

MAMIE MARTIN

It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed! A very busy one for us, as you will see. The effects of Covid-19, particularly in Malawi, continue to cause us serious concern. However, we are relieved to report that our manager, Mercy, the MMF girls and other friends in Malawi are well. Now schools are open again all but two of the girls are back at school.

Our AGM was live online! Another skill learnt along with many others.

We have been pleasantly surprised that, in such a year, we have set up a new partnership with Lancashire West Methodist Circuit and have been able successfully to run, or been involved in, a number of exciting fund-raising events.

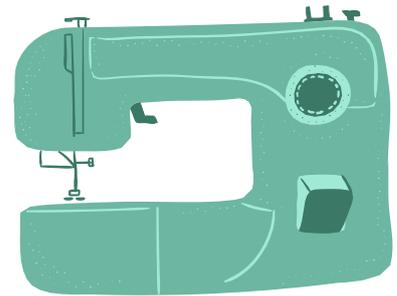
Our thanks to so many generous people who have supported us in so many ways!

Mariot Dallas & Angie Wynn, Convenors

Our year in numbers

- **139** girls at **6** schools were supported with secondary school fees and incidental expenses
- **240** donors and member- supporters donated to support the work of the Mamie MartinFund

- The Board of **10** Trustees met **6** times to discuss our plans and progress and to check we are doing the best we can
- St Andrew's and StGeorge's West Church donated **£1000** for Covid measures in our partner schools
- Our Malawi Manager made **16** school visits on our behalf and met Moira **48** times for a weekly catch up online
- We worked with **4** partners, including one brand new one
- One of our donors made **£1000** by making facemasks from chitenge fabric
- **6** Volunteers worked in various ways: organising our photo library, making videos, running a digital audit, creating graphics and much more!
- Pledge100 involved **35** Pledgers and has so far raised over **£8000**
- **67** cyclists completed **10,679** miles for Bike2Malawi and raised **£7570**
- The Marketing Team met on **11** Saturday mornings to plan our marketing and fundraising. An **unspecified number** attended this meeting in pyjamas.
- Scotland's Virtual Kiltwalk MMF team of **1** person raised **£1624** in April
- Scotland's Kiltwalk MMF September team of **2**, combined ages of **81**, raised **£3134**



Soko Fund update

An update from Brian Kerr, a man with two hats, because he is a Mamie Martin Trustee and also Chair of the Soko Fund.

The Soko fund continues to value and learn from its partnership with the Mamie Martin Fund-which is now five years old, and thriving! Soko Fund currently provides scholarships to 7 former MMF girls, so that they can study for vocational degrees in Malawi. Each scholarship meets the cost of

fees for the whole of their four year degree programme, as well as a small personal allowance to cover internet access costs, books, and sometimes, travel and even food costs. The current group are studying subjects ranging from Soil Science, through Education, Accountancy and Agribusiness, to Nursing and midwifery. After graduation these young women will be eligible to join the Soko Graduate association which provides support into employment, through workshops, support networks, and internships.

MMF shared our delight when we heard that Hannah Dickens, a 1st year student in accountancy at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences, has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for “outstanding performance in academic excellence” in the 2021 round of awards made by **Total Energies** Malawi. At school, Hannah was assisted by the Mamie Martin Fund, and nominated by them for a Soko Scholarship. She is just one more example that proves beyond doubt that with financial support from organizations like the Soko Fund and the Mamie Martin Fund, Malawi’s young women can raise their aspirations and accomplish great things.

It has, of course, been a particularly difficult year for universities and students in Malawi. After a long period of closure, all have reopened- but at different times and with different patterns of blended learning. Students have had to rely even more than before on internet learning, and face many additional practical as well as cost challenges. But they have shown once again remarkable resilience and creativity, and the MMF 7 continue to progress towards graduation. We wish them well!

Ready to Learn Fund

The Ready to Learn Fund (formerly Discretionary fund) continues to be an essential part of our support to ensure MMF girls can benefit fully from their education. At the beginning of every term some girls need help with fares to enable them to get to school. Many need support for basic essentials like soap – small, practical things that most of us take for granted.

“R2L Fund is helping our girls, if it was not there some of these girls would not be able to accomplish their goal of secondary education although fees already paid for them.” Mercy Sibande, Malawi Manager

When Covid reached Malawi and schools closed Mercy reported that poverty became an even greater issue, to the extent that we were very concerned for the health of some of the girls. Consequently, we helped with the cost of hospital transport for one girl and bought nutritional food for another ensuring that both girls later returned to school.

When the schools reopened Mercy was able to use the fund to purchase local supplies of washable masks and to supply the schools who requested it with buckets and soap to assist handwashing.

Throughout all this time we continue to provide all MMF girls with, locally made, washable sanitary pads. This has proved to make such a difference to the lives of the girls, removing embarrassment and the stress caused by missing class for days every month.



News

MEETING WITH THE FIRST LADY OF MALAWI



FUNDING NEWS

- We are delighted to be setting out on a new partnership with Lancashire West Methodist Circuit and please note you will be invited to our official online partnership launch in due course. These new partners will support 6 girls at St Mary's Karonga for 4 years in the first instance.
- The Thomson Fund, set up in memory of Jack and Phyllis Thomson is going very well and has progressed from supporting 3 girls a year at the school for the deaf to supporting 6 girls next year.
- A private donor has given us substantial funding for a new fund called Katy's Fund and this will enable us to further increase the number of girls we support. The Katy Fund will support:
 - 16 girls and 40 school years in MCDSS
 - 6 girls and 12 school years in Kaseye, Chitipa
 - 4 girls and 10 school years in St Mary's Karonga

Total of 26 pupils will benefit from one or more years of fees paid and other support. This includes a new school in the far north of Malawi, Kaseye Girls' Secondary School in Chitipa.

HANDY KAMANGA- A CASE STUDY ABOUT THE IMPACT OF MMF FUNDING

An update on Handy Kamanga who was supported by MMF at Bandawe Girls' Secondary School (BAGSS) 2008 – 2012 and by the Soko fund for her final year studying Media for Development. You will be pleased to know she now works as a Gender and Protection Officer with Plan International, a role which involves educating communities about women's rights. She has also had a baby.



RESEARCH STUDENT MAEVE RAFFERTY

Maeve Rafferty from the University of Edinburgh joined MMF this year on placement for her dissertation research. Maeve was a student on the MSc Africa and International Development programme.

She interviewed 21 women who had been supported by MMF at secondary school. Her report found a group of highly motivated women who want to

achieve professional jobs so that they can educate their own children without the need for outside help.

Grateful for the support of MMF, several of those interviewed reported that they already support girls who come from similar backgrounds and need financial help through their education. We are glad to hear of this long-term impact of our work.

DOREEN AND THE ADMIN ROLE

Last year we welcomed Doreen Lowe as our new administrator. Unfortunately, Doreen had some health issues and resigned in February this year. We are grateful for the work she did for us.

Moira now does the admin role on a voluntary basis, and this has been helpful at a time of uncertainty through Covid and the lockdown restrictions. Moira now supports MMF in several ways: the admin role as a volunteer; as a Trustee on the Board and as Marketing Lead. She has also been known to get on her bike!

GOVERNANCE

As part of our on-going governance strengthening, we are particularly aware that we need to keep our data secure. We have engaged in a number of activities designed to strengthen our cyber security during the year. Most recently we have engaged in the Terranova Gone Phishing Tournament in October; this provides organizations like ours with the insights we need to grow our security awareness training strategy.

Looking ahead

The Board are looking ahead to another busy year of working with our supporters and partners to support girls through their four vital years of secondary schooling.

There will be challenges but we will face them together.

Sincere thanks to all friends, partners and supporters in Scotland and Malawi and elsewhere in the world.

The Mamie Martin Fund Trustees

November 2021