. Linda's Fund was set up in 2006 to improve educational provision for over 600 pupils of Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School in Malawi, through bursaries and school projects. Girls and boys have equal access to the funds. Mulanje School is partnered with Fortrose Academy on the Black Isle in Scotland.

The aim of this Newsletter is to show what has been achieved with your help over the last difficult year and what current activities are taking place. Please do let us have any feedback through the website at www.lindasfund.org.uk.

Charity News

We had sufficient funds to start 2 new students from over 30 applicants on their chosen courses in 2021. In addition 3 students were undertaking industrial experience giving a total of 5 students being sponsored in the year. With funds at an all time low due to the effect of the pandemic on fundraising we may need to reduce new starts this year so that we have sufficient funds to allow courses to be completed.

Since the start of Linda's Fund in 2006 31 students have been awarded bursaries for the following subjects.

Teacher training	1	Hairdressing	1
Electronics	1	Motor vehicle maintenance	6
Bricklaying	4	Plumbing	4
Electrical Installation	6	Accounting	3
Agriculture and Rural studies	2	Public Health	1
Welding	1	Tailoring	1

Details of past bursaries are available on www.lindasfund.org.uk

Students starting in 2020

Portia Kunchiwa - Electrical Installation, Milonga College. 2-3 years

Bright Kwezalamba - Electrical Installation at Milonga. 2-3 years

Students completed in 2020 are

Both Phyllis Kagolo and Mircy Kachipatso finished their first year but decided not to complete their courses.



**New students Bright and Portia
started Electrical Installation at
Milonga College**



Teachers houses near completion

Covid News

Covid 19 has really distorted the school programs and the future of the Malawian child. Studying or working remotely is not an option for many. Up to the end of December 2021 there have been 76,000 official cases in Malawi and 2,370 deaths. New omicron variant cases are increasing. First dose vaccination has been given to 1,492,000 and 705,000 are fully vaccinated. This represents approximately 7.8% and 3.7% of the population.

School News

Teachers' houses which we have co-funded with others are due to be completed in January 2022 and put into immediate use. The total project cost will be about £35,000 for 2 houses but has taken over 3 years due to lack of finances. All funding has come from either the local community (in the form of sand and gravel) or outside donations. The provision of housing is seen as a major way to recruit and keep the best teaching staff.

Bright's Story

I'm first born in family of 3 children my father died while I was young and now I'm living with my widowed mother. I am doing electrical installation and electronics at college. So far we mostly learnt how to install domestic and industrial installation. We have also learnt how to deal with motor machines in industry and how to repair portable and fixed appliances.

The program is for 3 levels. We are going to end level 1 in August 2021 and start a period of industrial attachment for 6 months.

We need electrical toolbox and safety aid kits so that we will be able to work practical and safely on our academic and industrial attachment period. On top of that in March we need industry medical fee of £25 (this is only amount needed during attachment period) no school fees!!!

Thanks



Bright and Portia (at front) are studying Electrical installation and have been getting on the job experience in 2021.

Typical Course Costs

Student costs

Medical, safety and equipment	£25 - £150
Computer (2 nd hand if required)	£100
Course fees per term	£100 - £275
Boarding Fee per term	£60 - £100
Exam fees per term	£25 - £50
Start up grant if appropriate	£10 - £50



Fundraising

Fundraising events in 2021 were curtailed due to Covid-19 but we have received very generous individual donations that have given us confidence that the scheme can continue at present. We and all the staff and bursaries in Malawi are extremely grateful for all the donations in support of the work in Malawi.

Why not join us on our virtual Walk to Mulanje? www.lindasfund.org.uk

Walk with us to Malawi!

From mid-February to June (or when we get there) we are planning to walk as a Group virtually to Malawi. You can walk, run or cycle as a Group and all miles/steps submitted can be added to the total. Or you can walk the whole route individually.

People can request to join the Group at any time and donate through our [website](#). The distance is approximately 8,900 miles long. If possible, pupils in Mulanje will walk from Mulanje and meet us. Hopefully we can virtually fly back in time for the school holidays!! Watch our website for details of how to join the Group walk. Send us an email and we can arrange to add your mileage to the total or send you a link to our journey. Our thanks to Scottish Charity World Walking www.worldwalking.org who have provided the route for us.

If we were able on average to raise £1 for every mile walked we would raise enough money to keep the Fund going for roughly two years or allow more students to access training/studies.

Check our website for further details www.lindasfund.org.uk or email admin@lindasfund.org.uk

Next Malawi Trip

Fortrose Academy pupils last visited Mulanje Mission school in 2018. The 2021 trip was cancelled due to the COVID. We are unsure when another trip will be possible but are planning to liaise by video in 2022 with the help of the Mission Hospital www.mmh.mw . We will keep a future trip under review. Each pupil needs time to raise funds in the community both for the trip and also for Linda's Fund bursaries so there is normally a 3 year lead in time to any trips.



*Fortrose and Mulanje
students in Mulanje in 2018*



Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School



Past and Present student News

We try to keep in touch with our bursaries. Here are some of their stories from current and past students.

Two Gweta Currently studying Auto mechanics

So far my course is good though I had some challenges at school especially i had a tough time when I was preparing for my level 2 exams due to covid 19 and other circumstances. But I tried my level best. And the good thing is that I have passed the exams so am going for level 3 in 2022. Thanks for supporting me. I really appreciate. God bless the Linda's fund family.

Louis Mbingwani

I am a fruit of Linda's fund, I did my bursary from 2015 to 2017 and I was doing electrical installation at Comboni College. Now I am in Lilongwe the capital city of Malawi, am working with Central Poultry Ltd as an electrician, I always enjoying my work. Many thanks to the entire family of Linda's fund Org. May the Lord bless you!

Simon Williams Studied Bricklaying 2014 -2018

Hi. I am fine. I have managed to stay safe. Currently I am not employed full time but am depending on piece works



Finances

All UK funding goes to Malawi with no costs in UK (apart from bank charges).

Our yearly expenditure in 2020/21 was £4,575 and income, all from donations, was £3,959. The balance came from our reserves. The fund maintains reserves to allow students to complete courses but we continue to be close to that figure. Linda's Fund is run by a small group of volunteers. A Malawi committee disperses the funds. It includes the Headteacher as Chair, teachers and parents. The Fund has charity status in the UK and over the years has distributed over £74,000. This money has been raised by generous donations from individuals, sponsored events, pupils fundraising and company donations. The long standing link between Fortrose Academy and Mulanje Mission continues to flourish and be supported in both communities.

Finally

Thank you for your interest in the charity, and its work in Malawi that is helping to improve education in one of the many community schools and giving opportunities and hope to its students.

Two reconditioning a car engine and Louis working as an electrician.

If you wish to make a donation to the Fund this can be done from the Donations page on our website at www.lindasfund.org.uk

Or by post to
The Treasurer
Linda's Fund
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Academy Street
Fortrose
IV10 8TW