

# Smile Malawi



## NEWSLETTER MAY 2007

Smile Malawi was registered as a charity in England and Wales in 2004 and as an NGO in Malawi in June 2006. The main objective of the charity is to provide a home for street children from Blantyre, with educational and recreational facilities. There are estimated to be 3500 children sleeping and begging on the streets of the city. The charity also aims to help the local community of Ndokota by building a nursery school and health centre. It has already provided food for the village during the famine of 2005 and has recently completed a new deep borehole to supply the village with fresh water.

The Smile Malawi Childrens' Centre opened its doors to the first children in November 2006.

### GIFT & BRIAN AGE 12



The children were jointly identified by Malawi Social Services and Smile Malawi from the streets of Blantyre. It was a harrowing experience for Malawian trustee Glad Munthali and Project Manager Charles Mwasinga. Seven girls and four boys were initially accepted, ranging from 3 to 12 years old.

### JUNIOR AGE 3



They all settled in really quickly and have flourished under the care of the matron, Miriam, and her team of local village helpers.



RUTH AGE 7

Smile Malawi's UK Founder Elspeth Baecke flew out to meet the children for the first time at Easter. She spent three weeks in Malawi, getting to know the children and meeting with the Social Services, Smile Malawi's lawyer, bank and trustees. It was a busy time of annual accounts,

budgets and future planning but she enjoyed plenty of time with the children and was impressed by their quick learning and development.

### CAROLINE AGE 10



She soon visited the nearby primary school and arranged for the older children to start after Easter. A local tailor was found to make uniforms and the children were thrilled.



STELLA AGE 8

The Centre's own teacher will continue to help the four younger children at home and, eventually, will run the nursery school that Smile Malawi hopes to start soon for the village.



ALEXANDRIA  
AGE 3

During her stay Elspeth held a special function to officially hand the new borehole over to the village for use. The Traditional Authority or TA for the whole area of Bvumbwe attended together with the Malawian trustees of the charity, the village Chief and representatives from the village.



DOREEN AGE 8

The children sang traditional songs for the occasion before 200 village children all joined them for drinks and cakes to celebrate.

### ELIZABETH AGE 3



It was an important milestone in Smile Malawi's relationship with the local people and the TA expressed his thanks to everyone in the UK who has helped his people so generously.



JOSEPH AGE 4

*If you would like to help us towards the running costs of the Centre or for future development of the project, please visit our website or send a cheque to the address below.*

### ENELISE AGE 12

