



I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and in good spirits. It has been a busy 5 months since the last newsletter; we want to update you about some exciting progress and upcoming events. These last months have not been without some difficult times, since my father passed away unexpectedly in

October. It was decided that in lieu of flowers, donations were requested to be made to Educate Malawi, Inc. People were very generous and we are grateful for the donations received. As a result of all that, we have decided to dedicate the classroom block to my father when it is completed. We hope to have pictures soon of the progress that has been made; we will be sure to poste them when we receive them. Our goal is to return to Malawi in August, after the World Cup excitement dies down, and do some work at the school in the existing classrooms.

As always, your support is appreciated and we continue to look for folks to volunteer in various ways. If you have any comments, we welcome those also.

Our best to you in the New Year and we look forward to remaining connected with you.

Karen Hardy, President, Educate Malawi, Inc.

"I love and support what you do and I'm so proud of you for reaching beyond our lives to improve the lives of our people (through no fault of their own) that are less fortunate than us. I'm proud to know you!"

-Joyce Cooney, Volunteer

Recent fundraising events

Since July we have held several fundraising events and met some amazing people during these events. We continue to be encouraged by the number of supportive and generous people we meet. The events held were: Monson Craft Fair, Friendly's fund-raiser, West Springfield, Westfield Colonial Days Craft Fair, DiGrigoli Cut-a-thon, St. Thomas Craft Fair, pasta dinner and Silpada jewelry home party.



To the left, in the shadow of this tree, is where the foundation is currently being built for the classroom block in Zomba. If you would like financial information about the cost of the project check out the estimate received from the officials in the Education Department in Malawi. You will find it on the Services page of the website; www.educate-malawi.org. (Exchange rate is approximately 150 kwacha/\$1.00U.S.) The total estimate is \$24,000; we have transferred \$4,000 which has enabled them to dig and pour the cement for the foundation. When we receive photos we will post for you to see!

Bike-a-Thon 2010 We have begun to plan our 2nd Annual Bike-a-thon fundraiser! Last year we had a lot of fun and reached our goal of \$4,000; we hope to pass that goal this year! We would love to have your help participating by volunteering or riding. If you need more encouragement, check out these comments and photos from last year! Some comments from riders: "Karen, you and your husband did an awesome job! I will be riding next year!" "I would like to thank you both for giving me the opportunity to participate in such a great event." "Great job, it was a memorable day. May God shine upon you and your family during all your endeavors." If you want to participate in any way, please contact us; Karen@educate-malawi.org. Below left: volunteers Joyce Cooney, Sue Calkins, Pat Kupec and Pat Sherrill. Below right: seated, volunteers Sue LaPointe and Mary Knight. (Standing are Stephen and Karen during the bike-a-thon)



Stay tuned for updates about the event.

Other fundraising events

We have participated in a Flea Market in Easthampton, MA as support for Fly Wheel; a non-profit organization to support local artists and supplying a space for them to practice. There will be a flea market held the second Sunday every month at 43 Main Street Easthampton. We plan to participate as often as possible. Come see us!!

We are working on selling our African craft items on a crafter's website; as soon as we have it up and running, we will let you know. The site is called Etsy.com.

We also would like to encourage you to sign up with Goodsearch; use Goodsearch as your search engine, (instead of Google for example) choose Educate Malawi as your charity to donate to. Every time you search for something on the web, money gets donated to Educate Malawi. There is also an option of GoodShop; if you shop through that site, hundreds of stores participate, and a portion is donated to Educate Malawi. This year we received a check for \$86 for these options being used!

So GoodSearch and GoodShop for Educate Malawi!!

Thank you for your continued support! Without you, we would not be able to accomplish our goals. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to family and friends!!

Zikomo Kwambiri! (Which means Thank you very much in Chichewa!)

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS AND UPDATES ON EMAIL, SEND YOUR ADDRESS TO KAREN@EDUCATE-MALAWI.ORG!