



What do we do?

We are an established Scottish charity with family links to northern Malawi where we work with our partners to ensure that no girl is denied secondary education through poverty. Although primary education is free in Malawi secondary education is not and many families give priority to the education of boys. We pay the costs of girls who have a place at school but are not able to find the annual fees, currently £200. Without secondary education, opportunities for girls in Malawi are limited. With education, their chances of good employment are vastly improved and it is more likely that their own children will be educated and healthy. A much quoted statement from Desiree Mhango (currently Zonal Manager at Save the Children in Malawi and Maternal Health Technical Advisor at LATHUMOYO Ltd) is **"If you educate a girl then you have educated the whole community."** The current President of Malawi, Dr Joyce Banda described a time in her girlhood in an interview with a South African newspaper given some months before she took up office. "Banda gave an insight into her motivations in an interview last year, citing the example of a childhood friend in her ancestral village as one reason she had kept on campaigning. She told how her friend, much brighter than herself, was forced to leave school after one term because her family could not afford the \$12 fees. **"I went on to go to college and I became the vice-president of Malawi,"** Banda told the Global Post. **"She is still where she was 30 years ago. The vicious cycle of poverty kept her there and took away her options. I made up my mind at that point, whatever would happen in my life, I would try to send girls to schools."**

Where did it all begin?

Margaret Sinclair was born in Malawi (then Nyasaland) in 1927, the daughter of Scottish parents Jack and Mamie Martin. Jack was a Church of Scotland missionary and Mamie was a teacher. As a missionary's wife she became aware of the need for the girls and women to have access to education and she set about

establishing classes and preparing her pupils for exams. Jack and Mamie's story can be found in their own words in the book 'Salt and Light', based on their letters and Mamie's diaries.

Sadly, Mamie's family only knew her through her writing, as she died in 1928, giving birth to her second child.

In 1991, Margaret and John Sinclair travelled to Malawi and found that the Martin house was still there, that the memorial church was still in use and that people in Bandawe still remembered the story of Jack and Mamie Martin. The idea of doing something for the Malawians in memory of Mamie was born during this trip and in 1993 the charity was set up with a group of family and friends from Stirling and the surrounding area. From the beginning, we worked in partnership with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, CCAP, in Mzuzu. The Rev Maxwell Banda CCAP Education Secondary and his wife Liz Banda, both had a family connection with the Martins.

About 1, 500 girls have been helped through our fund. We know, because they tell us, that this financial assistance through secondary school has led to young women taking their place in Malawian society as teachers, lawyers, nurses, entrepreneurs and that the benefits of their education pass on to the next generation.

Scotland has a strong bond with Malawi. We are family to them. The Scottish Government supports this relationship in many ways, including the establishment of schools partnerships and reciprocal visits.

During the 20 years the Mamie Martin Fund has been in operation we have also built hostels for pupils and teachers' houses.

Why become a donor?

Malawi is a young country and there is great need. In northern Malawi, education is valued and pupils in school are motivated and successful despite the problems they face. £300 a year makes a significant difference to a young woman's chances for health and success.

We are still a small charity and we have personal links with our partners in Malawi. We know where the money goes. There are regular governance visits to see the impact of funding and to discuss next steps.

Partnership is at the heart of how we work. There are management committees in both Malawi and Scotland to administer our fund. We employ two part-time admin workers, one in Malawi and one in Scotland. We are active in the Scotland Malawi Partnership and support our linked schools.

Who are we?

Margaret and John Sinclair stepped down from an active role in the Fund in 2007 and the work is being taken on by the next generations. Willie Sinclair is our Convenor. He and his wife Eileen are Ivybank Vets, based in Irvine. Their daughter Rhiannon McIntyre is our Treasurer, based in the Highlands. Rhiannon has a background in events management. One of Willie's sisters, Mariot Dallas, is Vice-Convenor and has been active in establishing a schools partnership between Bandawe Girls Secondary School and Falkirk High School. There are 10 trustees

Some Trustees have worked for the Fund since the beginning 20 years ago, while others are relative newcomers. Being a Trustee is a challenge, especially in this time of financial hardship, but we remain optimistic, sustained by the truly inspirational contact with our Malawian friends and colleagues.

Our donors are spread throughout Scotland and beyond. Many choose to give regularly and to make a Gift Aid declaration and we very much appreciate their support.

**REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE SCOTTISH CHARITY REGULATOR AS A SCOTTISH
CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION ON 25 FEBRUARY 2014.**

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC 021483

REGISTERED ADDRESS: 43 RAVENSCROFT, IRVINE, Ayrshire, KA12 9DE

OFFICE ADDRESS: 6 DEWAR STREET, DOLLAR FK14 7EP

TEL: 01259 742827 OR 0785 231 7825

EMAIL: ADMIN@MAMIEMARTIN.ORG

FIND OUT MORE ON WWW.MAMIEMARTIN.ORG ALSO ON FACEBOOK