



LOVE A VILLAGE

Cultivating hope one village at a time

Together we are making a difference!

January 2018

Malawi 2017

Full time work. Full speed ahead.

This was a year of dramatic change for Love a Village.

In May, our implementing partner Daniel Nyirenda left the security of his job working in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH), to work full time with his NGO, *Rural Development Partners (RDP)*. This change means that our Love a Village projects (Clean Water, Food Security, Safe Shelter, Health & Hygiene and Education) are now being implemented on a full time basis, not just when Julie visits Malawi. We have observed that they are being done on a far grander, more detailed, and greatly impressive scale.

RDP and their three volunteers are now in the community on a daily basis! They continue our water projects, and have started up the following **new** items:

- Compost Training
- Mushroom Farming
- New Farming Techniques
- Toilet Building
- Bee Keeping
- Roofing
- Sanitation & Hygiene campaigns
- and more!



April: Bridges were repaired, making the community accessible again!

Tax Receipts

Will be out by CRA deadline of
February 28, 2018

If you don't received it by then,
please contact us at:
loveavillage@yahoo.ca



CHANJU

Our new home and office

Chanju means **LOVE** in the Malawian dialect Chitonga. We chose this name for our new home because of the **LOVE** we hope to share and offer through our partnership with Rural Development Partners, and because it is the mother tongue of our partner Daniel. (plus it sounded way better than the Tumbuka word for love. lol)



The story behind how we came to rent this home is long, complicated, and ridiculously sublime.

Through a set of unrelated connections (Trevor's cousin, Julie's sister, a co-worker of Dan's wife), and a string of "coincidences" that would raise eyebrows among Hollywood screenwriters, that all

occurred at the opposite end of the country, where we've never visited before, we are now renting this home in the north near Luhomero with RDP. It serves as both an office and a place for us to live when we are visiting. We are deeply thankful to God for providing us with such an incredible gift, and in such an amazing way, reminding us that He is in all the details, and that He is able to do things far beyond our imagination, dreams and hopes.

LAV & RDP look forward to years of being able to **LOVE** our Malawian friends together, through our projects and through the gift of hospitality in our new home & office, Chanju!



Mushroom Farming

This has been an incredible year of change and hope for our village friends! Mushroom farming is just one of many new initiatives being implemented.

These beautiful, tasty oyster mushrooms are providing our friends with food and income. This project's modest new income stream helps villagers pay for basic necessities that were previously out of reach.

Committees are being trained on how to build a mushroom hut structure, and how to manage the growth, sales, and savings associated with their project.

Amazingly, people around are observing all of the new things happening, and are asking to be next in line for training. Some have even started these projects on their own initiative because they are so eager to find ways to earn income to help their families.



Truck thank yous!

So incredibly unbelievable! We have been blessed by YOU with a reliable truck to get us, our supplies, and people in and out of the community. This vehicle will be used to serve and care for literally thousands of people.

In this photo, we've offered a ride to villagers who were walking to their friend's funeral. As we bumped along the dirt road, the spaces outside and in quickly filled up with grieving friends. And yet, there were still smiles and laughter shared amongst us. I'm struck over and over by the grateful hearts of my Malawian friends.

This truck is a HUGE gift. Taonga chomeme from everyone!



*TEAM 1 - Mark & the girlies:
Kiki, Elana, Sam & Emma*

Partnerships

We love that we are able to partner together with Malawians in order to fight this battle. We have found that there are so many people eager to work together and share resources of knowledge and heart. Here are a few of the partnerships we had in 2017.

SMART Centre

1. Digging shallow wells and training villagers to maintain them. Hiring Malawians trained in for installation and training in use.

Foundations For Farming (FFF)

2. Training in new farming technique, boasting up to 3x previous yields, composting, mushroom farming, and in 2018 ... bee keeping.

Other Communities

3. A 3 day field trip to learn from other farmers how and why FFF is worth doing! This was a fantastic boost of encouragement!

Government Programmes

4. Health & Hygiene campaigns: masses of AV equipment were driven in to multiple sites. Along with dramas, the importance of proper hygiene was taught.

Local leaders

5. Village headsmen, District Council, Village Councils, Traditional Authorities, and more!

GOAL: for each villager to become independent through clean water, food security, safe shelter, toilets, healthy lives, and access to education!

"The time has come for an all-out war against poverty."

"The rich nations must use their vast resources of wealth to develop the underdeveloped, school the unschooled, and feed the unfed. Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation.

No individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for "the least of these."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Our generation's battle & responsibility

It's hard for us to understand why there's still extreme poverty in our lifetime. How is it possible that in 2018, there is such a vast extreme between the impoverished and the wealthy? Consider some significant barriers:

World Bank:

"The work to end extreme poverty is far from over, and a number of challenges remain. It is becoming even more difficult to reach those remaining in extreme poverty, who often live in fragile contexts and remote areas. Access to good schools, healthcare, electricity, safe water and other critical services remains elusive for many people, often determined by socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, and geography.

- *A vast majority of the global poor live in rural areas and are poorly educated, mostly employed in the agricultural sector, and over half are under 18 years of age."*

This describes our village friends. They are extremely vulnerable. Yet, THEY are fighting a battle that is OUR responsibility to fight. Right now. Because, nobody should have to fight for basic human rights and needs alone, without any resources to do so. We wouldn't want to. Why should THEY when WE have these things in abundance, and means with which to help them?

Working together, we can change this!

TEAM 2 - Oma & Lyds



An absolute delight for Julie to have her MOM and good friend meet her Malawian family!

100 Women 100

In April a group of women gathered to learn about, and explore how we can make a difference in the community of Luhomero together. We'd like to say thank you to the women and WonderBra Canada who donated hundreds of new and lightly used bras for women young and old! For many, it was their first bra. As the women left with their new bra, giggles and laughter could be heard well off into the distance. They were grinning from ear to ear. Many of them toothless! It was a beautiful sight.

In October, we gathered again with 3 volunteer women at the helm. Thank you ladies! We are deeply grateful for your generous offer to come alongside us and lighten our workload!

Next meeting: April 22, 2018
Info & Registration ...
loveavillage.org/100women



UPCOMING 2018 INITIATIVE

My First Period Kit - buy a kit, give a kit ...
An incredible opportunity for our **GIRLS!**

myfirstperiod.co



PICTURES

Pictures are worth a thousand words!
So many tell our story ...

loveavillage.org/photos
facebook.com/loveavillage
instagram.com/loveavillage/



NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to be kept up to date
and receive our newsletters ...

loveavillage.org/newsletters

Love a Village Mission



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LOVE A VILLAGE

Want to read only one thing? THIS IS IT!



We don't ever want anyone to feel we pressure people to give. But, we do want to speak on behalf of our friends who do not have a voice. Will you take time to consider helping Love a Village meet the very basic needs of families in Luhomero? We are investing the gifts we receive directly into projects that bring aid to our village friends. We are still small, but growing in need. We are the largest foreign aid organization in this community and the costs associated with our goals are significant. Will you be a part of the team that God is pulling together to participate in this amazing story? We'd love to journey together with you and make a significant difference in the world.