



# News From Maloto

## Dispatch from Mzuzu, Malawi

Oh my gosh, the difference 3 years can make! I take my hat off to Maloto and everyone engaged in our work at Mzuzu International Academy (MIA), Kwithu Kitchen, Kwithu CBO, Vwila and the Early Childhood Development department (ECD) for the amazing progress that has been made in that time. The numbers tell one part of the story of our impact:

- We went from 105 students in the secondary school to 152 enrolled now, and a full primary school of 150 and a waiting list of 40 students
- Kwithu Kitchen doubled the number of jars of tomatoes sold in the last year and has two new product lines
- ECD steams along now with 2 classes and we have added 4 computers to expose Kwithu students to computers at the earliest age possible

But the numbers only tell part of the picture. **What was most striking was the energy and sense of purpose in all the programs.** Each group has strong leadership and good oversight from Maloto.

**There were 40 excited and sometimes tearful little ones in the ECD two classes**—it was the third day of class and things were a little chaotic but the rooms look terrific and the kids were working on learning their shapes when I was there.

It was a non-feeding and sports day for Kwithu kids so I didn't get the full Kwithu CBO experience this time, but **I saw one of our Kwithu graduates from MIA tutoring other students in computer basics—commands, search options, useful sites, etc. They are planning to expose as many kids as possible to computers as early as possible.**

**Kwithu Kitchen was humming along since this is a peak tomato harvesting time.** There are two crews and each person has a 500 kg production target. The processing time has been reduced from 9 hours to 2 hours without loss of quality by new techniques and equipment purchased with our grants from United States African Development Fund. There is already good demand for the puree in several size containers and for the largest size containers of “tomato sauce” or as Americans call it, “ketchup.”

**The 20 volunteers for Vwila pursue their outreach despite their own needs.** These are people of remarkable courage who expose their own status in order to break through the barriers of stigma and shame of HIV/AIDS. Fortunately, the new satellite center is almost finished and will allow more concentrated interactions with people who live in the large area of Luwinga ward.

**The most amazing difference was in MIA – with the perimeter wall in place the campus is still spacious but feels like a well-organized little world.** The new teacher duplex and headmaster's house are very appealing but appropriate to the school. There are new spaces for the students to hangout and good spaces for them to study too. The library has more books and a stage for performances. The extension to the primary school is very nice with large windows to capture every bit of daylight. (One of the downsides in Mzuzu is the increasing number of electricity outages.) Again, it was the first week of school so classes weren't settled yet but the reception class was learning their numbers and the computer classes had 20 new computers to use. The Headmaster, Peter Yates, has set new goals for the senior students and I have every confidence that with his 100% returning teachers that the students will meet them.

All is great and unfortunately the problems that beset Maloto's efforts and the people there are external ones—electricity failure, bad weather, a bad faith political environment and the never-ending poverty. But despite these challenges, Malawians are as cheerful and warm as ever and I am so happy to be doing what we are doing to make whatever difference we can—and **we are making a difference.**

Phlyp Koshland  
Founding Board Member