



Project Success Story

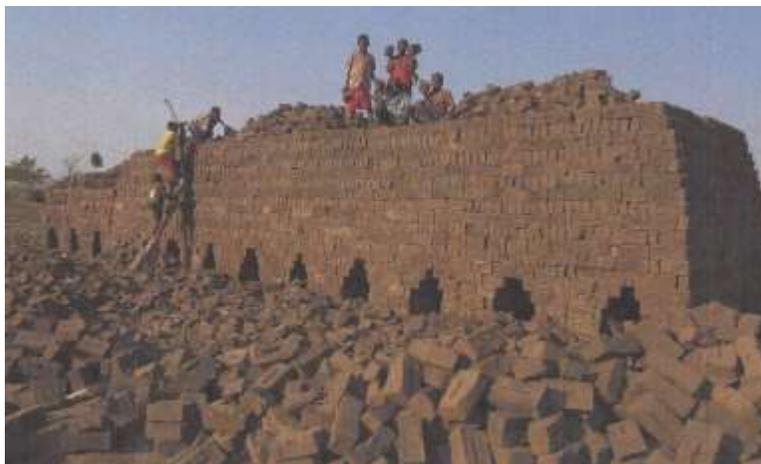
Malawi

This is one of ODFL's most successful projects ever. It is certainly the highest return-on-investment project we've ever done. It's almost unimaginable. Here's the story.

We have worked with Kasimu Education Fund in the village of Manyesa in Malawi since 2008. The village has 5,000 people, 1,200 of which are children. When we started working with them, they didn't have a single classroom. The children were going to school (such as it was) under a tree. They needed a classroom.



The villagers said they would do whatever they could to have a classroom for their children. We needed bricks. So, we bought the molds and materials, and they hand-made 160,000 bricks, enough for not just one, but two, classrooms. *That* is commitment.



The classrooms are engineered and built to the highest standards. They should last at least 30 years. Local workers provided the labor, as they do with all ODFL projects.



These are the first classrooms the children have ever had. All of the children now go to school through 3rd grade. Some stay through 6th. All are now learning to read and write. They learn the nationally-prescribed curriculum which includes math, sciences, languages (including English), history, and agricultural practices. The children are thankful.



Of course, classrooms without teachers are useless. So, we funded teachers to go to the national Teacher's Education College. It cost \$600 and a year's course to become credentialled. Eliza Milenya and Peter Nasawa, below, both now teach in the school.



After classrooms and teachers (we had helped them get books), children need toys! Some California students took up a collection of LEGOs. They are the perfect toy! No instruction manual needed. They last forever. They're perfect for hand-eye coordination. And they provide an infinite amount of creative play. We got an airline to carry the LEGOs for free, so they cost nothing! (We had enough LEGOS to also send full classroom sets to ODFL-supported schools in South Africa, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Yucatan.)



Next, we helped put in a solar electrical system that now lights the classrooms, so they can be used at night for adult education. The solar power also runs the new computer lab. It's the first electricity the village has ever had. Some people thought it was magic.



With 1,200 children and only two classrooms, we needed more classrooms. We put in two more. Now we have four, and have brought the number of teachers up to eight.



Finally, the village could only raise one crop a year, during the rainy season. That provided enough calories for people to stay alive, but little more. We have just completed a water well which is producing 24,000 liters per hour (100 gallons per minute). It is enough to irrigate 10 acres, making available a second, and possibly a third crop.



The well cost \$12,000. It will produce for at least 10 years. If it *only* results in a doubling of calories to the people of Manyesa, this will have been achieved at a cost of **25 cents per person per year** ($= ((\$12,000)/(5,000*10)))$). Is it worth 25 cents to *double* a near-starving person's calories for a *year*? We think it is. The well was paid for by \$1 donations from students and staffs at Del Norte High School in San Diego, Stockdale High School in Bakersfield, Freestyle Academy in Mountain View, CA and a grant from Apparel Unified.

This is just one of the many projects ODFL is working on in some of the poorest countries of the world. **DO NOT DOUBT** that YOUR donation of even *one dollar* can change the world. It already is. But it's not any one dollar that works the magic. It's all of them. Please ask your friends and colleagues to donate. They, too, can literally change the world, for a dollar. As with all ODFL projects, **EVERY DOLLAR DONATED** goes into the designated project.

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It's Working!**