

In 2003, humanitarian activist Anna Msowoya-Keys returned to her home in Malawi for the funeral of her sister who lost her life to AIDS, to find the disease wiping out an entire generation of caregivers, teachers and community leaders – alongside children going hungry. In 2004, along with 20 other women in Mzuzu, Anna created the Kwithu CBO (Community Based Organization), a volunteer group dedicated to feeding twenty vulnerable children one hot meal per week. Over a decade later, Kwithu CBO, the founding program of Maloto, now feeds 350 children, and we have expanded to provide a variety of additional services that ensure both women and children are fed, educated and empowered.

Engaging the community and transforming lives

Maloto is an American nonprofit organization that raises funds to feed, educate and empower women and children in Malawi. Maloto means “to dream” in the Tumbuka language. We give hope to thousands of Malawians in Mzuzu in northern Malawi, survivors of a depressed economy and the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic. By supporting grassroots, women-led efforts, Maloto provides holistic support for the community through a series of related initiatives which include: our meal program, early childhood education, tutoring and test prep, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment outreach, an internationally-accredited secondary school, and a female-owned food-processing cooperative. We are providing local jobs, a path out of poverty and hope through our three integrated programs:

Kwithu CBO

Kwithu means “home.” In addition to our original meal program, Kwithu CBO now houses three other programs:

- ***Early Childhood Development Program***
The Kwithu women pioneered one of northern Malawi’s first Early Childhood Development programs, which currently serves 40 pre-kindergarten aged children.
- ***Tutoring and Test Prep***
Kwithu CBO provides before- and after-school tutoring and test prep for 126 children, scholarships for 23 students to attend Mzuzu International Academy, and scholarships for 71 additional children who have gone to other secondary schools.
- ***Vwila HIV/AIDS Community Outreach***
This life-saving program reaches 4,500+ people per year to provide access to HIV prevention education, testing and treatment. The program has reduced the rate of HIV infection and increased survivorship.



Mzuzu International Academy

Opened in 2010 with 35 students, Mzuzu International Academy now provides 120 primary and 130 secondary students with high-quality education for day students and boarders, including many of our own Kwithu children. 10 of the original 20 Kwithu CBO orphans are now college students studying in universities in Malawi and one in the United States. Other graduates of MIA have found college placements in the US and South Africa. In a country where only 1% of the population attends college, this is a truly remarkable achievement.



Kwithu Kitchen Women's Cooperative

Maloto's Kwithu Kitchen Women's Cooperative has developed innovative ways to turn the promise of processing local produce into a successful enterprise, by launching a small business in the canning and preserving of tomatoes that is nurturing the entrepreneurial and leadership skills of Kwithu women. Partnerships are formed with local farmers who provide tomatoes, along with vocational training in more resilient, fertilizer free agricultural methods.

For more information about Maloto, please contact Founder and President Anna Msowoya-Keys at anna@maloto.org.

