



Newsletter January 2021

**Celebrating 15 years
and 29 bursary students**

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



**Head teacher and students
Phyllis Kagolo and Mircy
Kachipatso starting back at
Milonga college in 2020**

Message from the Trustees

This is our fourth 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 the 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 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

It is 15 years since the Charity started and in that time we have had 8 streams of bursary students. 3 new students commenced their courses in 2020. In addition 2 students were undertaking industrial experience giving a total of 5 students being sponsored in the year. Three new students will commence courses in 2021.

Since the start of Linda's Fund in 2006 29 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	4	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

Magret Malefula - tailoring at Mubarak College, Zomba. 1 year

Phyllis Kagolo - Plumbing at Milonga College, Thyolo. 2-3 years

Mircy Kachipatso - Plumbing at Milonga College. 2-3 years

Students completed in 2020 are

Paul Thomas

Motor Vehicle Maintenance



**Two Gweta a 2019 bursary
at Nasawa Technical
College**

Our website is
www.lindasfund.org.uk



**Special thanks go to
LINDA'S FUND for the
wonderful bursary! It is
indeed helping here in
Malawi!
Thomas Paul
graduated in 2020 as a
Motor Mechanic**

Covid News

A note from the Headteacher on the effects of COVID-19.

The sudden closure of school in March 2020 confused students, teachers and parents. As a result many pupils lost hope and started living their own way of life. When schools reopened in July, the school lost 15 pupils due to early marriages or teenage pregnancy.

Those who returned to school had their heads 'white washed' with non-education activities. The teachers were busy with recovery strategies through revision and remediation sessions in order to catch up with the Lost 5 months. However schools were closed again on 18th January 2021. This time we are anticipating a bigger loss because these learners are already wounded.

Form 4 national examinations were in progress in January. This exam has been cancelled twice and candidates have lost concentration. In the course of writing exams, Covid-19 tests were undertaken and detected half of pupils positive. They were quarantined and told to write exams in isolation.

Corona has really distorted the school programs and the future of the Malawian child.

School News

Teachers houses which we have co-funded with others are not yet completed. We provided some further funding of £1000 and that together with other funding of around £5000 from other sources allowed the houses to be made wind and watertight. The total project cost will be about £35,000 for 2 houses but has taken 2-3 years due to lack of finances. No government money has been provided and all funding has come from either the local community (in the form of sand and gravel) or outside sources similar to Linda's Fund. The project now has roof and windows, concrete floors and internal plastering and is awaiting the internal fitout of plumbing and electrical wiring. A further £4000 is required to complete plumbing and electrical work in 2021. The provision of housing is seen as a major way to recruit and keep the best teaching staff.

Paul's Story

I am Thomas Paul, I am second born child from a poor family of four children. My father died before I was born. I started my Secondary school in 2012. It was a very hard time for my mother to pay school fees as she was on her own. She worked picking tea leaves at the tea plantation so that she could get money for my school fees.

After some years, Linda Fund Bursary sent me to the boarding Technical college to gain skills. I went to NASAWA TECHNICAL COLLEGE in Zomba District where I studied AUTOMOBILE mechanics. After three years at college I passed my exams and now work in a local garage workshop. Thank you for the tools, I hope to eventually set up my own garage.

Business Start-ups and Tools

In the past we have obtained funds and also had tools donated to help bursaries start-up their businesses.

Margarat Malfula completed her course in tailoring in 2020 and will be given some seed money to purchase a sewing machine of her own and some material so she can start a business.

Thomas Paul graduated in 2020 as a motor mechanic and has received some tools and help to start up a business.

If you would like to donate tools or money specifically to help individuals start up a business or buy computers, or to find out other ways you can help, do please get in touch with the Charity. We can also provide a list of required tools for various courses.

The students undertook to try and pay back the cost of tools into the Fund over 5 years after starting work.



Margaret completed her course and will be given some start up funding to help her start a tailoring business

Fundraising

Fundraising events in 2020 were curtailed due to Covid-19 but we have received very kind individual donations including some from pupils/parents that had started to fundraise for the 2021 trip. We and all the staff and bursaries in Malawi are extremely grateful for all the donations in support of the work in Malawi.

2021 Malawi Trip

Fortrose Academy pupils last visited the Mulanje Mission school in 2018. The 2021 trip was cancelled due to the COVID but we hope to start planning another trip as soon as it is safe to travel. Each pupil needs time to raise funds in the community both for the trip and also for Linda's Fund bursaries.

Videos of two of the bursaries are included on the website at www.lindasfund.org.uk



Fortrose and Mulanje students in Mulanje in 2018



Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School

Student Profile

Joana Manyozo

My name is Joana Manyozo, aged 22. I am a Student at Modern Education and Training Institute (METI) college. I'm studying nutrition and dietetics including public health(diploma), and this is my second year at METI.

METI is one of colleges that believe in letting its students have practical experience after learning theory in class. Students must work in organizations and government hospitals to enable them to have work experience. I was attached at Neno district hospital for a period about four weeks from 1 December 2020 to 31 December 2020. In March 2021 I plan to return to Neno district hospital for a second allocation.

My vision is to open a health center in order to help children with malnutrition and women with pregnancies.

Finally, I want to thank you for the support you give to me. I really appreciate it and may God bless you and continue to help others in order to achieve their desirable goals

Finances

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

Our yearly expenditure in 2019/20 was £3,840 and income was £2940. 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 including teachers and family in Fortrose. A Malawi committee, which disperses the funds, includes the Headteacher as Chairperson, teachers and parents. The Fund has charity status in the UK and over the years has distributed over £70,000 between projects and bursaries. 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.

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

Fortrose Academy

Academy Street

Fortrose

IV10 8TW



Joana Manyozo one of our 2019 bursaries.



Joana getting work experience at Neno hospital..

The link between Fortrose Academy and Mulanje Mission continues to flourish