

NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

The first Smile Malawi Children's Centre opened in November 2006 and now gives a home to 43 children who were jointly identified by Malawi Social Services and Smile Malawi from Blantyre and the local villages. The charity also helps the local community of Kapeya with a developing outreach programme, primarily targeting the children and local school.

Keeping their smiles

4 year old Faith came to us in October 2016 but rarely smiled. A few months with us and look at her now! She and her sister Felesta have settled really well and are very happy.



We took 2 more little girls this time too on Elspeth's last day - 4 year old Dorothy and 8 year old Yvonne.



Our wonderful matron Mirriam had an accident in January and the ankle fracture she sustained has not healed properly. Elspeth was shocked to see her hobbling around when she arrived and sent her straight on leave. Further investigation revealed that she needs an operation to correct the bone and so she will not be returning for some time. The operation is being carried out privately at the CURE hospital where little Gift had his cleft palate surgery last year and our friend Kyle is head of surgery. We wish Mirriam a complete recovery and are so pleased

she will be in such capable hands. Elspeth and our Malawian trustee Glad Munthali have formed a plan to cover Mirriam's absence and all the staff and children are on board to work together to get through this difficult time.



Easter was harvest time again and the children joined in every day to bring the maize in. As it was holiday time the children were home from school and college and they worked hard to complete it before they went back to their studies. The crop was reasonable but it has been affected by lack of rain for the second year running and we now have to supplement it with bought rice and maize flour later in the year.



The little ones back to school.

On the Homefront

Last summer we received a request from the Chief of Kapeya village to

help them rebuild a footbridge across the stream near our site. The original one collapsed many years ago and the villagers struggle to scramble down the steep banks to cross on their way to the market and the maize mill. He didn't know that Elspeth is a chartered engineer in UK and has spent most of her career building bridges so he was very happy to hear that she had organised it to start in April this year. The villagers are helping and we are using local stone from the land and local hand-made bricks to form a simple arched bridge.



Construction is well under way and Elspeth's friends and colleagues in UK have raised the funds as a special project. Our own local bricklayer is going to build the arch and is thrilled to be working on something totally different from house construction.



Our Plans

Much of 2017 will be taken up with the bridge construction but, once our builder has completed this, work will continue on the second round house.

If you would like to help with the running costs of the Children's Home or with the education costs of the children, please visit our website or send a cheque to the address below.