

Medical Programs



The Malawi Project

Nationwide Medical Assistance

Medical Supplies Top \$200 Million

Project had its genesis in 1993 when Suzi Stephens, a registered nurse from the U.S. made her first trip to Malawi. Knowing health-care was dire she carried supplies for her team in her luggage. Before long she became painfully aware of the disparity between first and fourth world medicine.

Everywhere she turned people were pleading for help, and when she visited a small rural hospital north of the capital she gained shocking insight into the broken medical system. There was an indescribable shortage of trained personnel. Beds were old, mattresses rotting, and baby being delivered on black garbage bags in dingy, dark rooms. Many patients were lying on bamboo mats, on dirty, cold floors. Laboratories had little, or no testing equipment and empty shelves stared out from empty pharmacies.

Returning to the states, she started sending supplies through the postal system. More trips to Malawi, and the shipments increased. By the end of the decade, supplies were reaching Malawi in 40-foot trailers, and distribution reached into 40 hospitals.

In 1999, with the creation of the Malawi Project, the first hospital was constructed. True to the principles of the Project, the entire operation was owned and overseen by Malawians. The complex, named Blessings Hospital became a 5-building, 110-bed complex, and today it functions under Malawi oversight.



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In 2007, the Malawi Project formed a working relationship with the Namikango Mission and Maternity Clinic in Thondwe. Through this program a major supply distribution site was established. Funds helped to improve the facilities, including a major inflow of supplies and equipment to upgrade the birthing clinic, an additional vehicle, a BUV ambulance unit, a new roof on the clinic, and other needed supplies.

The same year the Project made available over \$1 million in supplies for the Ethel Mutharika Foundation to help with better delivery services for mothers and babies in the capital.

In 2009 the Project helped form the Dzidalire Group north of the Dedza Trading Center, in order to assist in the development of sustainable crafts, and programs of employment. One component is a medical facility to serve the area.

Over the past 20 years, over \$200 million in equipment, supplies, and medicine have been delivered to over 700 medical facilities on 250 forty-foot trailers. Over 3,500 wheelchairs have swelled that number, as have hundreds of pairs of eyeglasses.

In 2012, the Project extended assistance to the fledgling nation of South Sudan, and the Sudan Project, when it helped design and equip a medical clinic in Pajok.

Ways To Help:

Most people know someone working in medicine. They are often willing to help; they only need to be asked. Dentists often donate toothbrushes and toothpaste; patients can request a box of rubber gloves, or a financial donation from a nurse or family doctor. Hospitals can be contacted for availability of disposable supplies.

While larger items are needed, there is a desperate shortage of Q-Tips, band-aids, rubber gloves, baby supplies, aspirin, Tylenol, soap, and infection fighting ointments. Boy and Girl Scouts, Brownie and Cub packs, public and private school groups, community and church groups, and individual families can organize programs to gather these simple, inexpensive items.

Financial help is also needed. Each 40-foot trailer shipment costs approximately \$16,000.00.

Please contribute online at [HYPERLINK http://www.malawiproject.org](http://www.malawiproject.org)



For more information on the Medical Programs by visiting:
www.malawiproject.org

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