



AGAPE SCHOLARS INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

January 2019

2018 Year End Report

Dear Friends,

This has been an incredible year for Agape Scholars International! There have been many challenges and changes, but also many wonderful successes and new partners coming alongside to care for the many children that we have had the opportunity to encounter!

Our partnership with Mary Meals continues to thrive; they now minister meals to our residential center in Limbe City. Khalsa Aid was extremely helpful in bringing a number of food items and is in the process of bringing much needed beds for all of the children to sleep comfortably!

We had impactful, exciting visits from Christ Embassy, Me-Malawi organization, and a retreat with Young Life International. Furthermore, Greenville University students continue to minister to the children through mission trips in January and August.

The City Assembly met with Agape and other stakeholders about solutions to the increased number of children on the streets. Previously, their policy was to perform a sweep of the streets, gather and lock up the children overnight, then warn and release them. This has not been a successful deterrent for desperate children. We pray that the example modeled at Agape House will have an effect on future policy.



Agape children enjoy making music!

In This Issue

- Engaging Partnerships
- Ministering with students
- Spreading the Word
- Future Goals



Secondary school students

Secondary School Scholars

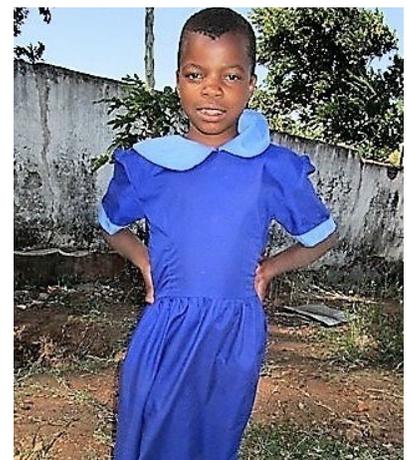
Students who successfully pass the Primary School Leaving Examination are allowed to proceed to secondary school. Here, Agape House students are shown in their secondary school uniforms. There are currently twenty-seven students who are supported through our scholarships for secondary school education.

Strategic Plan and Restructuring

Agape Scholars International is committed to the long-term education and care for those children who have been unfortunate in pursuing their education because of extreme poverty. This commitment requires obtaining a permanent residential site for those who are truly on the streets, and aiding through sponsorship those who are too impoverished to attend school. To this end, the non-residential site of Agape House in Blantyre was closed and funds re-directed into the residential site in Limbe. Students who attended the Blantyre site are now supported in their education by financial aid to re-enter the Malawian schools. Meanwhile, purchase of a permanent residential site has met with promising prospects.

Cecelia

Cecelia is the youngest child in the family of five children. Her sister Femia previously attended our program, however, she dropped out of school to get married at sixteen years old. Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world. New legislation was recently passed to increase the legal age of marriage from fifteen to eighteen years. Child marriage is a leading cause of inequality facing girls in Malawi. Recently our staff noticed that Cecilia had stopped attending classes. They conducted a home visit and Cecilia was found doing chores at home. Agape staff offered her relatives the opportunity for Cecilia to stay at Agape residential facility so that she can return to school. Her relatives agreed and she is happily re-enrolled in school.



Cecelia

IN THE NEWS!

In December Agape children were visited by representatives from Times Television. Our guests gave the children juice, Kamba puffs and biscuits. The children prepared a presentation of Christmas carols, plays and bible verses. Their presentation was broadcasted on December 25th, on a program called "Breakfast Live."

Agape Board Director visits Malawi

Melissa Dunkley interviewed Agape House children and staff regarding our organization strengths and challenges. Program evaluation and assessments were made for future planning and resourcing. Melissa was also involved in strategic planning for purchase of property in the coming year.



Agape youths attend Young Life Camp

Young Life Camp

Agape Scholars International is pleased to work with Young Life International. Zein Tembo, Young Life Area Director, has partnered with Agape Scholars International to start two young Life groups for youth. One group meets at the secondary school on Thursdays and the other group meets at Agape House on Saturdays. The focus of meetings are on teaching youth to grow in their faith and to make right choices. At the end of the year the students who participated in the weekly meetings are rewarded with an opportunity to go away for a weekend to Young Life Camp.

In August nine boys and eleven girls from Agape Scholars International attended Young Life Camp at Kamuzu Academy, Kasugu. Our youth enjoyed great food, games and exciting activities. Most importantly they were taught the word of God and encouraged in their Christian faith. A number of our youth accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior for the first time. Each camp goer was gifted a bible from Young Life ministries.



GU students Brooke and Rebecca with Agape children

Mission Trips from Greenville University

Greenville University has been instrumental in allowing students the opportunity to minister abroad. Agape Scholars International has organized two mission trips for GU students to Malawi. Children and staff at Agape House have been blessed with the compassion shown by GU students. Brooke Goodyear and Rebecca Bailey had the opportunity to teach Eng-

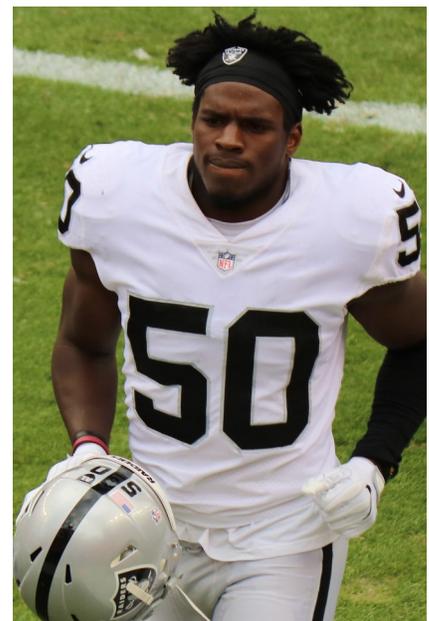


lish classes and play games with the children.

Greenville University students have developed a mutually impactful relationship with the children at Agape House. Amanda Scott and Linnea Smidderks, alumna of the University, are seen here visiting the children in the summer. They also helped reorganize the library and classrooms.

Meet Agape Scholars' Ambassador Nicholas Morrow

Nicholas' football career began at Huntsville HS in Huntsville, AL. After high school he was recruited by Greenville University to play football. As a biology major Nicholas met Dr. Eugene Dunkley, who shared about the plight of street children with Nicholas. In addition to his football career and his academic aspirations, Nicholas' passion is to help disadvantaged children gain access to education. Nicholas is partnering with Agape Scholars because "Education teaches us the languages of the world so we can navigate through society and invoke change. No child should be left behind in the educational process".



Our Donors

Khalsa Aid was a great blessing to the children in 2018 and we pray will continue to be so in 2019. They brought food, hygiene items and clothing for the children. They also donated twenty bunk beds for the children to sleep more comfortable.

Christ Embassy Church visited and shared the word of God with the children. They also donated clothing and snacks.

Me-Malawi r.y. arranged a Christmas party for the children who live at Agape House. They also donated toys, food, clothes, seeds and tool for the vegetable garden.

World Vision Malawi donated mosquito nets.

Adrian Lock donated Soccer balls, pencils, dolls and funds.

Youth Concern Blantyre donated clothing, exercise books and pens.

Vintage Health Malawi donated clothes and food.

Mary Meals donated porridge meal for breakfast each day.



Agape secondary students tutoring primary students

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

One of the much needed services that Agape Scholars provides is an after school tutoring program to enrich the educational experience during the day. The high ratio of students to teachers in Malawian schools make it very difficult for students to learn. Many children are not able to get the extra attention they need to be successful. The after-school program allows the students to get supplemental learning in math and English, giving them more confidence during the normal school hours.

As a part of training for Agape children to give back to their community, Agape students who are attending secondary school frequently tutor our primary school students.

In preparation for the upcoming Primary School Leaving Examination additional tutoring is being provided for eighteen eight graders. Agape Scholars International also provides Saturday tutoring at the local library for our secondary school scholars.

This past year has been amazing but also challenging. The number of street children continues to increase. We at Agape Scholars International want to expand our ministry so that more children can get off of the dangerous streets where they are in danger of human trafficking.

Pray for:

- 1) Opportunities to minister to more children
- 2) More partnerships with other ministries
- 3) A permanent home for Agape Scholars

Upcoming Event! “A Place of Hope” Gala

Agape Scholars International and Nicholas Morrow are organizing a charity event on Saturday, April 27th, 2019, 6pm to 9 pm.

Venue: Stone Event Center, 2620 Clinton Avenue W, Huntsville, AL 35805.

Proceeds from this event will go towards the purchase of a forever home for street children in Blantyre, Malawi.

Tickets are available on our website!

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