



Be the Change

Kids Helping Kids



Making a Difference

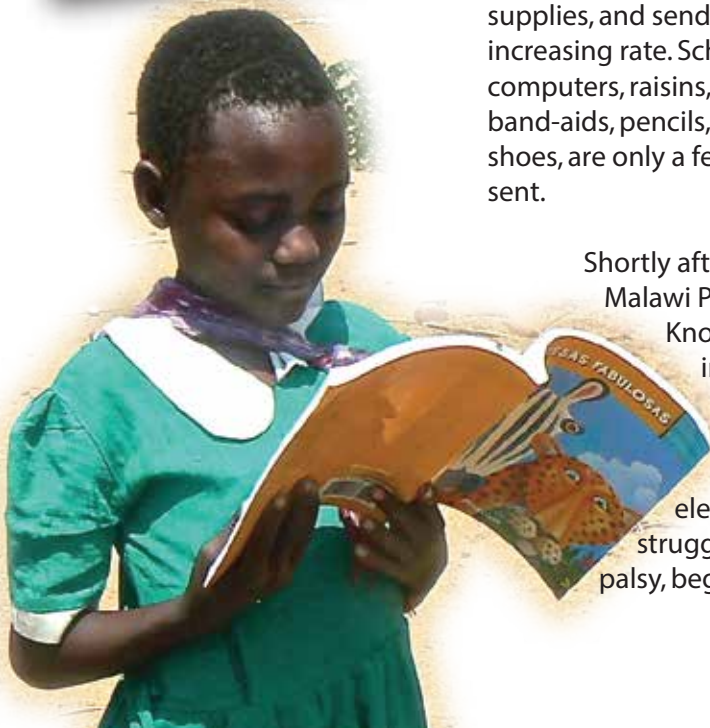
Under the banner of "Kids Helping Kids" young people are making a meaningful difference in the poverty stricken nation of Malawi. They know few bounds, no limits, and hold unshakable faith in their mission. They are raising funds, gathering supplies, and sending them at an ever-increasing rate. School textbooks, laptop computers, raisins, eyeglasses, dresses, band-aids, pencils, pens, paper, soap, shoes, are only a few of the items being sent.

Shortly after the inception of the Malawi Project a pre-teen from Knoxville, Tennessee inspired the idea of a program specifically appealing to young people. Daniel Shipley, eleven-years-old, and struggling with cerebral palsy, began to assist in ways



that would span years, and serve as the inspiration and foundation for the program. His story appears in "Profiles".

Since the beginning of Kids Helping Kids, young people have found multiple, creative ways to participate. The things they solicit are sent to Indiana and placed on outgoing 40-foot trailers of medical, agricultural, and educational supplies. Once in Malawi the supplies are fed into the Malawi Project's nationwide distribution system, and distributed under strict supervision and accountability. It's easy to get involved, and make a difference. The result can be life changing for children and adults in this tiny African nation.



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Profiles



Rachel

Rachel was in her final year of high school, and preparing for college. She talked with Steve Armanino, the President of Total College Planning, an organization that helps students prepare for entrance into collage, and he started mentoring her in her preparation. He introduced Rachel to Eyes Around the World, a benevolent program he had instituted to have students gather eyeglasses and then send them to third world nations. Rachel organized a chapter in her school and started gathering dozens and dozens of pairs of eyeglasses for Malawi. The Malawi Project assisted by sending large amounts of literature explaining the program, for Steve and Rachel to distribute. Soon others in a number of Southern California communities started chapters of Eyes Around the World in their schools.

paper, band-aids and other supplies. When the program was complete the class presented the supplies for shipment to Malawi.

Heritage School

Whether it is individuals, clubs, organizations, or entire schools the result is always the same. Help is gathered for the people of Malawi, and those who participate benefit in a number of ways from their efforts. What one class does can be multiplied up and down the halls of an entire student body. This happened when the Heritage Christian School in Indianapolis launched a campaign to gather shoes for Malawi. Thousands of pairs of shoes were the result for Malawi, and on the American side the students had a greater appreciation for what they have been given, and a higher sense of responsibility for helping the world around them.

Emily and Lindsay

Sometimes it is not the group that attracts the participants; but it is the participants who create the group. This was true of a number of little girls in Klamath Falls, Oregon who started making dresses so they could, "Make a Difference". This spawned "Sew'n Hope", a program that is now being sponsored by the Nile Street Church of Christ in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Dresses are being sent to Malawi by way of the Malawi Project. At least three other African nations are also receiving dresses from Emily, Lindsay and the other girls.

Winter Fest

What started with two Christian youth groups and a retreat to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in 1982, has spread to over 12 locations across the world. In spite of its growth Winter Fest still records the highest attendance each year at the original Pigeon Forge site, with a record attendance of 22,000 young people.

Attendance to most venues requires some sort of entrance fee. A few years ago Winter Fest used this idea to impose a "band-aid" fee. Attendees at the winter gathering brought boxes of band-aids for their entrance fee.

Mr. Robinson's Fifth Grade Class

While it is often the young people themselves who organize Kids Helping Kids programs, from time to time, it is the adults who organize work projects for the kids. One such case was Mr. Robinson's Fifth Grade classes at a Northeast side Indianapolis, Indiana School. Each year Mr. Robinson would use Black History month as an opportunity to invite members of the Malawi Project to make a presentation about the country and it's people. In advance of the event he would have the class gather soap, pens, pencils,

Contributions can be made online at: www.malawiproject.org or by check to:

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