



BOARD MEMBERS TO MALAWI

Four members of the Malawi Project Board of Directors; Sheila McDonald, Jim Messenger, Suzi and Dick Stephens, traveled to Malawi in September 2018. Jim's wife Rae Ann Messenger, and Bob and Arla Gabrielse (Mobility Worldwide), were also with the group. When these five returned to the states the Stephens remained behind to host two businessmen/humanitarian men from India, then continued to work there until mid-October.

The team visited a number of program sites in central and northern Malawi, including the opening ceremonies for two of the three Joseph Project (agricultural storage) sites, presentation of educational books to the Kamuzu Academy, medical supplies to hospitals, dresses for little girls, school supplies to impoverished children, and successful programs being carried out near Lake Malawi. They met members of the Action for Progress Board; saw first hand the value of mobility units, visited community development sites, hospitals, and various other sites where the Project has given special attention. Of special interest was the success of Action for Progress in the weeks after its official registration with the Malawi government. (Pictured is part of the 2018 team in Malawi.)



ACTION FOR PROGRESS RECOGNITION

Action for Progress, is a not-for-profit, Malawi organization that will serve as the hands and feet of the Malawi Project within the country. Its board of directors is made up of professionals in business, finance, humanitarian assistance, and the Malawi medical establishment. In early September they received Malawi government recognition as a not-for-profit organization and were ready to receive the first 40-foot container of mobility units, hand tools, and gloves for medical professionals and first responders. Members of the American team were able to witness the first official board meeting of Action for Progress and were impressed with the knowledge base and professional approach the Malawi board reflected in their approach to the development of the organization. (Pictured is the Action for Progress Board with the certificate of recognition from the Malawi government.)



LAND PURCHASED FOR HEADQUARTERS

Within days of receiving government recognition the Action for Progress board, with support and input from the Malawi Project, reviewed, selected for consideration, and rejected a number of potential sites for their national warehouse and distribution hub outside the capital city of Lilongwe. A 5-acre site, west of the capital near the first International Airport was selected. With funding assistance from the Malawi Project the site was secured. The landowner agreed to the proposed price, government and local tribal authority gave their official blessings to the purchase and Action for Progress was ready for the next step in their development. (Pictured is payment being made and documents exchanged for Action for Progress land.)

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PLANS DRAWN FOR DISTRIBUTION HUB

Within days of the finalization of the land purchase Action for Progress contracted a design architect to prepare plans for the warehouse/distribution hub in order to stage and distribute the millions of dollars in aid coming in through Malawi Project supporters. For the Americans who are more accustomed to taking several months to reach this stage, the speed at which the Malawians have moved forward on this project has been both breathtaking, and refreshing.

By early December the designs and paperwork was complete for a structure measuring 137.8 feet long by 72.2 feet wide (9,946 square feet), and listing every block, brick, nail and screw, including costs for each, that will be needed for construction.



CONSTRUCTION OF WAREHOUSE HUB NEARS

In the closing days of 2018 five contractors submitted cost estimates based on the supply checklist, and labor needed to carry out the construction of the warehouse/headquarters building. In coming weeks Action for Progress will determine the winning bid, and even though Malawi is experiencing the rainy season, plans call for construction to move forward. The speed at which the Action for Progress board of directors, and Wilson Tembo, Executive Director for AfP has come as a surprise in the states, and the participants on the Malawi side are moving ahead of the Malawi Project's board and supporters in the U.S. This brings to the forefront the need for additional funds so this project can continue its progress unimpeded.

The first 40-foot shipping containers of supplies has already arrived, and has been dropped at an off-site location pending progress on land and building development at the headquarters site west of Lilongwe.

HELP US OVER THE TOP

Your assistance is needed in order to reach the total funding required for this critical project. Funding totals, and commitments, are over halfway to the goal. A year-end contribution from you can have the potential of helping to reach the needed funding level, just as construction begins on the building. Please consider helping the Malawi Project and Action for Progress to reach this historic, milestone goal.

Send your check to:

Malawi Project Inc.
3314 Van Tassel Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240-3555

Or program a contribution through the web site:

DONATE NOW

We Need YOUR Support!

Visit www.malawiproject.org/actionforprogress/
to make a contribution.



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