

March 2008

Dear Friends,

**Goods for Good is 2 years old!** It's hard to believe, but in April, Goods for Good (GFG) will celebrate its second anniversary.



GFG has provided school supplies to over 15,000 students in Malawi. Photo: Brigitte Zimmerman, 2008

During our first two years, GFG distributed almost **100 tons** of clothing, educational supplies and health and hygiene products to over **500,000 children** in Malawi and Liberia. We also expanded our team, refined our approach and established sustainable partnerships with local and international organizations. Looking forward, we hope to provide even more goods to children in need, but **we need your help to collect and deliver them!** Every dollar donated helps to lay the foundation for a healthy, safe childhood and a bright future for the children we serve.

#### **GFG IS GROWING**

Goods for Good is thrilled to announce the grand opening of our new headquarters in Lilongwe, Malawi and the hiring of Aaron Lewani, Malawi Program Officer. Aaron brings with him over five years of experience working with Malawi-based nonprofits and he will help us establish a permanent presence in the region by expanding our programs and local partnerships. **Takulandirani Aaron!** ("Welcome" in Chichewa).

#### **GOODS ON THE MOVE**

Our first shipment of 2008 has set sail! Almost 2 tons of clothing and 500 bottles of antibacterial soap left our warehouse and are on their way to the children at Consol Homes and Tiyambe Nawo. The soap, donated by Pfizer, will help hundreds of orphans and their families stay clean, and healthy and the outfits, donated by The Children's Place, will ensure that 5,700 children have quality clothing that they can feel proud of.

#### **TEACHING AND LEARNING TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS**

Despite providing free primary education for all children, Malawi has one of the highest dropout rates in Southern Africa. Teachers and students surveyed by Goods for Good explained that a lack of teaching and learning materials is one of the primary contributors to high dropout rates and low education standards.

In response, GFG has developed the **Teaching and Learning Tools for Schools** program to support children and their teachers. In partnership with Africare and St. Mary's Rehabilitation Centre, GFG has distributed pens to over 15,000 students at 22 rural public schools. The program is already having a positive effect: one school reported that, after the pens were given out, attendance across the school increased and teacher morale greatly improved.



Fabric provided by Goods for Good is used in Consol Homes' vocational training program. Photo: Melissa Kushner 2007

#### **FROM ONE SCHOOL TO ANOTHER**

In an effort to address the challenges teachers in Malawi face as a result of a lack of material resources, Goods for Good has also launched the **Teacher Supply Closet Initiative**. This Initiative supports teachers in Malawi by

providing them with the educational and creative materials needed to enhance their lessons and improve the learning environment. Students and teachers in the United States collect and donate new/unused goods through supplies drives at their schools, and in the process, learn more about the culture, history and challenges of their peers in Malawi. Goods for Good supports the supplies drive by providing informational materials on our organization and the communities we serve.

To find out how you can sponsor a **Teacher Supply Closet** goods drive, please visit the **Volunteer** page on our website or contact us directly at [info@goodsforgoodinternational.org](mailto:info@goodsforgoodinternational.org) or (212) 957-2144 x15.

Last fall, GFG piloted the program at one school in Malawi where we provided teachers with educational and creative supplies contributed by the third grade class at the Abraham Joshua

Heschel School in New York. The pilot program has been a resounding success with the school reporting improved student and teacher motivation and commitment.

In February, Melissa Kushner introduced the new the **Teacher Supply Closet Initiative** to 70 schoolteachers at the Nebraska Symposium, "Bringing the World to Your Classroom". The event was organized by the Nebraska Department of Education and the Malaika Foundation, which was founded by GFG board member, Dr. Natalie Hahn. Visit the **News** page on our website to hear Melissa's keynote speech.

### THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The partnerships established during our 6 months in Malawi have helped Goods for Good develop sustainable programs that will have a lasting impact in the lives of at-risk children. Since December, GFG has distributed almost **4 tons of clothing, fabric and educational supplies** to community based organizations, orphan care centers and schools.

#### Partnerships in Action

The Children's Place has supported our work from the very beginning and we continue to be overwhelmed by their generosity. This month they came through for us once again with enough beautiful new clothing and much needed school bags to improve the lives of over 6,000 children!

In December, Goods for Good distributed new Children's Place outfits to over 1,300 children served by our partners Tiyambe Nawo and St. Mary's. We also contributed 3,500 yards of fabric, donated by Star Garments, to our partner Consol Homes for their vocational program that trains adolescent orphans to become tailors. So far, the trainees have used the fabric to create more than 300 school uniforms for orphans. With many more children in need, GFG will continue to support the important programming at Consol Homes through ongoing donations of fabric, clothing and health and hygiene supplies.

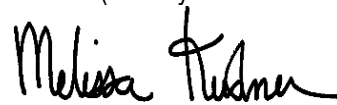
#### Say AAAAH!

In January, Dr. Linda Stone, a dentist from New Jersey and friend of GFG, traveled to Malawi with her daughter Vanna and husband Michael. At St. Mary's, they taught 130 orphans about oral hygiene and donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and educational toys. **Thank you for your generosity!**

### LOOKING FORWARD

As you can see, Goods for Good has grown by leaps and bounds in its first two years! We have accomplished more than we could have imagined but **your donations are crucial to our continued success**. In the coming months, with your help, we will expand our partnerships in Malawi and Liberia to reach more children in need.

On behalf of the thousands of children who benefit from our work, **Zikomo Kwambiri** (thank you in Chichewa)!



Melissa Kushner  
Founder and President