

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

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**KUWALA**  
Christian Girls School



ISSUE 04 | JUL | 24\_019

CANADIANS IN THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA | 02

DZALEKA REFUGEE CAMP | 12

VISIT TO AREA 25 HEALTH CENTRE | 20

GRADUATION 2024! | 42

## SPECIAL EDITION SERVICE TRIP 2024



**SERVICE TRIP**

# CANADIANS IN THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA

# MALAWI HOSTS THE FIRST SERVICE TRIP JUNE 2-10, 2024.

**EIGHTEEN INDIVIDUALS FROM CANADA EMBARKED ON AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME.**



■ Service trip participants. Kuwala\_2024

The week long trip had multiple activities on Campus, in the communities, and with NGOs and partners in Malawi. Many subscribers followed our journey and activity through a posted daily video blog. Let's take you on the highlights of our trip.

**Day 1:** We arrived late afternoon to warm greetings from the Kuwala Administration and loaded our suitcases, boxes, boxes, and boxes of supplies onto the truck! A good night's rest was welcome with a 7-hour time change, and approx. 30 hours of flying time and airport stopovers arriving around dinner time in Lilongwe, Malawi. Each participant travelled with one or two donated laptops and equipment for the Campus.



■ Maize mill. Kuwala\_2024

**Day 2:** The anticipation mounts as we complete the two-hour bus ride to the school. We are welcomed by singing voices and happy smiles! We take a detailed tour of the Campus, the farm, and the orchards. We see the maize mill in the operation, with village residents stopping to mill it for flour. The team unloads in the new Workshop, in the final construction stages, and begins to set up the tools, saws and equipment from DeWalt tools. Construction and projects are underway all around us. Setting up and testing the remarkable audio-visual equipment donated by a Canadian company that is now closely becoming an active partner in the work at Kuwala. A complete system of high-end equipment will allow us the opportunity to broadcast events live, teach and train long distances, meet and mentor, and provide the opportunity to bridge the distance between Canada and Malawi.

After a long day, we returned to the hotel to host a dinner meeting with delegates from US Aid and a local NGO. Ideas are shared, and the guests provide an overview of Malawi.



■ Bryan and Amber Dwyer. Kuwala\_2024

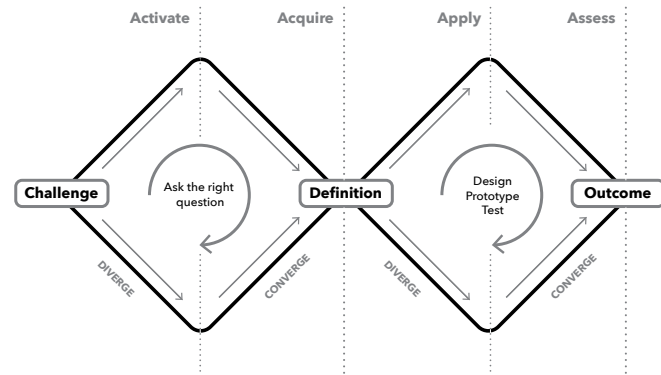
## EDUCATION COMES IN MANY FORMS.

**Bryan and Amber Dwyer spoke to the service trip participants** and shared their knowledge of how they both conducted their work in Malawi. Amber is a Peace Corps Country Director and has worked with USAID, and Bryan is an Education Foreign service officer with USAID. They work together and deepen the bonds of the global community, including the secondary schools and health centres, so that there is a sharing of cultures and an appreciation for each other.



■ DeWalt table saw installation in the workshop. Kuwala\_2024

**STEAM IS ALL ABOUT ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION - AN INQUIRY INTO WHAT COULD BE...**



■ The design model. Kuwala\_2024



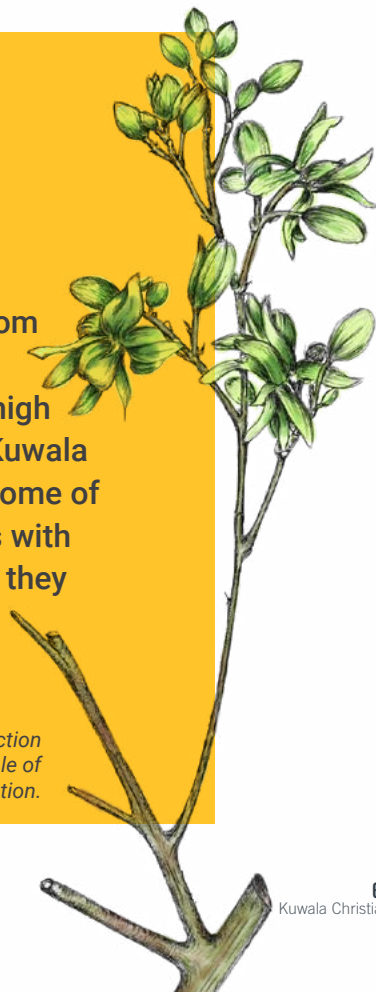
■ Margaret Murray is a Practicum Advisor with the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Education, and Darryl van Herksen is a software designer at Web Wizards and is a Kuwala board member. Kuwala\_2024

**Day 3:** Back at Kuwala, students delivered presentations and performances in the humanities, languages, and sciences. Drama, poem reading, Science, Math, and Excel demonstrations are impressive. The girls explored the art of acting by developing their skills in improvisation and presented their monologues and scenes to the audience. After lunch, the Canadian delegation provided teaching and training in handbells, keyboards, bracelet making, computer skills, and engineering to small groups of students. A teacher training seminar outlining the STEAM program creates engaging lessons integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math was one of the sessions given by two of the Canadian Board members. The innovative teaching strategies will spark curiosity and encourage creative problem-solving within a STEAM framework.

**STEAM**

The teach-the-teacher seminar discussed classroom strategies that are used in Canadian high schools and how Kuwala could implement some of the methodologies with the students when they enter projects at science fairs.

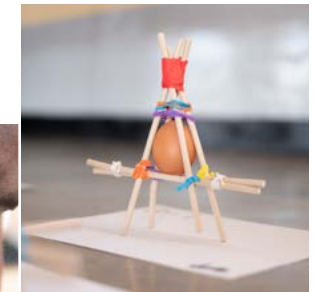
The Moringa tree production was used as an example of STEAM in action.



■ Myles Boonstra, P.Eng., Director of Environmental Sustainability and Energy - Shared Health, Manitoba. Myles is a founding member of Kuwala Christian Girls School. Kuwala\_2024

**WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD EGGS, YOU NEED AN ENGINEER.**

**Day 3.** Myles Boonstra leads, manages, and oversees energy and environmental sustainability activities across healthcare facilities and operations in Manitoba. Myles was also our service trip group leader who delivered an impactful engineering project to the Kuwala girls. What makes a good egg drop experiment? The egg drop challenge is a classic, and with STEAM, the focus is to build creativity, problem-solving skills, curiosity, and a passion for experimentation and learning. The Egg Drop Project did all these, and the girls loved the collaboration and the future career path of becoming an engineer.

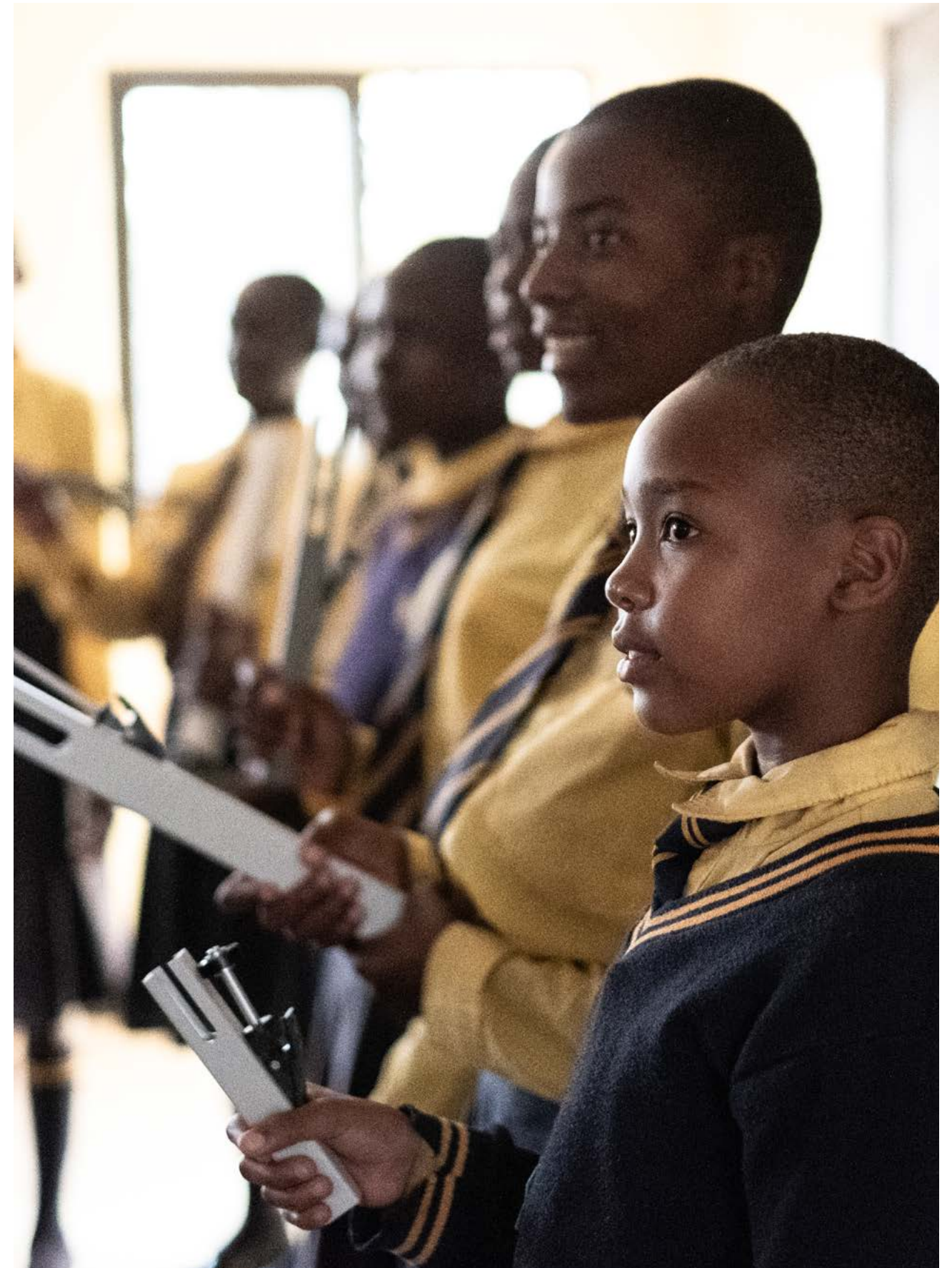




## MUSICAL CHIMES.

**A SET OF TONE CHIMES WERE DONATED FROM KARI ALFORD, DEAN OF CAMPUS LIFE AT LCBI HIGH SCHOOL AS PART OF THE SERVICE TRIP TO KUWALA.**

**Day 3.** Kari Alford is the Dean of Campus Life at LCBI High School in Outlook, Saskatchewan. Some of her various duties include leading mission trips and directing the handbell choir. So it was a dream come true to share the gift of music and playing bells while visiting Kuwala! She donated a set of tone chimes to the school, which are played similarly to traditional handbells and provide a soft, heartwarming, and incredible sound. Kari led groups of students in learning the basics of reading music, playing the chimes as a group, and taking a song they already sang and playing it on the chimes. We hope this will become a new and cherished addition to the beautiful music shared at Kuwala!



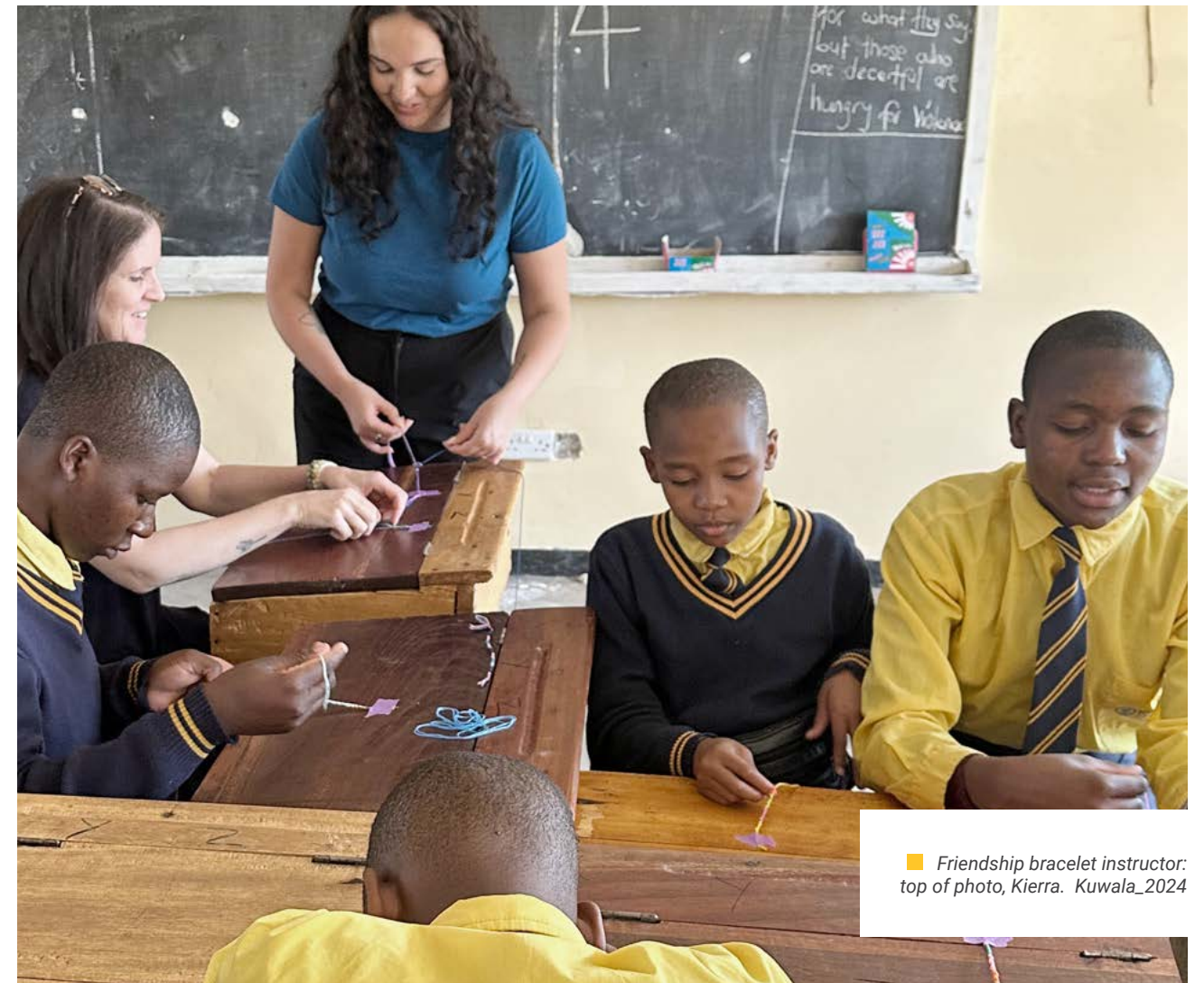


■ Friendship bracelet instructors: Inset image: Karissa Far left: Summer, and Sara far right. Kuwala\_2024

# THREADS ACROSS THE OCEAN.

**FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS NOW BRIDGE CANADA AND MALAWI.**

**Day 3.** A bond under the shade of trees, a beautiful exchange unfolded. Our Canadian girls, carrying colorful threads shared the art of weaving friendship bracelets with their Malawian counterparts. These bracelets, simple yet profound, symbolize the bonds of friendship that transcend borders and cultures. Each knot and pattern woven is a testament to the connection, trust, and shared experiences between the girls. As they laughed and learned together, they not only created beautiful pieces of jewelry but also forged relationships, proving that the threads of friendship can indeed bridge oceans and unite hearts across the world.



■ Friendship bracelet instructor: top of photo, Kierra. Kuwala\_2024



## DID YOU KNOW?

Friendship bracelets are believed to have originated from Indigenous peoples in Central and South America, particularly among the Indigenous cultures of Guatemala. These bracelets were made using traditional knotting techniques that have been passed down through generations. The act of making and exchanging these bracelets became a symbol of solidarity and friendship, spreading across different cultures and countries.

SPECIAL REPORT

# DZALEKA REFUGEE CAMP.

## A PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITED NATIONS AND THE MALAWI GOVERNMENT.

**Day 4.** The group toured a Malawi Refugee Camp and met with a representative from the United Nations and the Malawi Government. Malawi set up the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in 1994 to accommodate about 12,000 people. Today, it hosts more than 56,000 refugees from Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, and Ethiopia. Over the years, the refugee camp has evolved from a temporary settlement into a more permanent community, with refugees establishing businesses, schools, and other essential services. An average of 100 babies are born in the camp each month, and 200 new refugees arrive monthly.



■ UNHCR Officer, overlooking the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi. Home to 56,000 refugees. Kuwala\_2024



SPECIAL REPORT

## THERE IS HOPE.

**PROVIDING QUALITY VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO REFUGEES SO THEY CAN RE-ENTER THE WORK FORCE.**

**Day 4.** After seeing the Dzaleka refugee camp the group heads back on the bus and visits “**There Is Hope,**” a Malawian non-governmental organization (NGO) providing refugees of the camp, as well as their Dowa host community, with access to education and income generating activities to strengthening their spiritual well-being from being displaced. There Is Hope’s vision is to see them escape poverty and become self-reliant.



There Is Hope (NGO) vocational staff teaches skills that prepare the students for jobs and financial independence. The Vocational Center now offers sewing, tailoring & design classes, welding, carpentry, plumbing, electronics, and bricklaying. The training prepares students for the future.





## SUPPORTING DISPLACED PEOPLE AMIDST GLOBAL CHALLENGES.

■ *There Is Hope*, woodworking classroom block. Kuwala\_2024

In today's world, political instability has forced countless individuals to flee their homes due to emergencies and disasters. Many find refuge in large camps where essential environmental health measures are often lacking. The displaced people include both refugees, who cross international borders to escape persecution, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), who remain within their country but are also forced to leave their homes.

### THERE IS HOPE.

At There Is Hope, they believe that true empowerment for refugees comes when they have the right to work, move freely, integrate into society, and access public education. Their mission is to advocate for changes in Malawi's legislation to grant these rights. The NGO strives to raise national awareness about the refugee crisis. By including refugees in the workforce, the thinking is that it can



■ *There Is Hope*, masonry classroom block. Learning the art of bricklaying and making the bricks. Kuwala\_2024

help them overcome destitution and simultaneously enrich Malawi with their resilience, determination, and innovative spirit. It's more like a hand up, not a handout.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER.

Our group really witnessed significant success in the program. We have no doubts that these efforts, both from the refugee students, teachers, and



■ *There Is Hope*, sewing and tailoring classroom where men and women learn the art of using colourful fabrics. Kuwala\_2024

Malawian community experience daily positive changes. Just as Kuwala is committed to building a future where girls have the opportunity to thrive, we see tangible evidence in the field at the grassroots level. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa, but even as they struggle, there is hope and kindness. Better days are ahead.





■ Students of "There Is Hope," learning welding skills. Kuwala\_2024

SPECIAL REPORT

# GETTING IT DONE IN CLASS.

The scope of vocational training at There Is Hope is impressive. The group's first impressions were one of hope. This NGO is definitely living their vision of defining quality vocational education training to refugees and Malawian young adults, addressing gender and economic disparities, and fostering a peaceful coexistence with the community.

SPECIAL REPORT

## FEED THE FUTURE.

THE US GOVERNMENT'S GLOBAL  
HUNGER & FOOD SECURITY  
INITIATIVE :: RESILIENCE  
DEMONSTRATION SITE.



# VISIT TO AREA 25 HEALTH CENTRE: A JOURNEY INTO PERMACULTURE.

**During our visit to Area 25 Health Centre,** a women's birthing hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi, we had the privilege of meeting Afshan Omar, a Canadian permaculture designer who has been working in Malawi for the past seven years. Afshan passionately shared her insights into the holistic approach to women's health, emphasizing its deep connection to environmental health, nutrition, and the culture of permaculture.

### THE POWER OF PERMACULTURE.

Permaculture integrates land, resources, people, and the environment through mutually beneficial systems, mirroring the no-waste, closed-loop processes



■ Afshan Omar, Permaculture Designer, Lilongwe, Malawi.  
Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation, Malawi, Area  
25 Health Centre. Kuwala\_2024

found in nature. It offers holistic solutions for both rural and urban settings, encompassing agriculture, water harvesting, energy, natural building, forestry, waste management, animal systems, aquaculture, technology, economics, and community development.

### A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO HEALTH.

Afshan guided us through the permaculture gardens, explaining the belief that everyone deserves access to delicious, healthy, and nutritious food, especially pregnant women who need vital nutrients for their babies' health. The Area 25 Health Centre's permaculture gardens are a testament to sustain-

able farming, with 70% of the food prepared there being sown, grown, processed, and consumed on-site, creating an almost zero-footprint ecosystem.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SOIL HEALTH.

Afshan highlighted the critical role of soil health in overall well-being. She emphasized that sustainability is about balancing human needs with environmental health. Inspired by Afshan's enthusiasm, our team at Kuwala is eager to implement these practices on our campus farm. We are now exploring ways to improve composting, crop rotation, and biodiversity to improve soil health.



**PERMACULTURE IS ABOUT LAND USAGE. YOU NEED SHADE ZONES TO PROTECT THE SOIL AND THE FOOD CROPS.**



■ Afshan Omar, discussing the greenhouse and irrigation at Area 25 Health Centre. Kuwala\_2024



■ Worker at the greenhouse, plant nursery. Kuwala\_2024

This experience reinforced the idea that Afshan demonstrated, it's not the size of the land that matters, but the attention and care we give to nurturing it.

### **FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE RESILIENCE DEMONSTRATION SITE TOUR.**

As we were wrapping up our visit to the Resilience Demonstration Site, Afshan shared a wonderful surprise with us. She mentioned

that the women's health education at the center includes lessons on environmental health. Each woman leaving the center is given a tree to plant in her garden and a manual sewing machine. This thoughtful gesture embodies the holistic approach of permaculture, reinforcing the connection between health, the environment, and sustainable living practices. It's small changes like this that have big impact.



**WE DO NOT INHERIT THE EARTH FROM OUR ANCESTORS; WE BORROW IT FROM OUR CHILDREN.**



## BUILDING FUTURES.

**KUWALA IS EXPANDING THE STUDENT ENROLLMENT THIS FALL TO HELP WITH THE OVERWHELMING NEED TO EDUCATE GIRLS.**



Building a vocational workshop for a teenage all-girls school in Malawi is crucial for empowering young women with practical skills that can lead to sustainable livelihoods. In a region where educational and economic opportunities for girls are often limited, such a workshop can provide training in trades like sewing, carpentry, and technology. This not only enhances their employability but also fosters independence and confidence. Moreover, equipping girls with vocational skills helps bridge the gender gap in the workforce and contributes to the broader economic development of their communities. By investing in their future, we promote gender equality and create a ripple effect of positive change throughout Malawi. ■ *Workers are just about finished the workshop building and the team is putting together the new power tools for the shop. Kuwala\_2024.*



In Malawi, construction is a hands-on, manual process that might seem counterintuitive and inefficient by Western standards. However, this approach provides much-needed income and creates more jobs. Despite the manual labor involved, the construction quality matches North American standards. Kuwala buildings are built to last, using hand-mixed concrete, treated bricks, and steel roof construction with ample drainage for the rainy season. ■ *Workers pouring the floor of the third hostel. Kuwala\_2024*



## **IF YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT MALAWI, THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE.**

**MALAWI IS RURAL, AND THE PEOPLE ARE THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA.**

**Day 5:** The Service Team, in small groups, toured a local Village with one of the students from Kuwala who lives there. They met her parents and village elders and saw first-hand the challenges in remote Malawi. Most live in small villages with tiny brick houses and corrugated sheet roofs. Some villages still have clay/loam walls and reed roofing. Most villages have manual water pumps or wells.

The group toured a local community school and met teachers, staff and students. The tour of the Campus, teacher housing, and scant resources demonstrated the impoverished challenges many public schools in Malawi face. In rural areas, due to the large class sizes, which exceed sixty students, resources are extremely limited in some schools;



**TOURING A LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL REALLY SHINED A LIGHT ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN UNDER-FUNDED GOVERNMENT EDUCATION AND THE QUALITY OF KUWALA'S FACILITIES, TEACHERS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION. THE CONTRAST HIGHLIGHTS WE ARE CHANGING LIVES.**

■ Students wearing their school uniforms in the village, government sponsored school. Kuwala\_2024

some students brainstorm and share their learning while sitting in the shade outdoors. The afternoon was another opportunity for the Canadian Team to provide student service workshops. They are all eager to learn and participate. The Canadian and Malawian board members had a remarkable evening dinner meeting, exchanged many ideas, and it was a chance to reconnect and align on many of the activities around Kuwala and the business of providing quality education for teenage girls in Malawi.



■ While this government teacher had a cell phone there was no evidence of any computers at the school. All the planning, and lessons are on paper or on a blackboard. Kuwala\_2024



■ The kitchen in the public school is nothing like Kuwala's commercial kitchen. This kitchen is outdoors, and any cooking is done on an open fire. The school had no running water, and only one well for water, operated by a hand pump. Kuwala\_2024



■ Many of the schools in Malawi are poorly constructed and are dangerous. This image shows several broken roof trusses. Quite a contrast to how Kuwala's Campus is built! Kuwala\_2024



■ The living conditions in the hostels are crowded, girls sleep on old mattresses on the floor, with no electricity or running water. Shelter was little more than a roof and walls. Kuwala\_2024

# SPORTS DAY



## LET'S GET PHYSICAL.

**Day 6:** The trip is on its second last day and the day is about fun, with a little bit of competitive spirit. Saturday is Sports Day at Kuwala, and having us there to visit only provided the opportunity to have us join in the fun! From traditional favourites like sack and bottle races, Bikoko, relay races, and musical chairs to the lively soccer game in which the teachers also participated. There was a lot of cheering, clapping, singing, and chanting. The girls encouraged and cooperated remarkably with each other, allowing us to interact socially with the girls and their teachers and promote positive physical activity. It was a day filled with exciting activities, laughter, and unforgettable memories.





# SPORTS

# A DAY OF THANKS.

## A RAISING OF HEARTS AND HANDS.

**Day 7:** Our last day on Campus before the group departs. Sunday in Malawi is a day for Worship! The morning service brought together the entire school, workers, teachers and their families. It was a beautiful morning of singing, worship and a sermon from a local Pastor. Mixing and mingling with the students and staff at a delicious luncheon provided for us at St. Peter's Hall was delightful. The afternoon was a live broadcast of a joint worship service from Kuwala that connected with several Canadians. The final goodbye on Sunday was heartfelt and emotional. There were hugs, tears, group photos and a promise to continue in partnership!

One impactful week, we engaged the hearts and minds of a small group of Canadians. During our time together, we have brought hope and encouragement to a school of girls desperate for change and a brighter future. This transformational experience will unite partnerships to help Kuwala, communities, and the country grow and thrive. We are thankful for our new partners and those who support and pray for Kuwala Christian Girls School. As the saying goes, Malawi is truly the Warm Heart of Africa!



## A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND PARTICIPANTS THAT MADE THIS SERVICE TRIP MEMORABLE.

**THERE WERE SEVERAL DONATIONS OF EQUIPMENT THAT MADE THIS EXPERIENCE TRANSFORMATIONAL FOR THE PARTICIPANTS AND ALSO MEMORABLE FOR THE KUWALA STAFF & STUDENTS.**



■ Live streaming of our Sunday service would not have been possible without a donation of equipment from Fifty North Events. Kuwala\_2024

**Fifty North Events**, an audiovisual equipment supplier in Winnipeg, Manitoba, made it possible to have a live link for the Sunday worship service and the graduation dinner held on July 19th by donating all the technology equipment; including cameras, projector, microphones, speakers and hours on the phone walking us through the maze of cords and adapters. They have been tremendous partners guiding our ability to live stream to Canada using Starlink®.

Special thanks for the donation of musical chimes by **Kari Alford**, Dean of Campus Life at LCBI High School in Outlook, Saskatchewan. There was also a keyboard donation by **Tom and Linda Brook**, from Manitoba along with a music lesson for the girls. Lastly, a big thanks goes to our beekeeper **Carissa Schmidt**, from Saskatchewan who donated bee equipment and protective clothing.

## A SPECIAL DEDICATION.

### BUILDING HOMES, INSPIRING FUTURES: ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S DEDICATION OF BETHANY HOUSE.

The congregation of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, has once again extended its generous support to the community in Malawi. After funding the construction of St. Peter's Hall, Teacher Residence Number One, and now Teacher Residence Number Two, known as Bethany House, their commitment to education and community shines brightly. Bethany House stands as a symbol of rest and refreshment for the dedicated educators who will call it home. This teacher's duplex is built to the highest standards, offering a message to the two teachers who will soon move in: **"Take care of the home and make it your own, as a place where inspiration and learning flourish."**

**Jerry Roehr**, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Note:** *Kuwala is approximately 40 km from Lilongwe but that translates to 1.5 hours by vehicle, and that's in good weather, and a dry dirt road. Having teachers stay on site has many benefits, including a better work/life balance.*



■ Jerry Roehr of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church dedicating the new staff duplex housing. Kuwala\_2024



## A PRODUCTIVE DAY, IS PRE-DETERMINED THE NIGHT BEFORE.

### ONE OF THE FINEST BOUTIQUE HOTELS IN LILONGWE, MALAWI IS LATITUDE 13.

You'll find Latitude 13° nestled in the leafy lanes on the northern edge of Malawi's capital city, Lilongwe. The hotel is approximately 10 minutes from downtown and 20 minutes from Kamuzu International airport.

Impressive was the amount of authentic curated original artworks form huge centrepieces in lobbies, ornate hand beaded textiles adorn the stylish bedrooms and funky recycled furniture really pushes the boundaries of local materials. The hotel is a true ambassador for emerging African talent.

After a long day, this was the perfect hotel. Great food, wonderful staff and every corner of this hotel was comfy. If you believe the rumours, Michelle Obama, Melinda French Gates, and Amal Clooney stayed here earlier this year for their End Child Marriage work. [Latitude 13.](#)



# A GIVING OF THANKS



2024 FAREWELL DINNER TO THE CANADIANS  
PRISCA – FORM 4 GRADUATE 2024  
POEM PRESENTATION



We've been through highs and  
lows, breaking a bunch of rules.

You still stand beside us, in Madam  
Director's arms our trust we put.

You are with us when we are down;  
you pick us up.

You brought us here hoping we should  
walk to the cause we sit. You are one in  
a million, a scholarly treasure.

Being part of your class was a genuine  
pleasure. The knowledge you shared is  
indeed beyond measure.

That is why, dear teachers, we are  
grateful forever. Correcting us when  
went wrong, helping us in every way.

Always encouraging us to do our best,  
there is only one of you, our Director.

As we step outside, continue to be  
by our side.

All will miss Kuwala, but have hope that  
we will visit you at a particular hour.

**Thank you.**



**MORTARBOARDS OFF!  
CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2024.**

**SPREAD YOUR WINGS!  
FAREWELL TO OUR  
FORM 4 STUDENTS.**

# GRADUATION: A FAREWELL TO FORM 4 BUT ALSO A WELCOME OF NEW GIRLS.

## THE END OF JULY BRINGS TO A CLOSE ANOTHER BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF LEARNING AT KUWALA.

This year's Form 4 students began writing their National Exams the first week in July. National Exams culminate all the concepts and material learned in almost every subject for the entire year. So much preparation, long study hours, group study, one-on-one teacher time and mock exams occur well before the National Exams. This focused preparation time is crucial to better prepare the students for the timed exams at Kuwala under the supervision of the Examiner and security personnel. The results from the National Exams are published about eight weeks after completing all areas.

Kuwala hosted a Farewell Dinner on July 19th. The administration, the Kuwala Malawian Board Members, and the teachers and staff at Kuwala were in attendance to congratulate the Form 4 students. The event was live broadcast to allow the Kuwala Canadian Board members to congratulate the students in person!

One of the Form 4 students, Doreen, spoke humbly and eloquently about her time at Kuwala and how much her experience, living and learning on Campus, has and will continue to change her life! The journey has been highly memorable and full of good times, laughs, and hard work. The students of Form 4 had a motto they followed all year; "Aspire to inspire before you expire." Their smiles and contagious energy show they achieved their goal!



■ Form 4 Grads of 2024. Kuwala\_2024

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** goes out to all the sponsors who continue to sponsor a student at Kuwala. Without your support, these girls may not have had the opportunity to be selected to learn at Kuwala. These students come from very impoverished backgrounds, and having the continued commitment of Sponsors like you makes a girl's future bright!

**Consider spreading the word to your family, friends, congregation, and workplace about how \$1500.00 a year can change one student's life at Kuwala. This donation is 100% valued for a full tax receipt. We have sponsors who sign up for a recurring monthly donation of \$125.00 on [CanadaHelps](#) or others who donate directly to Kuwala for the year's \$1500.00 donation.**

Sponsors who commit to the \$1500.00 a year will receive a new student yearly. The sponsorship covers many school-year expenses from September to July.

We also value and thank all the many sponsorship supporters who do not receive an assigned student but rather support the student sponsorship program through their donations.

Sign up at [Kuwala.org](#) to follow our newsletter, published every second month and provides colourful photos and heartwarming stories from the field—share, like, and follow Kuwala on our social media sites, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Together, we will significantly impact the education and futures of young girls with no other options in life. Together, we will bring hope and light to communities in Malawi. Kuwala girls SHINE!

# CLASS OF 2024

KUWALA MEANS SHINE.  
SHINE ON GIRLS.



SHAKIRA



GEORGINA



SEKINA



IVY



CECILIA



EMILY



CECILIA



PRISCA



FAITH



DARLESS



DUWINA



MARTHA



LYDIA



YANKHO



DOREEN



RUTH



SYLVIA



RIHANAH



IREEN



ANNETTE



VANESSA



EL-SHADDAI



DEZIDERATAH



VANESSAH







# CLASS OF 2024

**KUWALA MEANS SHINE.  
SHINE ON GIRLS.**



ZAIPA



REBECCA



TEREZA



MARTHA



LODGES



SARAH



CHISOMO



JAQUELINE





## TICKLING THE KEYS.

### A GIFT OF MUSIC, DONATED BY TOM AND LINDA BROOK.



**Empowering girls to play a musical instrument**, like the keyboard, opens up a world of creativity and confidence. Linda Brook, a resident of Manitoba was the music mentor of the trip surrounded by eager girls, each one captivated by the sounds from the keys. Beyond lessons, she led them during joint worship service, showing how music can be a powerful tool for connection and expression. Through her guidance, these young girls learned the value, and the strength of adding instruments to their singing.



■ Carissa Schmidt featured right donated protective clothing and beekeeping equipment. Memory Mdyetseni, Kuwala's Director featured right shown how the equipment works in a live demonstration at the hive. Kuwala\_2024

## BEEKEEPERS.

### WHERE THERE ARE BEES, THERE IS HONEY.

**Kuwala has started beekeeping.** Thanks to a generous donation of protective bee clothing and equipment from Carissa Schmidt, a dedicated beekeeper from Saskatchewan. Carissa's contribution ensures that staff and students can safely engage in this valuable activity, learning essential skills and the importance of bees in our ecosystem.

Beekeeping provides hands-on learning about nature and agriculture while fostering responsibility and environmental stewardship. It teaches students the crucial role bees play in pollination and food production, potentially offering income through honey sales. This initiative promotes sustainability and self-sufficiency, empowering students with knowledge and skills that benefit their community.





■ From Left to Right: Rachel, Sara (Knutson's youngest daughter), and Mark, wife Kristi-inset image. Kuwala\_2024

■ Doreen, from Winnipeg with Gabriel from Malawi having a QuickBook's moment. Kuwala\_2024

## THE KNUTSONS WERE ALL OVER THE CAMPUS!

**Mark and Kristi** spent time in the classroom teaching advanced Excel®, and then joined Rachel, the Farm Manager, in the field to consult on permaculture. They practice these techniques on Mark's brothers' farm in Saskatchewan. In future editions of the newsletter, Mark will share insights on introducing better composting and crop management ideas. He and Rachel will work collaboratively to enrich the soil and improve farm management practices.

## ACCOUNTANTS LOOKING OVER THE BOOKS.

**Doreen Lecuyer**, a professional accountant from Winnipeg, met with Gabriel, Kuwala's bookkeeper and financial manager, to provide coaching and support. They are transitioning to an online accounting system to enhance tracking and reporting of financial transactions. This change will enable seamless collaboration between Canada and Malawi, including real-time online document signing. Who said Accounting can't be fun!

## OFFICIAL TRIP VIDEOGRAPHER

■ At home with her GoPro, Leslie Kinzel. Kuwala\_2024



## CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER: REFLECTING ON THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERING AT KUWALA.

*\_Opinion by Margaret Murray & Darryl van Herksen, Canadian delegation.*

Volunteering to embark on a service trip is a purpose-driven experience that enabled us to see with our own eyes the challenges Malawian girls face growing up in Malawi. Our trip centred around visiting the Campus, talking with the students, and putting on a Teach-the-Teacher seminar on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) to share with Malawian teachers how Canadian students are being taught.

Unforgettable moments from the cultural exchange and service learning are the lessons we will remember for a long time to come. The smiles on the girls' faces truly resonated with us, they were so happy. While at the Campus, one highlight was getting to know students, and on the last day, some students performed for us and sang. In those stolen moments under a tree, these girls sang their words with joy and vibrancy. This is how they choose to live: with happiness.

Taking a service trip abroad has several positive outcomes. One week spent volunteering on a meaningful project and immersed in the local way of life provided an authentic insight into African culture and allowed us to connect with the greater purpose while back in Canada. We found a purpose in meeting these outstanding high school girls, and if everyone lends a hand, we can move mountains together.

Many volunteers and donors have invested significant time, money, and effort to make Kuwala what it is today: a happy learning place for teenage girls who would otherwise face financial barriers.

Our visit left us with a profound appreciation for the dedication of the teachers at Kuwala. Their commitment to their students was evident, especially when we compared it to a local, government-funded school. The differences in school conditions, living environments, and quality of education were striking, which leads us to make the statement that anyone donating time or money to support Kuwala is making an immediate and huge difference. We can't change the world overnight, but we can today change the lives of 158 enrolled students, and that's a start.



# TILL WE MEET AGAIN ON THE ROAD...



# ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A SPORTS TEAM OR A CHURCH YOUTH GROUP?



Are you planning a golf tournament, or are you a Church congregation looking for an International Mission? Please consider Kuwala if you are planning an event. Becoming a partner in fundraising to support an all girl's school in Africa makes a measurable difference in the students' lives when there is no other option for education. We would be happy to have a discussion. Check out our website at [Kuwala.org](http://Kuwala.org) or connect with us at [info@kuwala.org](mailto:info@kuwala.org)

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