



MAMIE MARTIN

SINCE 1993

EDUCATING GIRLS. EMPOWERING MALAWI.

To advance the education of young women and girls in North Malawi

“If you educate a girl then you have educated the whole community.”

We are an established Scottish charity with family links to northern Malawi where we work with our partners to ensure that no girl is denied secondary education through poverty.

We support Malawian girls who have a place at secondary school but are not able to pay the annual school fees.



'Suzen' was an orphan supported by MMF. Now she is an Orthopaedic Technologist.



Mamie Martin's daughter, Margaret, in Bandawe in 1928

All the young women interviewed in our impact assessment said that their Mamie Martin funding had changed their lives.

Case-study: 'Suzen'

'Suzen' is a young woman for whom MMF support was vital in her journey from being an orphan in a rural area to being a respected orthopaedic clinician in a Mzuzu hospital.



Suzen at work

'Suzen' is an orphan, like so many young people in Malawi today. She attended a rural primary school and was then selected to Ekwendeni Girls Secondary School. Her pastor brought her situation to the attention of the school and she received Mamie Martin Fund (MMF) support for each of her four years there – 2004-2007.

In her final year at school, she was encouraged to apply for a vacancy advertised by '500 Miles', an NGO which supports disabled people in Africa by providing prosthetic and orthotic devices. She got that job and was then supported by her employer to study in Tanzania for her Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics from 2010 to 2013. On the way to meet 'Suzen' the taxi driver told our Trustee, Moira, that he remembered her as the clinician who saw one of his family. He told of how her warm and open personality made all the difference to their hospital appointments. This is backed up by her manager - 'her personality is an absolute joy to have in the clinic'.

She went on to say 'Suzen is an outstanding representative, and is one of our best clinicians. Her intellect brings everyone's level up.' 'Suzen' loves her job as an Orthopaedic Technologist and '500 Miles' is now sponsoring her to do a Bachelor degree in Human Study. The practical workshops take place in Tunisia, which is another great adventure for 'Suzen'. She completes that course in 2018 and will then be a qualified Prosthetist and Orthotist.

Why support girls' education in Malawi?

Malawian girls are more likely to drop out of school than boys, facing a range of cultural and practical barriers to continuing school, including early marriage and pregnancy. Lack of money is the primary reason for Malawian girls not attending school. It is this basic inequality that the MMF aims to combat to enable more girls to access secondary school education. With education, girls' chances of good employment are vastly improved and it is more likely that their own children will be educated and healthy.

Reasons why girls may need financial support

The death of one or both parents

Low income and/or loss of employment

The strain on responsible adults with multiple financial responsibilities (e.g. for other children from the extended family)

Rising school fees

Cost of transport, school uniforms and other necessities.

What have we done so far?

In the last 24 years, MMF money has funded over 2600 school places for girls and disbursed more than £390,000 towards that end to Malawi, funding approximately 83 girls at secondary school each year.

Our impact research

Six school attendees (aged 17 to 19) and 30 former beneficiaries were interviewed in Malawi by Martha Chirwa in 2015. Many of the young women had experienced the **deaths of one or both parents** during their childhood, and had been brought up with the help of **extended family** members, including elder siblings, uncles, aunts

and grandparents. A third came from families in which both parents had died before or during their attendance at school and a further 13 had been brought up by **single parents**, sometimes with support from other family members.

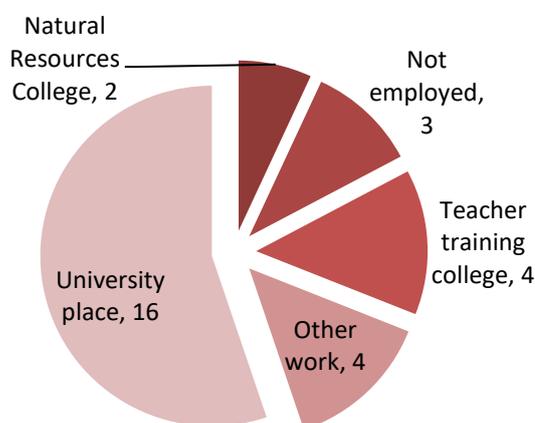
Often it was a combination of these kinds of stresses that led to a request for a funding support. A frequently described chain of events involved mounting difficulties in keeping up with fee payments soon after a girl started secondary school. This then resulted in the girl returning to her family for an extended period, because there was no money for her fees, before a request for funding was made. Only half had started receiving MMF funding during their first year at secondary school, with others accessing funding later in their school careers. Some girls described having fallen behind their peers as a result of extended periods at home trying to find money for school fees.



Martha Chirwa, Research Assistant

Evidence about the impact of receiving funding support on students' school experiences came from current and former beneficiaries, and members of staff at the schools.

We know, because they tell us, that MMF financial assistance through secondary school has led to young women taking their place in Malawian society as teachers, lawyers, nurses, entrepreneurs and that the benefits of their education pass on to the next generation. Well over **half** of those girls supported by MMF have been successful in gaining a place at a **University or Teacher Training College** in Malawi. Some of these students were at University when interviewed as part of the impact assessment study, and others had finished their degrees.



First destination of 29 former beneficiaries of MMF

Mamie Martin Fund in Malawi



Mercy Sibande

Mrs Mercy Sibande is our Manager in Malawi. She visits each of our schools once a term and tries to meet each beneficiary.

You can write to her:

P.O. Box 20603, Luwingu, Mzuzu

Email her: mercymoyo2012@gmail.com

Phone her: +265 (0)999 168454



Rev Vincent Kalua

Rev Vincent Kalua is the Director of Education at the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia. He is based in Mzuzu and oversees the disbursement of MMF funds to the schools each term.

MMF has worked with and through the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia since we were established in 1993 and the partnership is important to us all.

Partnership with the Soko Fund

We established a partnership with the Soko Fund in 2016. This gives at least five of our beneficiaries the opportunity to benefit from Soko funding for their university studies. That emerged as the biggest unmet need in our Impact Assessment research and is regularly reported as an on-going need by our Malawi manager, Mercy Sibande.



Where did it all begin?

Margaret Sinclair was born in Malawi (Nyasaland) on 27th June 1927, the daughter of Scottish parents, Jack and Mamie Martin. Jack was a Church of Scotland missionary and Mamie was a teacher. As a missionary's wife, Mamie became aware of the need for the girls and women to have access to education and she set about establishing classes and preparing her pupils for exams.



Margaret was the first baby to be baptised by an African



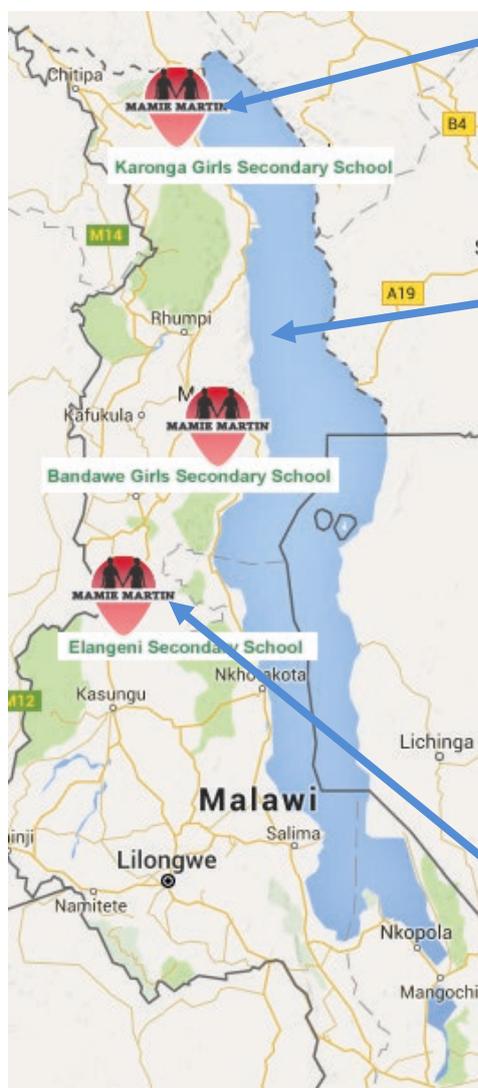
Berita Banda looking after Margaret & little boy

Sadly, Mamie's family only knew her through her writing as she died in 1928, giving birth to her second child. In 1991, Margaret and John Sinclair travelled to Malawi and found that the Martin house was still there, that the memorial church was still in use and that people in Bandawe still remembered the story of Jack and Mamie Martin.

The idea of trying to carry on the work and wishes of Mamie was born during this trip and in 1993 the charity was set up with family and friends from Scotland and beyond. From the beginning, we worked in partnership with the CCAP in Mzuzu. The Rev Maxwell Banda, the then CCAP Education Secretary, and his wife Liz Banda, both had a family connection with the Martins and are still closely associated with the organisation.

A 1% rise in women's literacy is 3 times more likely to reduce deaths in children than a 1% rise in the number of doctors.

The schools we support



- Karonga Girls Secondary School is in the Northern part of Mzuzu at the Centre of Karonga town, 1 km. from the main road. The School was opened in 1998. MMF started assisting girls in 2006 and so far has supported 651 students.
- Bandawe Girls Secondary School is in the Southern part of Nkhata Bay district, 100 km. from Mzuzu. MMF has been paying school fees for an average of 52 girls per year for over 15 years, a total of about 780 pupils. The school was originally established in 1997 as a girls-only boarding school using boarding facilities for the Bandawe primary school. The MMF provided funding to build a hostel. The head teacher reported that this hostel has helped to promote and safeguard the right to privacy of hundreds of girls.
- Elangeni Secondary School is in the Northern part of Kasungu, south west of the Nkhamenya Trading centre, 9 km from the nearest main road, and 110km from Mzuzu. The school was established in 2007 and to date MMF has supported 28 students at the school.

In 2017 we were honoured to be asked to manage a scholarship fund established by the Scottish Government in honour of Alison and Colin Cameron. The 'Alison Cameron' scholarships will provide extra funding for 23 schoolgirls for four years and two university places, for four years, through our partner, The Soko Fund. This endorsement of our work is encouraging and this funding will make a huge difference in Malawi.

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by the Scottish charity regulator (OSCR). Scottish charity number: SC021483
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Where do the funds come from?

Ordinary people donate money. Many donors are descendants of Mamie Martin and their friends. Some are just people who want to support our important mission. We receive funding through:

- MMF donations for wedding / birthday gifts
- Concerts, sponsored activities
- Legacies in wills
- Donations through other charities
- Occasional project funds from Scottish Government.

By supporting us you change the lives of women and their families in Malawi.



Mamie & Jack's engagement

Margaret and Mamie's great grand-daughter, Rhiannon, at her wedding

How do we manage your donations?

The work of the fund is overseen by our Board, supported by our administrator, Hazel Dawson, and advised by our Malawian Committee, comprising the head teachers of the MMF-supported schools and the Synod of Livingstonia Education Director. Working on the basis of need, not ability, the schools select the recipients of MMF support. This is never an easy task in the face of such pervasive general poverty. MMF support is monitored locally by our Malawi Manager, Mercy Sibande, who visits the schools each term.



Hazel Dawson, Administrator

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