MALAWI SCHOOL BICYCLE PROJECT

ROTARY CLUB OF TRAVERSE BAY SUNRISE
with WARM HEARTS FOUNDATION
March 28, 2023

Our presentation will address the following:

- Provide the background on our involvement in Malawi
- Review the bicycle project scope and implementation
- Share the experience of the students with all of you
- Celebrate making secondary education in Malawi more assessable







Malawi – “The Warm Heart of Africa”

- Wonderful, Faithful, Happy People
- One of the world’s poorest countries
- Near Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique
- 19.6 m people, Lilongwe– 1.1 m
- Infant mortality 38.6/k, Life Exp 65yrs
- Subsistence farmers of corn, soybeans
- Largest export is tobacco, import food

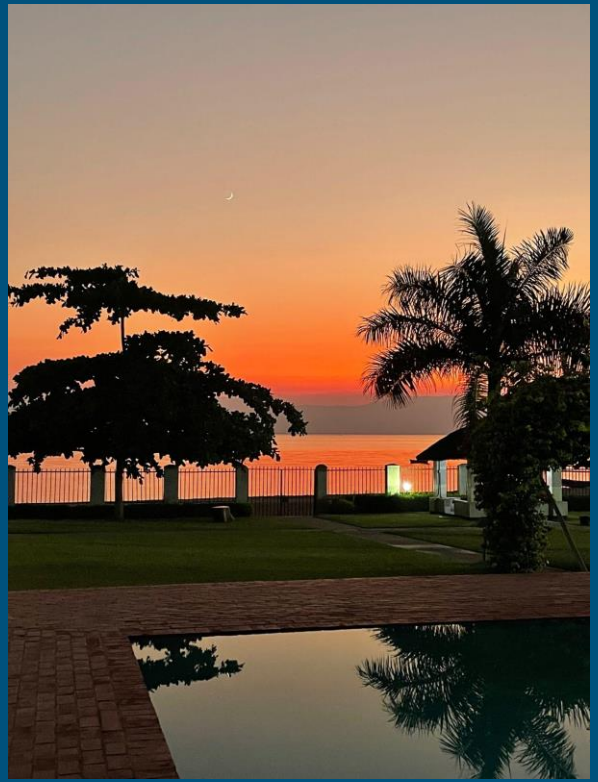
Mangochi District is where we are focused



- Population 1.2m people
- One of 12 districts; in the Southeast
- 54,000 people in Mangochi City
- The rest in 250+ Rural Villages
- Half are 18 yrs or younger, 500k are school age
- Just 15% of children and 7% of girls complete secondary school

A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY AND BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE







How did Sunrise get connected with Malawi?

- 2016 Partnership with Warm Hearts Foundation
- Our club voted for Malawi as a focus for global service
- Focus on Primary and Secondary School builds
- Projects in 2016 (Koche)and 2017 & 2019 (Chaona)
- 15 Travelers to Malawi
- 6 classrooms built





Rotary / Warm Hearts asked: “What is needed to help more students attend school?

- In 2019: a community needs assessment was conducted with students and teachers
- Barriers to completing secondary school?
  - Better learning materials
  - More secondary schools / classrooms
  - Cost of Uniforms
  - A very long walk to school for some
- Utilize bicycles to improve travel times, readiness to learn and safety for girls

What are the goals of our project?

- To improve secondary school access by providing reliable transportation for those that liv more than three miles from school.

- Achieve benefits of improved attendance, energy level, academics, safety and a likely long-term increase in graduation rates.





The bicycle project summary:

- Selected four secondary schools in Mangochi District
- Identified the need for up to 75 bikes per school
- Learned from a pilot project launched in March 2020
- Utilize the pilot model of a School Bike Committee
- Purchased durable bikes for many years of reliable use
- Ensure sustainability: create local bike repair businesses
- Create an opportunity for students to learn bike repair skills

We purchased “Buffalo Bikes” for the Schools

- World Bicycle Relief distributes bicycles in Africa
- These bikes are designed for Africa’s tough environment
- The bikes are assembled in Lilongwe by Malawians
- The best long-term choice for function and durability





Raise the Funds to Make This Project a Reality

Sunrise Rotary Club Members $19,322

- Sunrise Club Members and Friends $14,307
- Sunrise Member Breakfast Invoices $2,490
- Community Foundation Member Match $2,525

Rotary Clubs/Warm Hearts $27,291

- Community Foundation 2019 match $3,000
- Elk Rapids Rotary $3000
- Warm Hearts Fall 2020 Fundraiser $5,000
- Sunrise Club Contribution $3,000
- Community Foundation 2021 match $3,000
- District 6290 Matching Funds $10,000

Total of All Project Sources $46,613

WHAT WE DELIVERED AUGUST 2021

Delivered 220 Bicycles in Summer 2021



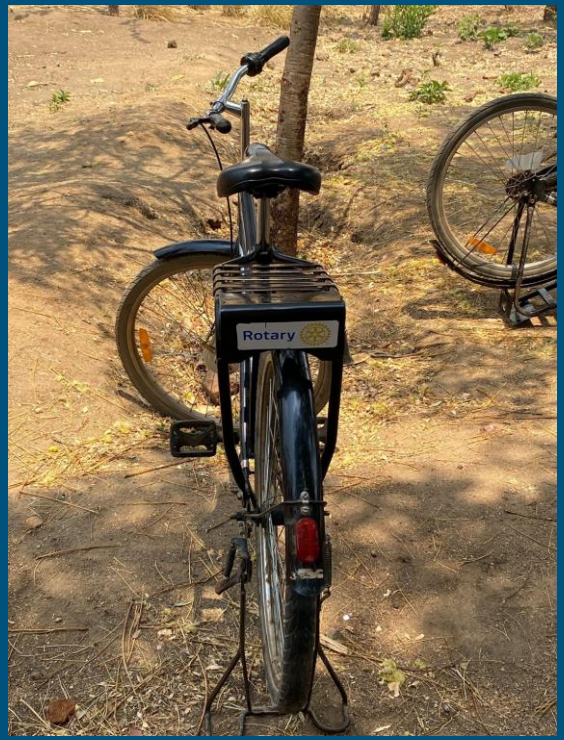
- Each school received 50 - 60 bikes
- School committees selected students
- Trained our bicycle repair man - Rasool
- Supplied initial spare parts
- The schools celebrated and thanked us!



OUR TEAM & OUR EXPERIENCE
OCTOBER 2022



KOCHE SECONDARY SCHOOL






History
5 Stock Market
6 Bank Failure
5 Reduction in Purchasing Power
6 Ancient Economic
Great Depression
From 1927 - 1939



KOCHE SCHOOL Girls Meeting



KOCHE SCHOOL BIKE COMMITTEEE



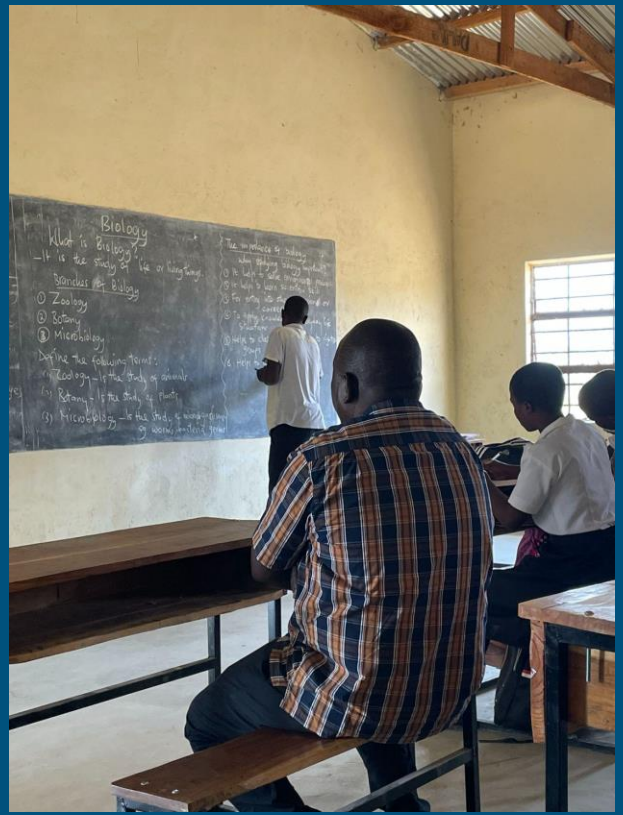
CHAONA SCHOOL – A ROTARY BUILD



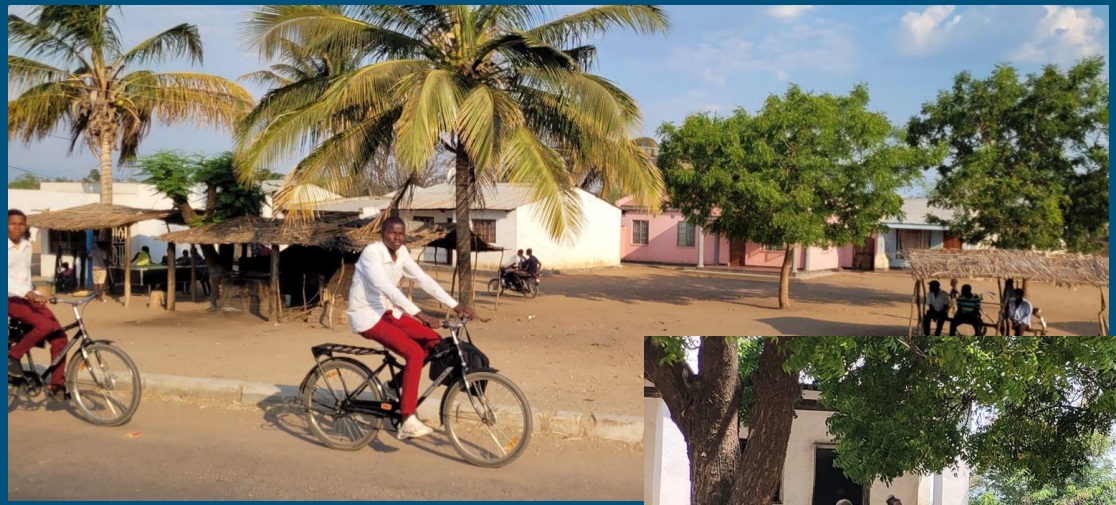


CHAONA SCHOOL





NANSENGA SCHOOL





NANSENGA SCHOOL

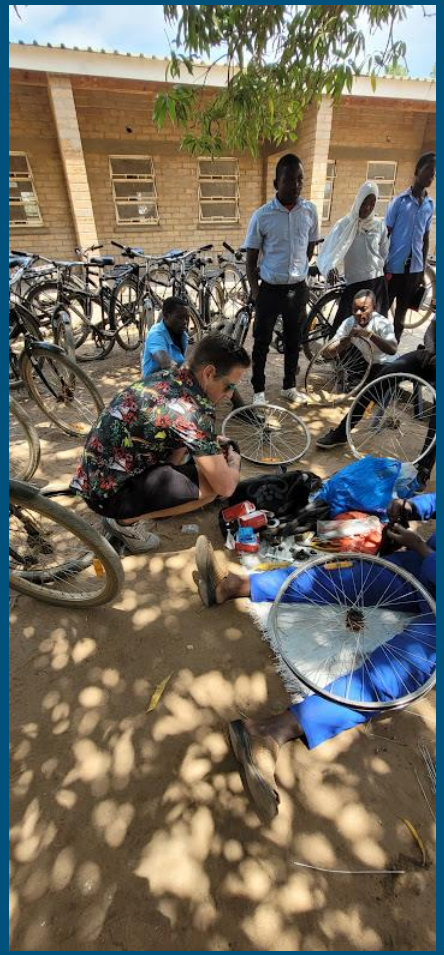




KATEMA SCHOOL









KATEMA SCHOOL

WHAT WE LEARNED 2022

WHAT WE LEARNED I

- There are some expected surprises:
  - Students love the bicycles!
  - They are changing the lives of these students!
  - Teachers see a dramatic impact on student performance

- There were some unintended consequences:
  - Discipline has improved; hoping for a future bicycle
  - Students are transferring to the bicycle schools

- Each school has different challenges:
  - Different levels of student/family ability to pay
  - Some more remote with serious hills and terrain (Katema)

WHAT WE LEARNED II

- There are more required repairs than expected:
  - The terrain at some schools is taking a toll
  - One repair problem is prevalent, need a solution
- There are many more students that need bicycles:
  - Schools are larger than we thought: 400 - 600 students
  - Some schools are so crowded they have two sessions per day - morning and late afternoon.
  - Form 1&2 students are waiting, Form 3&4 have bicycles
- Teachers are personally not feeling the love::
  - Most teachers also live long distances from school
  - They are willing to rent monthly to own in 24 months

BUFFALO BIKE FACTORY





NEXT STEPS

NEAR TERM NEXT STEPS

- Work toward school self sufficiency and sustainability:
  - Adjust student fees and payment processes
  - Schools meet the costs of parts and repairman Rasool

- Change the parts supply process, track school usage:
  - We are using more parts than expected
  - Need to understand individual school challenges

- Provide a payment plan opportunity for teachers:
  - A 2022-23 district grant for our $17K project is approved
  - Fundraise, then order ~60 bicycles, deploy to schools Q2

FUTURE DREAMS

SUPPORT MORE STUDENTS

- Validate a sustainable program at each school:
  - Support them to reach a workable fee structure
  - Understand parts/repair costs and support improvements

- Provide more bicycles to the current four schools:
  - Identify additional student needs from each school
  - Develop a plan and apply for a new grant in 2023-24

- Option to expand the program to additional schools:
  - Investigate student transfers, ID possible target schools
  - Screen new school candidates for the next project

JOIN W/SUNRISE ROTARY

By partnering together, we can do great things:

- ❑ Benzie Rotary can leverage its global service impact
- ❑ Be an active part in project planning and implementation
- ❑ Opportunity for travel to Malawi in 2024
- ❑ See and feel the impact we are having in the world
- ❑ International experience while speaking English
- ❑ Leverage the power of our district through shared grants