



### 2018 Malawi Resilience Service Project

Imagine that your thatch roof was destroyed during the rainy season. The wind ripped it from the small brick house exposing you and your family to the elements. There are no neighbors, hotels, or organizations that can shelter you. There is no money from insurance companies for rebuilding.

You are an older widow who is the sole provider for 6 orphans whose parents died. Out of the goodness of your heart you have taken in these children. You fetch wood and dig pit latrines to make enough money to survive. You wonder if you will have enough money for the next meal and if the water you are drinking is safe. You want nothing more for the children in your care to be safe, well-nourished, healthy, and to have the opportunity to go to school.

To support these caregivers, we are partnering with the Othakarhaka Foundation which means “passing on the kindness” in Chichewa. The founder of the Othakarhaka Foundation, Ida Puliwe, estimates there are 53 elderly people caring for orphans in rural Malawi, Africa who have lost their roofs. They and the orphans in their care are desperately in need of safe and dry shelter.

The Norman Cultural Connection (NCC), founded by Marial Martyn and the Malawi Resilience Project (MRP) founded by Dr. Jocelyn McGee aims to raise funds to replace all

53 of the thatch roofs. The cost to provide a new tin roof in Malawi is approximately ***\$150 USD***.

The Othakarhaka Foundation has secured volunteer carpenters from the villages who will construct the roofs once they receive the funds to purchase the materials. The carpenters have already begun the process of preparing the homes for the new tin roofs.

There are a couple of ways to make a tax-deductible donation to this service project.

1) You can send a check to:

Norman Cultural Connection  
P.O. Box 1201  
Norman, Oklahoma 73030  
(On the memo line write Malawi Resilience Project)

2) You can go to the NCC website to make a donation using PayPal. Please make sure to note that it is for the Malawi Resilience Project [www.normalculturalconnection.org](http://www.normalculturalconnection.org).

The EIN for tax purposes is 27-1226029.

For additional information, please contact:

Jocelyn Shealy McGee, PhD, MSG  
(650) 279-8520  
[drjocelynsmcgee@gmail.com](mailto:drjocelynsmcgee@gmail.com)

or

Marial Martyn, PhD, LCSW  
(405) 201-9991  
[mmartyn@normancc.org](mailto:mmartyn@normancc.org)

Each donor will receive a picture of the family who benefited from their contribution along with a personalized note of gratitude translated from Chichewa into English.

Our wonderful partner for this service project is the Malawi based Othakarhaka Foundation in Malawi, Africa. We appreciate you helping us “pass on the kindness”.

## A Little History about the Malawi Resilience Project

Jocelyn first learned about Malawi in 1996 through her mentor in graduate school Dr. Don Thomas. She dreamed of serving in Malawi for many years as was particularly interested in helping Malawian elders and orphans.

Almost 20 years later, Jocelyn's dream became a reality. She was able to travel to Malawi in the summer of 2014 to work with local community organizations who serve elders and orphans in remote villages. Over the past 4 years, she has worked closely with Don and many others on several projects:

- ❖ A social and emotional support program for guardians of orphans in a 37-village catchment area which is now led by a Malawian social worker;
- ❖ Resilience workshops/training for young women in secondary school;
- ❖ Educational workshops/training for nurses, social workers, physicians, clergy, and community health workers on meeting the emotional health needs of the people they serve;
- ❖ A week-long arts camp aimed at empowering young girls in rural villages;
- ❖ An educational initiative for orphans who have outstanding academic performance but are not able to afford to go to secondary school.



## A Few Facts About Malawi

- ❖ Malawi is often referred to as the “Warm Heart of Africa” because the people there are so kind and loving.
- ❖ Malawi is a small country in sub-Saharan Africa bordered by Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia.
- ❖ Malawi is a democracy.
- ❖ The two national languages for Malawi are Chichewa and English.
- ❖ Maize is the staple grain of Malawi.
- ❖ Lake Malawi was once called “The Lake of the Stars” by the famed Scottish explorer David Livingstone, because lantern lights he saw from the fishermen's boats resembled the stars at night.
- ❖ The earliest human settlements in Malawi date back to 50,000 to 60,000 years ago. They were bushmen people, whose rock paintings can still be seen outside the capital of Lilongwe.
- ❖ It is not unusual here to see a 12-seater bus transporting 25 people, plus goats, chicken, and baskets of vegetables.
- ❖ By the end of this year, there will be approximately **2 million orphans** in Malawi, Africa.

