



starfish malawi
MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Newsletter

February Edition

from the Starfish UK & Malawi Teams.



Gateway Story and Impact



This project started in 2012 and has developed from there.

When our team was in Malawi in 2012, **Maggie** was checking exam results of the students and noticed that some girls were marked "Did not take".

This prompted her to find out why girls were absent from school during exam time and she discovered that during their periods the girls did not attend school due to a lack of sanitary protection. On many occasions this would occur in exam time.

Following discussions with the Starfish Team in Malawi, and beginning to realise the enormity of the problem, contact was made with "Days for Girls" in America. Maggie was put in touch with their first "Chapter" of ladies in the Shoreditch Sisters W.I. who had just started making reusable sanitary kits. Starfish Malawi was their first customer!

Together with her friend Jenny they collected the order from the Shoreditch W.I and on inspecting the kits Jenny declared "We could make these!".

The Gateway Project had begun.....

The ladies spoke at various coffee mornings where they received offers of help in producing the kits

They were joined by volunteers including Pat Thirkettle, a needlework teacher who took on the role of researching materials. Together with our colleague Pam, they compiled a very comprehensive instruction manual, with examples at every stage of the making -

Gateway was born !

The amazing manual is still being used in Malawi as the wonderful ladies sewing groups make the kits in the villages. When Maggie first presented the Hygiene Kits to the girls in Chipoka school, a student girl stood up holding the kit bag and said,



"Maggie - you have given us freedom in this bag."
That said it all - and moved her to tears!



Kabwiri Primary School girls rejoicing after receiving their sanitary kits

<https://starfishmalawi.com/gateway>

Peter Bell our Head of Fundraising and Marketing wrote an article about Gateway recently, from which you can read the impact that these kits are having among the girls.

Update on the Maternity Wing at Hope Clinic

The construction work on the maternity wing has been going well. However, construction has stopped at the moment due to the rainy season. Once this is over, the roof will be started and it is hoped that the building will be ready to equip in the next few months.

This will be such a vital resource for the community and will enable mothers to have their babies locally to their homes without the worry and concern of having to travel many kilometres to the nearest free hospital.

We look forward to seeing this facility fully open this year



Update and Thanks from John serving with Courageous Kids

"Hello everyone! It's me John from Malawi!

Let me express my gratitude to everyone who have been donating, sponsoring towards my degree!

I have been helping Courageous Kids Foundation close to 4 months now, helping them preparing their budget! I have completed my final assignment and I'm expecting to do my graduation in August.

I have been attending several interviews and I'm lucky that I got one job as an internship. I'm just waiting for the offer letter! I have been experiencing some setbacks, as my clothes, food and laptop have been stolen by cruel people!"

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/sponsor-a-student-to-serve-courageous-kids-1/updates#start>

Bible Explorer Update

This project is growing and developing and is not only reaching tens of thousands of children in their schools but is also now being taught in local churches. The word of God being taught in an interactive style with hand signs, is both enjoyable and allows the truth of the gospel to be taught in a meaningful way.

Please view the latest report about the project here

<https://starfishmalawi.com/bible-explorer>

Join us on Saturday 17th June for the Bewl Water Walk

A day for all the family to enjoy at Bewl Water in Kent. A lovely walk in the Kent countryside. A time to relax on the shores of the lake with a picnic. Good conversations and time to interact with those of a like mind as we raise funds for the amazing Glad Tidings project in Ngolowindo.

<https://starfishmalawi.com/glad-tidings> to find out about the project



To register to walk, download an event flyer and find all the information you need visit

www.starfishmalawi.com/bewlwatersponsoredwalk

See you there!



For more information about Starfish Malawi
please visit our webpage
starfishmalawi.com