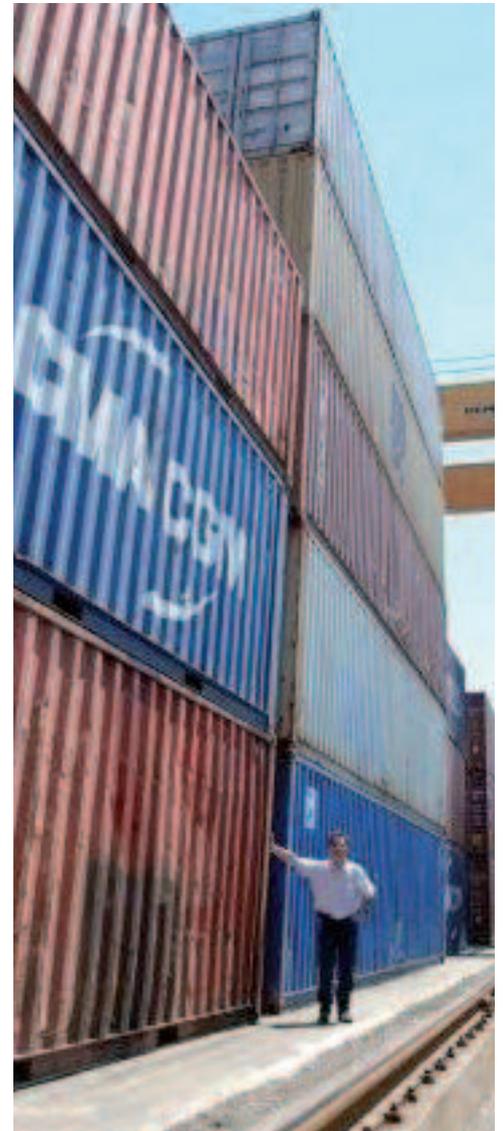


## Thank you from Chilomoni, Malawi !

Our Malawi Team has been ablaze with activity over recent months as your generous donations of equipment and funds have started to make a real difference. The exciting arrival of a 40' container sparked a flurry of interest in Chilomoni. Volunteers flocked to unload and assemble equipment ...and the community had been busy preparing for this day for some time: With help from funds donated through the Krizevac Project, dilapidated old classrooms from a disused school were fitted with electricity and windows then repainted. From part-used, dark old buildings with leaking roofs, a bright, quality learning environment has grown: home to the new Beehive Centre for Social Enterprise.

Cleo Kommwa, Co-ordinator of the Beehive came up with the early concept: "The biggest problem in our crowded suburb is a lack of jobs! More than two-thirds of our community aren't working and there's no unemployment benefit here – nor even enough land to grow our own food. We saw these under-used buildings which would have fallen down, and asked the Krizevac Project to help us turn them into a Beehive of activity – providing training and work for thousands of needy families."



### Latest Beehive Facts

Beehive is now a not-for-profit organization, supported by Krizevac Project and registered in Malawi with local directors.

- 18 paid employees
- 12 commission-only staff
- 12 volunteers
- 55 trainees on long-term courses (6 or 12-months)
- 51 trainees on short courses
- 34 women already trained on 3-month tailoring course
- 148 people completed free "computer fundamentals" short course
- 60 sewing machines being used to establish six more rural tailoring schools

[www.krizevac.org](http://www.krizevac.org)



# Sew many reasons to say **Thank You**



## **Your old sewing / knitting machines now providing an income for families in Chilomoni!**

As well as the professional tailoring and design course launched in January, the new Tailoring Enterprise has started ahead of schedule! Mary Kamwendo, the Beehive Community Involvement Coordinator couldn't believe her luck when Tionge Nyasulu said she wanted to leave her current job as a tailoring trainer in Zomba to come and start a new enterprise with the Beehive: "Word has gone round the country very quickly that the Beehive has started to buzz!" said Mary, "All of our training is very practical and Tionge has great experience in working for some big textile firms. The best way to learn is by doing, and what a benefit if you can earn something at the same time! We'd love to start exporting quality goods in the near future: football strips for Man United and vestments for the Pope, you know the kind of thing."



## **BeEs**



Emmanuel Chibalaka, the Beehive IT Coordinator has now become one of the first "BeEs" ("Beehive Entrepreneurs"): with a facility and equipment from Krizevac Project, he will be employing a number of trainee engineers to fix faults and upgrade computers in Blantyre and, when the business makes a profit – he will benefit. Other BeEs waiting in the hive will run internet cafes, craft and various businesses, all with targets to employ many local people. The Beehive Centre for Social Enterprise is encouraging and rewarding initiative and hard work and not just relying on hand outs.





## Re-Cycling

Fantastic support from "Back-to-bikes" in Stafford has meant that, together with your generous donations of bikes, there is a great new social enterprise in Malawi. This amazing activity provides affordable, environmentally-friendly transport and employment – let alone making the most of under-used or wasted bikes from the UK. Swinnerton Cycles on Cannock chase have kindly provided a whole host of spare parts and tools which are in daily use. Mike Khoromana and Charles Phiri have been trained by a Canadian charity, Africycle and now know every kind of sprocket, spoke and derailleurs. These two hard-working mechanics have transformed rusty relics from Staffordshire sheds into desirable shining steeds - snapped up by many who can't afford public transport to get to work.

The amazing thing is that our next container's about to be cleared in Mozambique and should be in Chilomoni soon. As well as additional bikes and sewing machines, we're eagerly awaiting the desks from St Mary's & St Anne's School Abbot's Bromley, a lifetime's legacy of buttons from Peter McCann as well as your numerous other donations.



## On course for completion – Beehive Knitting

These men mean business! Hard working men from Chilomoni are not afraid to get behind a knitting machine in the old choir loft at St James church hall and make school sweaters to earn a living. Trainees and experienced knitters are busily completing school cardigans and jumpers and getting ready for the "cold season" in July. Yamikani Kunjelaga, a young volunteer has succeeded in securing orders from five local schools for the Knitting Production Unit and is hoping to bag an overseas order one day!



## Africa's first Childrens Centre conceived in Malawi!

While some of the nearly 2,000 UK children's centres are already five years old, the beginnings of Africa's first such centre is now underway. In partnership with Chimembe Orphan Care Organisation and the Catholic Development Commission, day care for under fives is available. Many women are now able to train and work in Beehive enterprises, safe in the knowledge that their children are being well looked after. Carers are currently all volunteers in two settings and have little equipment.

Sadly, the orphan day care setting was washed away in heavy rains in January and so the small house of voluntary Coordinator, Sonia Chumachiyenda is being used to care for the 46 orphans each day. Supporters from Staffordshire County Council Early Years have been among the first to respond to the need, offering their generous donations from forgoing Christmas Cards last year for which we are very grateful!





## Girls excel at spreadsheets!

The new IT girls are getting down to business with the donated flat screens and computers from Paragon Ltd. in Hednesford and ComputerAid. Sylvia is convinced Beehive training is the best! "The few computer schools in Malawi are very expensive and you can end up sharing a computer with four others. At the Beehive it's one computer each and you don't just do theory – after three weeks, I really feel confident to create documents – and we have affordable lunches here too!"

Ken Maliza, newly elected President of the Students' Association, is delighted with progress. "We never imagined there could be something like this in Malawi. The Beehive will help many of us in to work – I've started believing I can run my own business – it's just a matter of time now".

## Primary School Book Appeal

Local teachers and the Headmaster of St James Primary School would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" for books donated by Cardinal Griffin, Hagley Park, Bishton Hall Nursery, St Joseph's Primary, St Giles Hospice, John Bamford Primary and Hednesford High School. Michael Kaliati, Headmaster, is delighted: "We now have electricity and 10 computers, unlike many Primary schools in Malawi, as well as the start of a library! All of our teachers have had free computer training from Krizevac and we're now ready to teach our children the same." The school, built by Krizevac Project and opened in 2006, has 1,900 children who each receive a mug of "Mary's Meals" porridge daily, for many, their only meal.

Unprecedented rains in Malawi have caused serious erosion around this hillside school and a major grounds development programme, funded by Krizevac Project is underway. While teachers and children are busily planting grass and trees, a team of local labourers is completing a substantial new drainage system. Future plans include a football and netball pitch for the school which currently has no outdoor facilities.



## British Business Backing!

We couldn't have done anything without a huge amount of support from UK businesses! Ashford House of Tamworth (now EBY) has engaged their professional team in designing quality brochures and logos, including printing 50,000 sewing machine leaflets, all for absolutely no charge! New Audience in Aldridge has cheerfully managed the telephone and postal response to our Sewing/Knitting Machine appeal as well as spreading the word to many new supporters. Meanwhile, employees at Mobell Communications have done too much to mention including organising the container shipments and donating their staff table tennis table while Tracey Lockley ran a sponsored marathon in Florence to raise funds – Thank You all Very Much!!

