



# Linda's Fund

Newsletter January 2023

**Celebrating 17 years and  
32 bursary students**

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



**New student Giff Alula started  
a welding course at  
Nansomba College**

## Message from the Trustees

This is our sixth 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 year and what current activities are taking place. Please do let us have any feedback through the website at [www.lindasfund.org.uk](http://www.lindasfund.org.uk).**

## Charity News

We had sufficient funds to start 1 new student from many applicants in 2022. In addition, 4 continuing students were completing their courses giving a total of 5 students being sponsored in the year. With available funds still low due to the effect of the pandemic and economic climate on fundraising we reduced new starts this year so that we have sufficient funds to allow courses to be completed. We plan to take on 2-3 new bursaries in 2023 as existing students complete their courses.

Since the start of Linda's Fund in 2006 32 students have now 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	2	Tailoring	1

Details of past bursaries are available on [www.lindasfund.org.uk](http://www.lindasfund.org.uk)

### Students starting in 2022

**Giff Alula** started a welding course at Nansomba Technical College close to Mulanje. Giff is 24 with 3 siblings and both his parents have died. He hopes to purchase a welding machine to start a business.

### Students completing in 2022 are

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

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

**Two Gweta** - Auto Mechanics at Mangochi College. 2-3 years

We hope to assist each student with some start up tools.

Videos of two previous bursaries are included on the website.



## Typical Course Costs

### Student costs



**Completed Teachers houses**

Medical, safety and equipment	£45 - £150
Computer (2 <sup>nd</sup> hand if required)	£120
Course fees per term	£120 - £275
Boarding Fee per term	£80 - £100
Exam fees per term	£25 - £50
Start up grant if appropriate	£10 - £50
Tools at end of course	£0 - £75



## School News

Teachers' houses which we have co-funded with others were completed in 2022 and put into immediate use. The total project cost was about £35,000 for 2 houses and took over 3 years to complete due to lack of finances. All funding came 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.

A hostel for girls was opened in July on the school campus and can cater for up to 280 girls.



**Girls Hostel**

## Malawi

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. The estimated population of 19.65 million (2021) is expected to double by 2038. The economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, which employs over 80% of the population, and it is especially vulnerable to climatic shocks. Headline inflation was 24.6% year-on-year in July 2022. Food inflation reached 32.5.



**The Headteacher  
Lovemore Manjolo**

## Mulanje Committee News

We rely on the hard work and support of a volunteer committee in Mulanje who interview students, match them to courses, allocate funding and act as mentors for students during their courses. It includes the Headteacher as Chair, teachers and parents.

Below is the Chairman's story

*My name is **Lovemore Manjolo**, head teacher at Mulanje Mission CDSS. I joined the teaching profession in September 1991. This is my 9th work station since I started this leadership position.*

*I love to play my leading role as a role model to my teachers and pupils. Teaching and learning is our core business and the success of our learners is our main objective.*

*When I am at school I conduct supervision for teachers, heads of departments and learners. I also manage finances, infrastructure, school property and the support staff.*

*While I am out of school, I love long distance brisk walking, reading, visiting places, watching soccer and going to church.*

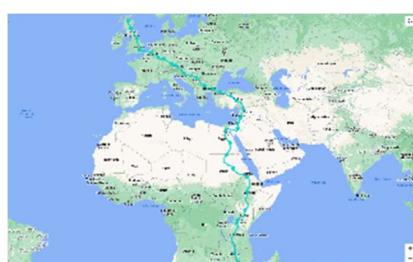


## Fundraising

The main Fundraising event in 2022 was a virtual walk from Fortrose to Mulanje a distance of 8950 miles. See below. We and all staff and bursaries in Malawi are extremely grateful for all the donations in support of the work in Malawi. We can't do everything but small steps add together to make a big difference.

## Walk with us to Malawi!

From mid-February 2022 to end June, 15 walkers completed a combined mileage of 8950 miles, the distance from Fortrose to Mulanje. Our partners in Malawi greeted us with texts and emails of thanks when we completed the walk. The route was provided online for us by the Scottish Charity [www.worldwalking.org](http://www.worldwalking.org) who did a great job and made it so easy for us to track our distance and position. Since then some have continued walking using their other routes across the world. A total of nearly £3000 was raised.



The route is shown on the map above and went through UK, France, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi.



**Bright and Portia (at front) studied Electrical installation and completed their course in 2022.**

**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 Completed Auto mechanics level 3 in 2022**

*My parents are very grateful for everything Linda's Fund did upon my studies because they couldn't have afforded it. Many thanks*

### **Gift James Alaula Completed 1 year in 2022 at local college.**

*My name is Gift, I am from Mulanje. I was born in April 1998 and am the last born in the family of four. I lost both my parents when I was young. I did my secondary school at Mulanje Mission from 2011 to 2014. Because of lack of available financial support from my family I was just staying at home until I was chosen for a bursary by Linda's Fund. I am very happy because of this great opportunity. I am at technical college where I am doing Fabrication and Welding. Thank you for the great offer you are doing for me.*

### **Simon Williams Studied Bricklaying 2014 -2018**

*One of our star pupils who was employed to train later students at the college. Currently not in full time employment but taking local self-employed bricklaying jobs when they are available. He would love to start up a training school, in Mulanje.*



**Two reconditioning a car engine.**

## Finances

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

Our yearly expenditure in 2021/22 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. 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 and is 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 students and their families.**

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](http://www.lindasfund.org.uk)

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

### **Left over holiday Currency?**

Donate it to Linda's Fund at  
<https://www.leftovercurrency.com/charity/lindas-fund/>