



If you think education is expensive,  
try ignorance.

– African Proverb



**EKARI**  
**FOUNDATION**

Education • Sustainable Livelihoods

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# EKARI FOUNDATION

Education ♦ Sustainable Livelihoods

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## Executive Summary

**We believe in empowering the future generations of Malawi to emerge from poverty through their own efforts by providing access to quality and relevant education, coupled with the necessary educational resources and training to assist communities in establishing and celebrating sustainable livelihoods.**

Founded in 2009, the EKARI Foundation is a community-based nonprofit organization operating in the Phalombe district of Malawi, Africa. Through a comprehensive model centered on student sponsorship, we work to empower students with education and their communities with sustainable livelihoods in order for students and communities to empower future generations. The Foundation was formed based on the desire of youths in Phalombe to break the cycle of poverty, disease, and illiteracy through education. Shortly after its founding, the Foundation expanded to include economic development initiatives, such as small business loans, as an additional way to break the cycle of poverty. Education and improved livelihoods foster self-sustainability, therefore promoting the region's advancement of its social capital – increased number of persons working together toward a common goal of a more productive Malawi.

## The Need

Many youth in Phalombe yearn for an education, but their communities do not have the means to empower them. With very limited resources to aid its own people, the Malawi government relies heavily on donor support from the governments of developed countries and from the nonprofit sector. Nearly half of Malawi's population of 16 million people is under the age of 14. Approximately 1 million children in Malawi are orphans and, of these, 90% come from poor families. Due to the high rate of HIV/AIDS deaths in Malawi, many youth are raised by their poor grandparents, are left homeless on the streets, and/or are forced to provide for their siblings and therefore forced into a life of poverty. Without an education, employment is nearly unattainable and the poor are often unable to access the funding required to start a business in order to improve their livelihoods.

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## Our Difference

The EKARI Foundation believes that education secures a firm foundation for youths' futures and plays one of the most important roles in community transformation. The EKARI Foundation focuses on education by providing the financial resources necessary for those students supported by the Foundation to remain in class during the entire school year. However, we recognize that financial support alone does not ensure the success of students. Therefore, we provide the necessary educational resources that are not provided in most Malawi schools such as textbooks, complement students' education through extracurricular educational programs such as tutoring classes, and provide for basic hygienic and nutritional needs. In addition, we emphasize the power of education in our community programs by not only providing the funds needed to start a business, but also the business and skills training required to maintain a sustainable livelihood.



*Happiness is the youngest of 4 children; both parents are deceased. She has been an EKARI beneficiary since 2010. She is the head prefect for food services at her school and hopes to attend college.*

Without the EKARI Foundation, youth in Phalombe have limited means of securing tuition assistance due to the fact that several nonprofit organizations in Phalombe focus on the development of entire communities rather than individual youth. During this community development process, which can take several years, generations of youth miss out on the opportunity for an education. In addition, the assistance youth can receive from the local, resource-poor social welfare office and/or from a local Member of Parliament—who often ceases sponsorship without notice once he/she leaves the district—is unsustainable and unreliable. Moreover, those few donor groups who provide direct tuition assistance do not support the holistic development of youth or the community. Youth who are empowered while their communities are not must take a step backward to support their communities rather than taking a step forward to empower themselves.

Therefore, the EKARI difference is a comprehensive approach to education that empowers communities alongside youth, enabling all to move forward together; thus helping to break the cycle of poverty.

**80** Percentage of Malawian population who live in rural areas and make a living from agriculture

**6,400,000** Malawians who live on \$1 a day

**74.8** Malawi's literacy rate compared to 99% for the U.S.

**9** Number of years of schooling a Malawian child can expect to receive compared to 16 years in the U.S.

**40** Percentage of children in Malawi who complete primary school

**9** Malawi has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in the world



*Our students and their guardians gather annually to discuss and provide input regarding EKARI Foundation programs.*

## Student and Community Involvement

The EKARI Foundation's current programs were created directly through a systematic assessment of students' and communities' needs in Malawi. The EKARI Foundation updates our needs assessments on an individual basis three times a year and in a group setting with the community on an annual basis. Our Board of Directors in Malawi has representation from students, parents, and community members who directly influence the direction of the Foundation. In addition, we have a Student Board in Malawi consisting of five students in order to allow the voices of those students part of the Foundation to be heard during program planning, decision making, and implementation processes. We create, adjust, and improve our programs based on these formal needs assessments, board feedback, and through open, daily communication.

## Aim for Holistic Approach

The EKARI Foundation's aim is to fight poverty on all levels in a holistic manner. Aside from a comprehensive approach to education focused on improving livelihoods at all levels of a community, in order to empower entire communities we plan to partner with the local government and those nonprofit organizations working in Phalombe who respond to issues such as poor health, sanitation, and lack of access to clean water. In addition, we plan to assist in improving the condition of existing local schools and tackle poverty at its root cause through advocating to the Malawian government to improve its educational system.

### Aonenji's Story



Having received his teaching certificate from a Malawi teacher training college in 2012, Aonenji Selemani is now a primary school teacher in Malawi. Although Aonenji's story is now one of success, he met many hardships along the way. Aonenji was born into a poor family. His father passed away when Aonenji was in primary school and his mother was not able to send Aonenji to school because she could not secure a job due to her lack of education. Aonenji received tuition assistance from the Phalombe social welfare office until his senior year in high school when the office abruptly cut his funding. Aonenji then sought assistance from the EKARI Foundation and was accepted based on his need, hard work ethic, and determination to finish his education. Thanks to the EKARI Foundation, his basic needs inside and outside of school were met and Aonenji was able to graduate from high school and a teacher training college and find employment. Aonenji has become an integral part of the EKARI Foundation and his education empowers Aonenji to empower his community. He serves on the Malawi Board of Directors as our Student Liaison and volunteers to teach adult community members how to read and write during school breaks.

## Overview of Current Programs

<b>Sponsor a Student Program, Scholarship Program</b>	Allows those students most in need to receive a quality and relevant education, equipping them with the tools needed to become self-sufficient members of their communities
<b>Library Program</b>	Provides students with textbooks they do not receive in school
<b>Tutoring Program</b>	Allows students to receive additional instruction focused on those subjects with which they struggle through small group and private sessions
<b>3 Meals a Day Program</b>	Provides nutritional meals during programs and supplements our students' poor school diets
<b>Health Education &amp; HIV/AIDS Awareness Program</b>	Complements students' classroom sex education course, spreads awareness on the dangers of HIV/AIDS and consequences of early pregnancy, and teaches students about proper hygiene and nutrition
<b>Higher Education Prep Program</b>	Prepares students for the Malawi University entrance exam and covers higher education application costs
<b>Computer Program</b>	Students learn word processing software basics and use of the internet increasing their marketability in the workforce; provides college students with laptops and tablets
<b>Educational Field Trip Program</b>	Complements students' classroom studies with real life experiences
<b>Apprenticeship Program</b>	Assists student graduates with resume distribution; provides funds for accommodation, meals, and transport during apprenticeship
<b>Student Loan Program</b>	Provides low interest rate loans to those students who do not receive a paycheck for three months or more after gaining employment
<b>Medical Fund</b>	Reserve fund that is available to all students who require healthcare at a hospital; provides each student with a mosquito bed net
<b>Bedding and Luggage Fund</b>	Provides our students with a school bag, luggage, and bedding
<b>Adult Literacy Program</b>	Provides literacy courses for illiterate adults
<b>Sustainable Livelihoods Program</b>	Provides communities with financial literacy, agricultural, and vocational training as well as resources to start small businesses
<b>Building Program</b>	New infrastructure and additions/renovations to existing community structures to provide students with the best possible physical learning environment

## You Can Make a Difference

We invite you to become part of the EKARI Foundation and re-chart the future of the Phalombe district in Malawi. On behalf of our students and their communities, please join us by making a contribution. Not sure how much to contribute? Refer to the next several pages where we describe our programs and detail the amount of funding that *will* make a difference in the lives of our students and their communities.



The EKARI Foundation is a nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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# Sponsor a Student Program



Iness, EKARI beneficiary since 2012

## Outcome:

Youth continue their education at a higher level

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$25,000**

**\$365** (\$1 a day) supports a student at a public secondary school for one year

**\$600** (\$55 per month) supports a student at a private secondary school for one year

## THE NEED

Primary school education in Malawi is free, but secondary and higher education is not. Many youth in Phalombe are unable to continue their education after primary school due to little or no financial support from their deeply impoverished families and communities. Many nonprofit organizations in Phalombe do not focus on direct tuition assistance, leaving students to request funds from resource-poor local government agencies who only are able to help a small fraction of students in need. As a result many youth are unable to attend secondary school and, lacking a meaningful education with which to pursue a job, are subsequently trapped in a cycle of generational poverty that is difficult to escape.

*"Instead of being happy with the news of my acceptance to secondary school, my parents were worried as to how to pay for my school fees as their earnings from farming would not be enough." Yamikani, college student*

## THE PROGRAM

Yearly student sponsorship for secondary school students covers tuition, exam fees, boarding, meal program as well as additional food to improve diet, uniform, transport home during holidays, basic necessities such as soap, feminine products, notebooks, pens, folders, calculator, school bag, luggage, bed nets, and an allowance for unexpected family needs.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goal is to provide those youth most in need with a solid educational foundation equipping them with the skills needed to continue their education at a higher level.

- ◆ 90% of secondary school students supported by EKARI continued their education in the 2012/2013 school year.
- ◆ Since the start of the program, 100% of students who have completed secondary school have continued their education at a trade school or college.
- ◆ In 2012, 87.5% of students supported by EKARI passed their senior year exam compared to a 51.8% pass rate for the country.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Hard working students are nominated by their school principal based upon need and merit. Our Malawi In-Country Director then follows our acceptance guidelines, which consist of a student application, interview, and home visit, prior to presenting students to our Malawi Board of Directors for their final approval. Our In-Country Director handles all funds for this program with the exception of funds for bus fare and basic necessities, which are given directly to our students. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Scholarship Program



Chrispine, EKARI beneficiary since 2012

## Outcome:

Youth receive a higher education and obtain gainful employment

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$6,000**

**\$3,000** supports a student in college for one year

**\$600** (\$55 per month) supports a student at a trade school for one year

## THE NEED

Due to cost, higher education in Malawi is unattainable for youth from poor families in Phalombe without assistance. Students who do not continue their education after secondary school often do not find sustainable employment and are not able to support themselves or their families.

*“Youth two years out of high school without a higher education are at the same level as those youth who did not even attend high school.”*

Elizeo, adult community member

## THE PROGRAM

Although it is our goal that sponsors will support their students beyond secondary school, the EKARI Foundation realizes that the increase in cost is not always feasible for sponsors. Therefore, the program supports those students whose sponsors cannot afford the increase in cost and as well supports those students who join EKARI once they have completed secondary school. Yearly student sponsorship for higher education covers tuition, exam fees, boarding, meal program as well as additional food to improve diet, uniform, transport home during holidays, basic necessities such as soap, feminine products, notebooks, pens, folders, school bag, luggage, bed nets, internship fees, and an allowance for unexpected family needs.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goal is that each student who benefits from our Sponsor a Student Program continues and completes his/her higher education in order to obtain gainful employment in Malawi.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Those students new to EKARI who are pursuing a higher education complete a student application, interview, and home visit prior to being presented to our Malawi Board of Directors for their final approval. Our In-Country Director handles all funds for this program with the exception of funds for bus fare and basic necessities, which are given directly to our students. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.



Elizabeth, EKARI  
beneficiary since 2009

### Outcome:

Students pass  
each grade level  
consecutively

### Annual Funding Amount:

**\$1500**

**\$150** provides a full  
set of textbooks for  
one student

**\$75** provides a half  
set of textbooks for  
one student

## Library Program

### THE NEED

Classroom textbooks in many Malawi schools are scarce. Often an entire classroom shares one to two textbooks per subject. Due to the shortage, students do not have the opportunity to borrow textbooks in order to study outside of the classroom. In Malawi, 8th grade students, sophomores, and seniors are required to pass an exam at the end of the school year in order to advance to the next grade level or to graduate. Without textbooks from which to study, students often fail these exams and drop out of school.

### THE PROGRAM

Each year we purchase textbooks and distribute them to all of our students. The textbooks are on loan for one school term. Each student receives approximately three textbooks per term. At the end of the term, students are required to return the textbooks in exchange for a different set. Current funding levels only allow us to provide students with those textbooks that correspond to the subjects they are at risk of failing.

### IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goal is that each student would have a complete set of textbooks for all eight subjects. In addition, it is our goal that none of our students repeat a grade level. Since the start of the program in 2010, seven students supported by EKARI were required to repeat their grade level that year and another seven students in 2011. In 2012, only three students were required to repeat. Our goal is that by 2014, no student will repeat.

*"The Library Program has saved us from examination failure because we now have access to more information that we were not able to get in our schools due to the shortage or no availability of library books."*

Charles, high school student

### PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director oversees the program by purchasing, storing, distributing, and collecting the textbooks to/from our students. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Tutoring Program



John, EKARI beneficiary since 2012

## Outcome:

Students pass end-of-year exams

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$2,050**

**\$100** provides tutoring for one student annually

**\$50** provides supplies for the program annually

## THE NEED

A high student to teacher ratio is very common in Malawi, which does not allow for one-on-one and/or small group attention in the classroom. Many students cannot keep up with the fast-paced teaching style and fail to ask questions out of embarrassment. Families are not able to afford the private tutoring that many students need. Many students supported by the EKARI Foundation tell us about their eagerness to work with a tutor. They realize that private tutoring offers them a greater chance to pass their end-of-year exams and move from one grade level to the next consecutively.

## THE PROGRAM

Local high school teachers conduct the program during students' school breaks, which occur three times a year for two weeks at a time. Teachers separate students into small groups based on their grade level and focus on the subjects requested by the students that are the most challenging, typically English, mathematics, biology and physical science. Lectures as well as handouts and daily assignments better prepare students for their end-of-year exams.

*"We have been shy to ask questions in class at our schools, but holiday tutoring gives us more chance to ask more of what we don't understand in class."*  
Esnart, high school student

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Since we launched the program in 2010, the number of students required to repeat a grade level has been reduced by over 50%. Although 100% of our students that have completed their secondary school education have continued their education at a higher level, only 76% passed their senior year exams – those who do not pass can continue at a trade school. It is our goal that none of the students supported by the EKARI Foundation will be required to repeat a grade level and as well that 100% of our students will pass their senior year exams.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director and Malawi Board of Directors hire qualified teachers, based on recommendations from students, to teach our tutoring sessions as well as provide daily supervision as needed. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

## 3 Meals a Day Program



*Rhoda, EKARI beneficiary since 2011*

### **Outcome:**

Our students are free from malnutrition and hunger during their school breaks

### **Annual Funding Amount:**

**\$2,750**

**\$150** feeds 3 students for 2 weeks

**\$50** feeds 1 student for 2 weeks

### **THE NEED**

During school breaks many students supported by the EKARI Foundation do not receive proper nutrition in their homes. Many students' families are subsistence farmers and are not able to provide enough food for each family member every day; many skip meals and suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Students who suffer from hunger are not able to focus on their studies, nor do they have the time because students often search for odd jobs during their school breaks in order to raise money to purchase food.

### **THE PROGRAM**

Established in 2010, the program provides students supported by the EKARI Foundation with three nutritional meals a day for two weeks, three times a year during school breaks. We follow the guidelines of Malawi's Six Food Groups. Students cook breakfast and dinner for themselves; we hire two cooks to prepare lunch in order for students to focus on their studies during the day.

### **IMPACT AND GOALS**

Our goal is that students supported by the EKARI Foundation are free from malnutrition and hunger during their school breaks. Since the start of the program in 2010, all 44 students have benefitted. Students report that the program allows them to concentrate on their studies because they do not suffer from malnutrition and hunger as they often do while at school or home.

### **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT**

Our Malawi In-Country Director oversees the program by purchasing the food and distributing it to the hired cooks and students. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Health Education & HIV/AIDS Awareness Program



Stanley, EKARI beneficiary since 2012

## Outcome:

Zero early pregnancies among female EKARI students and reduction in the spread of HIV/AIDS in Phalombe

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$200**

**\$100** provides a teacher's stipend and supplies annually

## THE NEED

As of 2009, Malawi had the world's 9<sup>th</sup> highest prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS among adults. In developing countries such as Malawi, a high percentage of young females who live in poverty often engage in sexual activity with males of all ages based on promises of financial assistance with school tuition, food security, and healthcare needs. Often these promises are not kept and the young girl becomes pregnant without support from her male counterpart. Many youth in this situation do not return to school after their child's birth due to the inability to support themselves and their newborn child.

## THE PROGRAM

Established in December 2012, the program complements school sex education courses as well as the efforts of nonprofit organizations in the area that spread awareness about HIV/AIDS. For a two day period, three times a year during school holidays, qualified teachers from local secondary schools and health professionals from the local district hospital increase our students' knowledge of early marriage, early pregnancies, alcohol, drugs, gender roles/stigmas, health including hygiene and nutrition, STDs, and HIV/AIDS, and assist our students in coping with societal and cultural challenges associated with these topics. Students are encouraged to positively interact among themselves, across genders, in order to learn from one another's life experiences.

*"The program teaches us ways of avoiding the spread of the deadly disease HIV/AIDS disease, which is affecting a lot of educated youth. The program shapes us into good messengers for our fellow youth and role models for the better development of Malawi."*

Flora, high school student

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goals are zero early pregnancies among those female students supported by the EKARI Foundation so that they are able to complete their education at a higher level and obtain employment prior to starting a family, to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in our impact area, to increase the overall health of our students, and to decrease negative cultural stigmas.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director and Malawi Board of Directors hire qualified persons to teach our program sessions. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Higher Education Prep Program



Flora, EKARI beneficiary since 2011

## Outcome:

Students receive a higher education

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$4,200**

**\$200** provides for costs associated with applying to colleges and trade schools for 1 student

**\$175** provides for 1 student's coaching session

## THE NEED

University coaching prepares qualifying high school graduates for the annual University of Malawi entrance exam. In 2012, one of the most intelligent and hard working students part of the EKARI Foundation took the entrance exam without the benefit of university coaching and explained how difficult the exam was because he simply did not know what to expect and that his education alone had not prepared him for the exam. Each year thousands of students qualify for the University of Malawi entrance exam in a very competitive environment – too many students, not enough universities. Many cannot afford the costs associated with applying for a higher education. Without the benefit of university coaching, the likelihood that a student will attend university is very low.

*"After passing my high school exam, I always wanted to go to university coaching, but could not because the classes were conducted in the big cities, which I and my fellow students could not attend due to financial problems. The EKARI Foundation changed that."*  
Sylvia, high school graduate

## THE PROGRAM

On an annual basis, one to two months prior to the University of Malawi's examination day, the EKARI Foundation conducts a two week long university coaching session in Phalombe to prepare students to confidently answer questions on the university entrance exam. The session is open to students outside of the EKARI Foundation for a minimal fee, while students part of EKARI are fully supported by the program. Experienced lecturers and/or graduates from the University of Malawi focus on numerical, reasoning, and language skills as well as provide guidance regarding students' future career choices. In addition, the EKARI Foundation covers costs associated with applying to other colleges and trade schools in Malawi including transport, meals, and accommodations.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

In January 2013, 20 students attended our first annual university coaching session; including four students supported by the EKARI Foundation. Through our University Coaching Program, it is our goal that each of the students part of EKARI would be given the best possible chance to continue their education at a higher level.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director and Malawi Board of Directors hire qualified persons to teach our coaching sessions as well as provide daily supervision as needed. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Computer Program



Esnart, EKARI beneficiary since 2011

## Outcome:

Students gain practical knowledge useful within the workforce in Malawi

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$3,900**

**\$100** provides for a computer instructor's stipend for 2 weeks

**\$50** feeds 1 participating student for 2 weeks

## THE NEED

In Malawi, it is typical for students to wait an entire year or more between the completion of secondary school and the start of a higher education. During this 'transition year' many students have no positive activities to participate in and often lose interest in their education and/or become involved in troublesome activities. Students are provided very few opportunities to learn about computers in primary or secondary school and know that computer skills are crucial in our global environment and are needed to obtain gainful employment in Malawi.

*"I have to pay my classmates to type documents, print reports, and access information on the internet even though the computers are available at our school for free because I do not know how to use a computer."*

Laston, college student

## THE PROGRAM

Starting in September 2013 students will learn productivity tools and word processing software basics as well as the use of the internet. The program will last from September to November each year leaving time for our students to participate in our University Coaching Program. Students are provided with accommodation and nutritious meals during the program.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goal is that students supported by the EKARI Foundation will participate in positive activities during their transition year and gain practical knowledge useful within the workforce in Malawi.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director oversees the program by hiring teachers and monitoring the program in process. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Educational Field Trip Program



Charles, EKARI beneficiary since 2009

## Outcome:

Students' gain firsthand information and practical knowledge to enhance their classroom education

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$1000**

**\$100** provides for the cost of transportation for 4 students

**\$50** provides for the cost of food and admission fees for 20 students

## THE NEED

Many students have never had the opportunity to travel outside of Phalombe to learn about their country or experience firsthand what they are learning in the classroom. Students in Malawi rarely experience educational field trips due to lack of funds. Many have never seen animals such as elephant, zebra, or hippo that are native to Malawi nor have they seen Lake Malawi, the 8<sup>th</sup> largest lake in the world that they learn about in school.

## THE PROGRAM

Once a year, during the school break from July to August, students take a day trip to places such as the Liwonde National Park to see animals or to the Ilovo Sugar Company to see how sugar cane is processed into sugar. Once every four years students take an overnight trip to the Fisheries Department near Lake Malawi or to Lilongwe, Malawi's capital. The program not only allows our students to gain knowledge about their country and complements their classroom studies with real life experiences, but also simply allows our students to take a break from their daily lives and have fun.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our first annual educational field trip in 2012 was a success. All of our students visited the Liwonde National Park and took a ferry ride across the Shire River Dam. Our goal is that our students' gain firsthand information and practical knowledge to enhance their classroom education.

*"The trips are successful in the way that we see and learn about a lot of things that we never thought to see with our own eyes."*

Patricia, high school student

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director and Board of Directors plan the trip in advance based on suggestions from our students and escort our students the day of the trip. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Apprenticeship Program



Monica, EKARI beneficiary since 2012

**Outcome:**  
EKARI graduates receive relevant and sustainable employment

**Annual Funding Amount:**  
**\$1,750**

**\$600** supports one student for one year

## THE NEED

Many youth in Malawi experience challenges finding employment upon graduation from a higher education due to limited job opportunities (~2,000 jobs created annually per 20,000 university graduates), resources, and experience. The Malawi government no longer places graduates in government job positions to the extent that it did in the past. Volunteer opportunities at government and non-government organizations exist, but are unpaid positions.

## THE PROGRAM

EKARI connects our graduates with open volunteer/apprenticeship positions at Malawi organizations and provides funds for accommodation, meals, and transport during their time as a volunteer – typically three to six months. EKARI supports our graduates for up to another 6 months by providing assistance with resume distribution and interview preparation.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goal is that each of our graduates will obtain steady and relevant employment. We established the program in July 2014. With EKARI's support Laston volunteered with the Farmer's Forum for Trade and Social Justice in Malawi and gained employment after a 6 month apprenticeship! Three more students recently graduated and are now participating in the program.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director and Program Coordinator assist our graduates with every step of this program, thus providing daily oversight. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Student Loan Program



Alice, EKARI beneficiary since 2011

**Outcome:**  
Self-reliant youth who depend upon themselves and no longer require EKARI's support

**Annual Funding Amount:**  
**\$750**

**\$375** provides one loan to support one student

## THE NEED

The Malawi government does not provide individuals working in government subsidized jobs, such as public school teachers, with a paycheck for sometimes up to six months of employment. A majority of youth seeking government subsidized employment are assigned jobs far away from their homes and therefore need funds for accommodation, food, transport, and basic necessities. It is difficult for these youth to obtain a loan from the bank and/or are forced to pay very high interest rates.

## THE PROGRAM

The program provides students supported by EKARI Foundation who have graduated from college with a small loan in order to survive until they receive their first paycheck. We ask that students fill out an application and provide a funding plan, which includes how they will spend the loan and repay it. We charge a low interest rate of 10%.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goal is that our students will be able to support themselves when they receive employment. We launched the program in 2014 by loaning Raphael and Lazarous – primary school teachers – \$325 each. They were able to purchase dress shirts, pants, shoes, and a tie to wear in their classrooms and were able to support themselves for six months prior to receiving their first paycheck. They have paid back their loans fully including 10% interest.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director and Malawi Board of Directors oversees the loan application process. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.



*Gift, EKARI beneficiary since 2009*

### Outcome:

Healthy students who are able to focus on their studies

### Annual Funding Amount:

**\$1000**

**\$25** provides for two typical hospital visits

**\$50** provides 5 mosquito bed nets

## Medical Fund

### THE NEED

Many students suffer from malaria, bacterial infections, and ongoing health problems throughout the school year. Local health clinics offer free medical care through the Malawi government, but these clinics are often overpopulated and doctors are scarce. For serious health issues, students must go to a local hospital that charges fees.

### THE PROGRAM

Our Medical Fund is a reserve fund that is available to all students throughout the school year who require care at a hospital. In addition, we provide each student supported by EKARI with a mosquito bed net.

### IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goal is that students supported by EKARI Foundation will receive the proper healthcare that they deserve. In early 2013 Gift Maondo was bitten by a rabid dog. Medication for rabies' cases for humans is scarce in Malawi, but medication was found at a rural hospital nearby Gift's school. The cost was ~\$100. Without support from EKARI, Gift would not have received the medication and would have died from rabies.

### PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director escorts students to the hospital and pays their bills. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Bedding and Luggage Fund



*Promise, EKARI beneficiary since 2014*

## Outcome:

Improved health and safety for EKARI beneficiaries

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$2,500**

**\$10** provides a school bag

**\$30** covers the cost of a large, heavy, and well-made blanket

**\$35** provides a medium sized suitcase

## THE NEED

Students' families cannot afford the cost of bedding, luggage, or a school bag. Students must provide their own bedding while attending school. Many students suffer from recurring illnesses because they sleep directly on dirty mattresses or on the floor without blankets. A majority of students supported by EKARI attend schools far from their homes and need a small suitcase and school bag to safely and securely transport their belongings to and from school.

## THE PROGRAM

Through the program, EKARI Foundation provides bedding to all new students as well as a new school bag and luggage every two years to each student.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our goal is to greatly reduce illness among our students and reduce theft of our students' belongings. The rate of illness among our students was reduced by 25% during the first year after the inception of the program.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director and Program Coordinator oversees the program by purchasing and distributing all items. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Adult Literacy Program



## Outcome:

Increased adult literacy levels within Phalombe

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$1800**

**\$100** provides 10 instructor stipends for one month

**\$50** provides supplies for 25 adult learners

## THE NEED

Per a 2010 census, only 74.8% of the Malawian population was literate – 81.1% male and 68.5% female – as compared to 99% of the U.S. population. Many nonprofit organizations working in Phalombe acknowledge that adult illiteracy represents the greatest challenge in their efforts to conduct sustainable and empowering development work. For instance, it is difficult for a nonprofit organization to teach an adult who cannot write his/her own name or complete a simple math problem how to run a small business. Adult illiteracy slows the overall development of developing countries such as Malawi.

*“My life has been full of challenges because I did not have the opportunity to learn how to read and to write.”*

Noel, adult community member

## THE PROGRAM

The EKARI Foundation will partner with the local government in Phalombe to conduct 10 new adult literacy classes starting in 2014. In accordance with Malawi’s National Adult Literacy Program, the local government currently manages approximately 200 adult literacy classes in the Phalombe district, but has a goal of 300. The EKARI Foundation will provide funds for an instructor orientation as well as monthly stipends for 10 new volunteer instructors and supplies for adult learners. In addition to the standard government curriculum, which includes reading, writing, and arithmetic, the EKARI Foundation will focus on everyday life issues within the community, provide emotional support to adult learners, and promote literacy of the entire family by encouraging adults to get involved with their children’s schoolwork.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

Our current goal is to increase adult literacy levels within Phalombe.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi In-Country Director will work with Phalombe’s local government to determine where the new adult literacy classes are most needed. Our In-Country Director will then oversee and monitor the new instructor orientation as well as the classes. Our U.S. Executive Director will conduct assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.

# Sustainable Livelihoods Program



*Bwanaisa Bakery Cooperative, EKARI beneficiaries since 2014*

## Outcome:

Self-reliant communities who depend upon themselves and no longer require EKARI's support

## Annual Funding Amount:

**\$7000**

**\$50** provides 1.5 days of financial literacy training for 10 community members

**\$100** provides agricultural or vocational training for 3 community members

## THE NEED

Our students' families desire to provide an education, nutrition, and basic necessities for their children without support from EKARI Foundation, but do not have the capital and resources to be able to do so. Currently, on average, the yield from our students' families' gardens only provide enough food to sustain the family for four to six months of the year.

## THE PROGRAM

First, EKARI assists in the formation of Village Savings and Loan groups within our students' communities. We then partner with the local government to provide access to financial literacy, agricultural, and vocational training as well as cooking classes. EKARI then provides the necessary resources for the groups to start small businesses and requires that the groups payback 25% of the start-up costs. Once a group has a solid operating business, has paid back their portion of the start-up costs, and is ready to expand, EKARI connects the groups to larger loans from reputable Microfinance Institutions.

## IMPACT AND GOALS

It is our goal that our students' families – two to three years subsequent to receiving training and starting a business – would be able to financially support their student alongside EKARI Foundation, thus decreasing the family's dependency on EKARI and increasing their self sufficiency.

## PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Our Malawi team works directly with the local government to schedule the training and visits the field monthly to monitor and evaluate the program. Our U.S. Executive Director conducts assessments of the program through an annual monitoring and evaluation trip.



*Jenipher, EKARI beneficiary since 2012*

### **Outcome:**

Students are provided with the best possible physical learning environment

### **Annual Funding Amount:**

**\$25,000 - 100,000**

### **Phase 1: \$60,000**

\$25 will build one square foot of our community building

## **Building Program**

### **THE NEED**

We are in need of a centralized building space to house an office for our administrative oversight and management as well as classrooms to host our services. Classrooms will accommodate our Tutoring, Health Education & HIV/AIDS Awareness, Computer, and University Coaching Programs – activities that currently take place in the house and yard of our In-Country Director with poorly suited space and little shelter from the elements – as well as our Adult Literacy Program and training for our future Sustainable Livelihoods Program. In order to pay for the ongoing utility and maintenance costs of our building, we will incorporate office and conference spaces within the building for rent to professional and community organizations. The money received from the rental spaces will allow the EKARI Foundation to sustainably support the ongoing costs of our building without additional donor funds. In addition, several of our students’ school classrooms and dormitories are in need of infrastructure renovations and additions, which creates a poor physical environment that is not conducive to learning.

### **THE PROGRAM**

Phase 1 (2014): Construct a 2,500 square foot community building to house an office space for the EKARI Foundation, classrooms, and rental office spaces.

Phase 2 (2016): Renovate the existing dormitories and science labs at Phalombe Secondary School

Phases 3 & 4 (2016-18): Construct an assembly hall, library, and dormitories at Mpsa Secondary School

### **GOALS**

The overall program goal is to provide those students most in need with the best possible physical learning environment.

### **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT**

Our Malawi and U.S. Board of Directors continually receive and analyze needs assessments from our students and their school principals in order to determine the phases of the program. The EKARI Foundation plans to partner with a U.S. based nonprofit construction management organization that will provide construction management and oversight on the ground.



# **EKARI FOUNDATION**

Education • Sustainable Livelihoods

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