MALAWI 2018
FULBRIGHT SERVICE CORPS: PATHWAYS TO PEACE

**Pathways to Peace**

**Sustainability**
We focused on Sustainability through Tree Planting. This is a key step to mitigating deforestation in Malawi.

Additional contributions and promotions provided from a song written by Jack Allison, *Pathways to Peace*.

**Global Health**
Providing FREE Menstrual Hygiene Kits that enable Girls to stay in school. Thereby:
- Aiding in increasing graduation rates from high school, since attendance is down 20%-25% each month due to lack of supplies

**International Education**
**Public Awareness Campaign:** Recording new songs including “Girls Not Brides” as part of a larger, sustained effort to empower Girls and Young Women in Malawi and give them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

**W.A.S.H.**
Our focus is on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene issues. Collectively, we have now pre-invested over $100,000 through the Fulbright Association as part of the Scoping work and getting started in our Model Village concept.
WHO WE ARE...

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

In particular our diverse group included two African American Women who are both professors, a strong and positive role model for Malawian girls we met along the way. We had two teenagers who agreed to help leverage their own youth networks in America through DECA, Model U.N. and other groups at their High School, in collaboration with YONECO to further some of the common goals of this trip. We had seasoned hands of two Peace Corp Alums and a seasoned musician/producer to aide in recording musical jingles. We also had one sustainability solutions expert/entrepreneur and one native son whose initial work through Mercer University’s Mercer on Mission program seeded the efforts which build upon Mercer’s good work before us.

ZIKOMO (THANK YOU) TO OUR HOST PARTNERS, LEAD SEA AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO PROFESSOR SOSTEN CHIOtha!!!

- Jack, Jacob, Kim, Sienna, Nora, Jessica, Joya, Jim, Lance, Renée and Zipa!

Breaking Bread and Beginning the Journey...

In early July, eleven participants entered Lilongwe, Malawi with excitement, compassion, cultural diplomacy and energy! A fierce group representing various demographics and skillsets. We ranged in age from 12yrs to 74yrs. We had professors, retired physicians, entrepreneurs, youth network leaders, musicians, and much more, including both Peace Corps and Fulbright Alums.

Top Row: Jack Allison, Jacob Lee Butler, Kim David Eger, Sienna Eger, Nora Ann Fahim, Jessica Hicks; Bottom Row: Joya Carter-Hicks, Jim Hunt, Lance Klass, Renée M.E. Pratt, and Zipangani Vokhiwa
KACHITSA COMMUNITY BASED CHILD CARE CENTRE (C.B.C.C.C.)
STRONG TEACHERS, STRONG COMMUNITY, STRONG LEADERSHIP

We visited Kachitsa Community Based Child Care Centre in Salima, Malawi. We were welcomed with dance and song by the school teachers. They provided a brief history of the school’s evolution.

We spoke to the President and Secretary of the school, who informed us they were two of five teachers who founded and built the school from scratch, including the architecture design of it. They wanted the community to have somewhere for the children to attend classes and learning in the days. On average 302 students attend this school. The main room houses one and two year olds. The smaller rooms next door are used for 3, 4 and 5 year old children.

A unique feature of this school was its initial efforts to have a pig farm (began in 2008) and with the help of LEADs support began using pig manure to make methane to provide cooking heat to provide porridge for the children who attend. We were sad to learn that a few years ago, a terrible swine flu broke out, where 29 of 30 pigs passed away. We are happy to report that the teachers are determined to not let this stop the road to education. They are starting again, with 1 adult pig and 6 baby piglets. We look forward to hearing more about their progress once the pigs have grown large enough to truly contribute to the sustainability of power for meal creation in the community centre.

Just a few meters down the road, children at the secondary school were using water pumps to collect water for the other students. We stopped for a few minutes to watch as they pumped water and briefly chatted with them.
CONTRIBUTING TO GROWTH

TREE PLANTING

During this trip we visited the previous year's planted trees and contributed additional trees in multiple locations (Naphambo and Phalombe), also working with the Forest Research Institute of Malawi. On the previous trip, the participants were able to plant nearly 2,000 trees. Our visit this year, showed growth of those trees and an overall survival rate of 77%!

We then supplemented new trees for those which did not make it.

My First Tree Plant!
We were also blessed to have lunch with the village and visit the nearby school.

In Phalombe, we planted trees at Mileme Primary School and provided trees for planting at Chuluchosema.
International Education

MTAKATAKA KUNGONI CULTURAL CENTRE AND THE MUA MUSEUM

We were fortunate to have a wonderful opportunity to learn about culture, history, and traditions of the Malawian People. A guide at the museum enlightened us about masks, dances, and rituals enacted to

Returning to Home

JACK ALLISON, PEACE CORP ALUM

After the Cultural Centre, we briefly visited the village where Jack served in the late 1960s as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He shared with us stories of his time there and showed us the platform (seen in photo) which he built to help with a place to treat patients as they came for help.

Local Markets!

ZOMBA MARKET

On a quiet Sunday afternoon, we had the opportunity to visit a nearby local market just walking distance from Annie’s Lodge. In the market was a number of food choices - fish, spices, plant foods. Lance and Jim tried cassava, a root (a.k.a. yucca) which is considered the second most important staple crop after maize in Malawi. We also watched locals play the art of Bao, a traditional mancal board game. We also enjoyed some local

Speak Out!

MBC TV SHOW - SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

Members of our group: Prof. Zipangani Vokhiwa, Sienna Eger, Jack Allison, Kim Eger, and Prof. Sosten Chiotha (ED of LEAD SEA), participated in a 1-hour television program about how to instill Volunteerism into Malawi society.
Grace Pads is a local not-for-profit operations that provides menstrual hygiene management in Malawi and founded by Australian parent NGO “Blessing in Disguise”. Their goal and ours during the visit was to empower girls to stay in school, by having access to reusable sanitary pads.

We met with hundreds of girls and hope to boost high school graduation rates from 15% to 75%. We visited with Thabwani Primary School in Namiwawa zone (Chuluchosema) and Mileme Primary School in Phalombe District. We also met with young girls and talked about what they enjoyed about school and how they felt empowered.

We were happy to sing songs and play games, while learning from each other. Prior to receiving the menstrual hygiene management kit, the girls interacted with Grace (CEO of Grace Pads), members of the Grace Pads organization, and a Nurse who helped to explain the health impacts of a young ladies menstrual cycle.
Here are few more pictures of all of us enjoying our moments with the children!
Public Awareness Campaign

YONECO / YFM RADIO STATION

We were fortunate to have Jack Allison and Jim Hunt with us to promote our efforts through music and song. Jim Hunt (Left) and Jack Allison (Right) have collaborated musically for many years. Because of Jim, we were able to complete some recordings, despite the challenges of two out of three studios crashing while recording. They hope to continue to record some remotely by overlaying voice and instrumentals from one side of the world with that from the other.

Jack and Jim worked with the YONECO Children's Band in recording two of Jack’s original songs – ‘GIRLS NOT BRIDES’ and ‘YONECO.’ ‘GIRLS NOT BRIDES’ asks that girls and boys in Malawi not be allowed to marry before the age of 18, while ‘YONECO’ serves as a promotion for the organization itself. Both songs were recorded bilingually, with the music and English words by Jack, and the Chichewa verses written by the children themselves. Both songs were arranged and directed by Jim.

As a group we also were given a tour of the YONECO facilities and met with the Executive Director of YONECO, MacBain Mkandawire.
PURPOSE AND VISION
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION IMPACT

We began this journey in 2017, with a scoping trip. In 2018, as seen in the above photos, we focused on actual planning of future efforts for grant or funding opportunities and conducting actual action items to build a solid foundation and sample pilot information to demonstrate the work we intend to do in the future. Specifically, we hope our efforts will impact over 50,000 people directly via scalable “Model Village” concept that addresses Environmental Health and Educational areas. We have already begun these efforts not only through the active health education and forestation efforts conducted this summer, but began with a Global Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28, 2018 in Malawi.

The Fulbright Association’s Georgia Chapter, in partnership with several other organizations and strong support from Suresh Muthukrishnan and his dynamic wife, Rashmi, launched the first official event in Malawi as part of the Global Menstrual Hygiene Day!
THANK YOU

to EVERYONE who PARTICIPATED and SUPPORTED the Malawi 2018 Fulbright Service Corps Trip

DESIGNED AND CREATED BY DR. RENÉE PRATT