

"Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development."
~Kofi Annan



Mr. Gwanza measuring



In Progress



Our carpentry team led by Mr. Gwanza

Shelves - Shelves & More Shelves!

Schools open around the world in the upcoming weeks. The Malawi Early Literacy Team has been serving schools in Northern Malawi since 2016 with culturally appropriate books (used to learn English) via the MELT1 Mobile Library and professional development for teachers.

Last year it became clear that with the growing volume of books in the MELT Central Library (about 11,000) new shelving was needed. Donors acted quickly allowing the team to be present while the shelves were designed, built, and installed. With melamine now accessible in the rural Northern Region, it was exciting to use this easy to clean white product. We were able to see the project completed on our final afternoon in Mzuzu. Plenty of shelves adorn this library space allowing for the remainder of the books to be stored neatly.

In Malawi, everything gets a new life! Our old bookcases, built in 2020 with a Rotary grant, were delivered to three of our M.E.L.T. schools. They will provide a good space in the Head Teacher's office, storing materials that are shared by the teachers.



Mosambiro Mhone of Kanininga School received a bookcase from Sam Chirwa.



Look at all the shelves!!



The Power of a Crayon in the Hand of a Child

Clayton businesswoman, Chianna Jones, was amazed to learn that most children in Malawi do not have access to basic school materials such as crayons. Knowing how her own children like to draw and color, she took that to heart and put a plan into action. Over the past year Heather White, Andy Burns, and Carol Stevens provided programs for Clayton kids about life, schools, and children in Malawi. The children attending brought crayons- over 300 boxes!

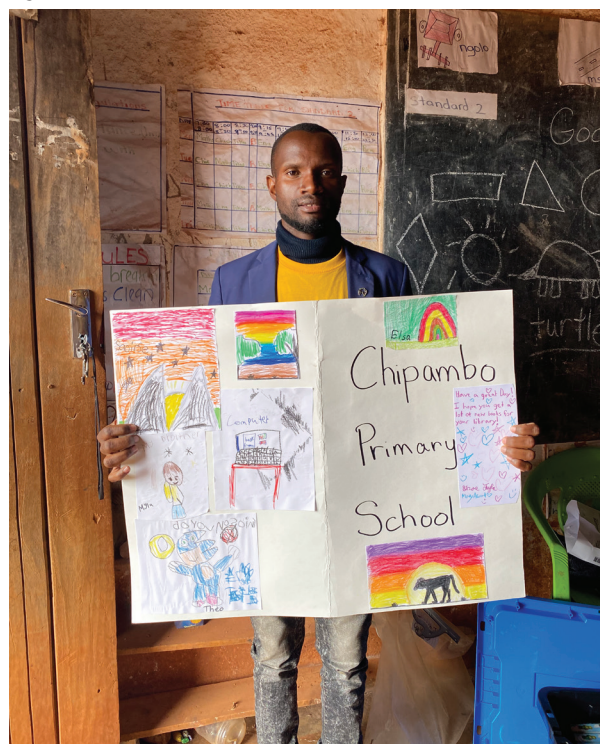
Once in Malawi, crayons were put into waterproof boxes, brought to three schools, and a story lesson was demonstrated, complete with a drawing and coloring activity. There were 100 children in one classroom, half of whom were seated on the floor, but you could feel the excitement and energy. The children practiced English fluency as they shared about their picture. Yes! A simple crayon can be a game changer! Our humble thanks to Chainna, her daughters, and the children of Clayton, NY.

Please contact Heather - heatherwhite4@gmail.com - to donate crayons!

In-Kind Donations Go a Long Way

- Wide tip Sharpie Markers- teachers make posters
- Scotch Clear Package tape- repairs books
- Clothesline with wood clothes pins- teachers hang pictures & words
- Sturdy Pocket charts- teachers use for class lessons
- Crayola Crayons- 16 or 24 packs- continue crayon pilot
- Glad Zipper Bags- XL - books are shipped 50 to a bag

Items are specific and need the specified brand name.



Rodwell Sichinga and the letter he received from US children who donated crayons.

Teacher Workshops 2023

The M.E.L.T. workshops focused on techniques to build fluency, a review of the ABC kit, and the introduction of Browsing Boxes to build the simple joy of books. Workshops were held at the MELT Central Library and far out in the bush in the village of Mzimba.

We served a total of 32 teachers in these workshops. Each teacher received a carry bag complete with new literacy materials for their classrooms. Books will begin to circulate to schools the first week of September with children returning to school on September 11th.



Isaiah working with Carol Stevens



Spotlight M.E.L.T. Malawi Team Member Isaiah Waloyi

Isaiah began working with M.E.L.T. while the library was under construction in 2019. At that time, he had no work and no place to live until one day Sam Chirwa gave him an opportunity! He was hired as the on site person throughout the build, then stayed on as the groundskeeper/caretaker. Just last spring M.E.L.T. built him a small home on the property that he's extremely proud of. Although he knows only a few words in English, he works well with the U.S. team, always smiling and ready to lend a hand.

M.E.L.T. offers employment to the team on the ground in Malawi. We are proud to offer some employment opportunities like this and are thankful for the good work our team does.

Calling All Who Sew! Great Project for Clubs, School Groups, and Individuals

We all remember the excitement of receiving a new school bag! Young children in Malawi do not have a bag. Some may carry an old purse or plastic bag. Pictured here is a simple bag measuring 8.5" by 11" with a top flap and shoulder strap. This holds a child's pencil, workbook, and the bottle tops they collect as counters. We know it's a reach but M.E.L.T. would like to provide hundreds of these bags to schools.

For information- heatherwhite4@gmail



ROAST PORK DINNER

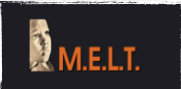
WEDNESDAY

NOV

08



TO BENEFIT:
Malawi Early Literacy Team



[HTTP://MALAWIEARLYLITERACY.ORG](http://MALAWIEARLYLITERACY.ORG)

Malawi Early Literacy Team
(M.E.L.T.)

Proceeds will provide books,
teacher training, and the MELT1
Mobile Library to remote villages in
the Northern region of Malawi.



First Presbyterian Church of Watertown
403 Washington Street Watertown, NY 13601

4:00PM - 6:00PM ~ \$12

Take out roast pork dinner. Includes roast pork, stuffing, mashed potatoes,
gravy, green beans, spiced apples, and dessert.

**GROUP PRE-ORDERS AND QUESTIONS CALL
HEATHER WHITE
315-778-9867**

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Never Underestimate the Power of Kindness

M.E.L.T. was honored to receive many acts of kindness over the past year that enriched the lives of the people we serve in Malawi! Do not underestimate the power of a simple gift reaching around the world.

A North Carolina DKG group and a Methodist Church collected “reader glasses”. These were a welcome gift since eye care is very difficult to access in Malawi. The teachers selected a pair for themselves or a family member in need.

A businesswoman from Northern New York donated water-resistant carry bags that we filled with new literacy materials. Each teacher went home with one after the workshop at the M.E.L.T. Central Library- what a hit! Thank you Diana Lamb!

A women’s sewing group from a church in North Carolina donated almost 100 beautiful dresses. In the village of Mzimba, we had enough to give every young girl a new dress. Our Director, Sam Chirwa, stated, “These girls will dance around in these new dresses feeling such joy. This is not something that often happens for these girls.”



This girl from Mzimba Village is wearing her new dress.



Trying on New Glasses



Airport worker - We noticed him squint to read our tickets so we gave him our last pair of glasses. His response, “Will these expire? I can see!”

Sponsor a Book or a Special Project

Sponsor a Book \$2,500

This includes a full color book to be added to the library collection with 500 printed and shipped. The dedication page wording would be yours to design. This is a great way to honor someone special.

Sponsor the Special Project: Picture Fluency Cards \$2,000

M.E.L.T. is excited to bring this project to life. This special request from the Resource Teachers will align with the National Reading Program. This includes publishing a set of ten 8½" x 11" full color laminated story-picture cards. Each card has talking points, prompts, and direct questions for the teacher's use right on the back. A total of 40 sets would be printed to serve teachers participating in M.E.L.T. professional development.

Sponsor Pocket Charts \$1,200

These funds would allow M.E.L.T. to add two pocket charts to each school we serve. These schools have no electricity, no Smart Boards, no bulletin boards. A pocket chart can be hung anywhere with two nails providing teachers with a great instructional resource.

Become a Member

Help MELT get books into the hands of children who have none.

Having a strong membership allows us to plan ahead. We can print materials and purchase supplies when there are sales - making your donation go further.

Please consider becoming an individual or group member today!

Make checks payable to "MELT" and mail to:

Heather White, MELT Chairperson
42822 St. Lawrence Ave, Unit 226
Thousand Island Park, NY 13692



M.E.L.T. Community Based Organization, Mzuzu, Malawi

Hon. Sam Chirwa - Director
Rodwell Sichinga - Resource Teacher
Ms. Annie Ghambi - Secretary
Mr. Moses Mtambo - Treasurer
Isaiah Waloyi - Property Manager

M.E.L.T. - USA

Heather White - Captain
Carol Stevens - Secretary, Author, Reading Specialist
Carolyn Osborne- Treasurer, Graphic Design
Andy Burns - Photographer, Graphic Design, I.T.
Patti Constable - Author, Reading Specialist
Joanne Lavarney - Author, Reading Specialist
Barbara Eldridge - Author, Reading Specialist
Margot McGorman - Editor
Peyton Hnyla - Reading Specialist

Renew your
membership
today!

Membership - M.E.L.T.

MalawiEarlyLiteracy.org

Your membership supports our ongoing work!

Name: _____

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Membership Level:

☐ \$50+ ABC Level

☐ \$150+ Book Level

☐ \$500+ Library Level

☐ Knowing every donation is welcome, no matter its size, please accept my donation of _____.

☐ Please contact me for volunteer opportunities!

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