

Children's Sleeping Initiative, Malawi



Background

Since 2013, we have partnered with an inspiring Malawian, Brown Munthali, walking alongside him to help uplift the community of which he is part. Brown and his wife, who also live in poverty, dedicate their lives to bringing about development in the community where they live in Chitimba, Rumphi District in the north of Malawi. Along with spearheading several self-help initiatives in the community and running the High Five Club School-constructed there, Brown and his wife, have opened up their humble home to care for vulnerable children. Some are orphans who have lost one or both parents to AIDS, whilst for others, because of extreme poverty, their parents cannot provide for them. Without Brown's care, these children would be on the streets or placed with extended family members where drink and *chamba* (marijuana) abuse is known to be an issue, along with increased vulnerability to sexual abuse and being kept away from school to do work around the house or in the fields.

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time



It is quite an undertaking for Brown and his wife, who have children of their own and live in poverty themselves, to care for so many children, yet they have a passion and calling to care for as many vulnerable children as they are able within their own community. The children sleep in a small room at Brown's own home, sleeping on reed mats placed on the floor. Blankets in rural Malawi are a luxury with people focusing on basic necessities for their survival. A blanket is not a basic necessity in their lives. In the colder months of May – August it is not uncommon for the children to sleep in their clothes and sleep many together on the same reed mat to keep warm. Sleeping in such close quarters has occasionally led to outbreaks of scabies amongst the children.

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time



Some of the mosquito nets we provided in 2022 for the children to sleep under have holes now from constant use by small children, and Brown and his wife continued to repair these that were salvageable to keep the children protected from malaria which is one of the main killers of young children in Africa.

Despite all this, these children are the fortunate ones when compared to many other vulnerable children in Africa. They have a roof over their heads, food in their bellies, clothes and, critically, people who love them and try hard within the means they have to care for them – sharing what little they have with the children.



Before current intervention.....

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

High Five Club Support:

In addition to the feeding and medical support that High Five Club members provided for these children in 2023, this year High Five Club supporters the **Ngai family donated £500** to specifically provide much needed quality blankets and new mosquito nets for the 30 vulnerable children and orphans that are cared for by Brown and his wife. With their generous gift and a small uplift from High Five Club members we were able to provide the children with **20 warm blankets and 17 mosquito nets for a total of £519**. The children sleep in pairs or triplets so all were very well catered for by this provision.

Up until this late point in 2023 none of the children have gone down with malaria this year (a first!) and the children have for the first time slept snugly underneath warm new blankets during the winter and rainy seasons. This has really helped to boost the children's health, well-being and welfare.

We are looking to see how over the next couple of years we might potentially be able to raise the funds to contribute towards a simple dormitory facility for these children, along with locally made bunk beds and mattresses. But for now they are thriving and healthy :-)



HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

