

# Smile Malawi



## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006

Smile Malawi was registered as a charitable trust in England and Wales in October 2004. The main objective of the charity is to provide a home for street children from the city of Blantyre in southern Malawi, with educational and recreational facilities. The charity also aims to help the local community of Ndokota by building a nursery school and health centre for the benefit of the village children and families. The charity was registered in Malawi as an NGO in April 2006.

### THE CHILDREN HAVE ARRIVED!

The first building of the Smile Malawi Childrens' Centre was completed in October 2006. The work was carried out by local craftsmen under the management of Malawian trustee Glad Munthali and Project Manager Charles Mwasinga.



The Centre has been designed to accommodate up to 20 children who will be jointly identified by Malawi Social Services and Smile Malawi from the city streets.



Children like 4 year olds Bernard and Thom who were found living in a shack in the grounds of the city hospital. They spent their days roaming the streets begging to buy food. That was before Charles found them and they were given a home with Smile Malawi. And these are three of the girls, Doreen, Stella and Ruth who have also been recently rescued from the streets.



Smile Malawi's UK Founder Elspeth Baecke says 'There are approximately 3500 children living on the streets of Blantyre. Some of these receive support in a small number of daytime drop-in Centres but many survive with no help at all. The street children are extremely vulnerable to abuse, child trafficking and even death. So far Smile Malawi has taken in nine children. They all have harrowing backgrounds and need lots of loving care.



But just look at the difference in Thom within a few hours of arriving at the Centre! We have employed a wonderful lady called Miriam to be the resident Matron, a cook, a teacher and six other women from the local village. The children were cleaned up when they arrived and given new clothes. Unfortunately we had few



girls' clothes so they were all dressed in polo shirts and shorts temporarily. There are five girls and four boys ranging from 4 to 10 years old. They all settled in really quickly and love their new home and surroundings.



Work is also continuing to help the local village of Ndokota and the charity has recently provided a new deep borehole for the people to use. The hand pump from their old shallow borehole was stolen leaving hundreds of families, including these lovely little girls, without water!



*If you would like to help us towards the upkeep of the Centre or for future development of the project, please visit our website [www.smilemalawi.com](http://www.smilemalawi.com), or send a cheque to the address below.*

*Smile Malawi is a registered charity in England & Wales number 1106225 and a member of the Council for NGOs in Malawi (CONGOMA) registration number C 296/2006 and is incorporated under Certificate of Incorporation number TR/INC:2632 in Malawi.*

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