

## **ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

## **JULY 2023-JUNE 2024**



EDUNITE2SERVE-MALAWI, P.O. Box 30705, Dedza, Malawi. Phone: +265-998297600

Email: <u>Edunite2serve@outlook.com</u>

Web: www.Edunite2srve.org

Company no: COYG-LZFQC	United States 501c3 non-profit
Reg no: NGO/L/22/040	Tax ID: 85-3269788

#### 1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Edunite2serve is a faith based organization and was founded by Prof. Sharon Pittman. Seeing a need for energetic, nonprofit mission work in Africa, the organization was formed to provide sensible Christ-centered sustainable solutions. Edunite2serve is growing and is exploring new projects and need a world of amazing partners to keep the organization going. Edunite2serve is fully a volunteer organization that is dedicated to enhancing whole living to those challenged by poverty in south-central Africa. Edunite2serve partners with its USA counterpart in Atlanta, Georgia who serves as a 501c3 to receive donations.

Edunite2serve-Malawi, as to its mission has different sub-projects that include.

- i. Tuition fees assistant (helping students who are struggling to pay tuition fees)
- ii. Construction (helping SDA church members who are struggling to build churches)
- iii. Give-Hope project (Helping youth by equipping them with skills)
- iv. Lakeside Wellness Retreat (The vision and purpose of Malawi Wellness Retreat is to teach and demonstrate the profound advantages of incorporating nature's healing agencies for everyday lifestyles).

## 2.0 CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS:



In the period July 2023 to June 2024, Edunite2serve implemented its programme activities amid some locally tough conditions. Like for example, in July 2023, the Reserve Bank of Malawi devalued the Malawi Kwacha with 44 percent and this directly translated into an increase in prices of essential commodities for the communities the organization is serving. Additionally, the country experienced the Elnino weather Phenomena which made many districts in Malawi experience very erratic rains in the months of December to April when the country expects to have abundant rains. This situation made close to 90 percent of the farmers fail to harvest enough to meet their annual household food needs since there is over reliance on rain fed cropping. It is therefore

not strange to find increased cases of malnutrition in the communities as community members cannot afford to get nutritious food.

Surprisingly, towards the end of the rainy season, the northern region of Malawi experienced more rainfall that led to increased levels of water in Lake Malawi. This led to flooding in the peripheral areas of Lake Malawi which affected many infrastructure and other development initiatives along the lake. Coincidentally, this also affected Edunite2Serve as its offices at Kamwisa in the area of TA Kachindamoto in Dedza District were flooded with water. This has affected some of its operations.

In the picture, Edunite2serve volunteers are constructing a dike made of bags of sand. The dike was meant to stop water from entering the premises for the Edunite2serve at Kamwisa but this proved futile as the lake continued to swell.

## 3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES:

In this period (July 2023 to June 2024), the implementation of activities was in progress. Key activities implemented included the following:

# 3.1 Helping students at Malawi Adventist University who struggle with paying tuition fees:

The main aim of this activity is to help the Malawi Adventist University students who are capable academically but they are challenged financially. The Edunite2serve Project was coming to their rescue by paying for them their tuition fees. This helped these students to access tertiary education which in a way it was to be a challenge for them. This initiative has assisted 100 students (50% males and 50%females) cumulatively as of December 2023. Many students that have received this support are very happy because they were able to finish their studies as evidenced by the story of Vaida Gogoda below:

## Vaida Gogoda's Success Story:

Vaida Gogoda is a 29-year-old woman based in Ntcheu District. She hails from Village Head Waiyatsa, Traditional Authority Njolomole. "I was doing my studies at the Malawi Adventist University in Bachelor of Science in agriculture. Looking at the condition at my home, I lost hope that I may not continue and finish my studies. By then my family could not afford to pay for my fees because we had not harvested a lot from our garden and what we had could not even meet household needs. I felt peace of mind when Edunite2serve paid my tuition fees for my third and fourth year. This made me a happy person". Vaida continued to say that she is going to achieve her goals and requested that Edunite2serve should continue to help other students who are struggling with tuition fees in different universities not only at Malawi Adventist University.

### 3.2 Establishment of an orchard:

Edunite2serve facilitated establishment of an orchard at Kamwisa in TA Kachindamoto. The orchard meant to easy access to different types of fruits to the nearby community who usually buy the fruits at reasonable prices. The funds realized contribute to payment of tuition for the needy students at the Malawi Adventist University. This initiative started in 2021 when 3000 fruit seedlings were planted. Then every year 1000 fruit trees are planted. Cumulatively, as of December 2023, there were 5000 fruit tree seedlings that were planted in the orchard. The fruits tree seedlings were for mangoes (80%) and the 20% covered cashew nuts, lemons and macadamia nuts. Apart from using the orchard to raise money for the needy students, it has been source of labour for the community as during critically important activities for the orchard, the community members were engaged to provide casual labour.

## 3.3 Facilitating Construction Seventh Day Adventist churches:



Using support from well-wishers in the USA, Edunite2serve has helped churches to be constructed and also get upgraded form more than 5 SDA churches in many areas in Malawi. Some churches were only being supported with iron sheets like the Biliwiri Church, Ngodzi Church. Other Churches were being constructed from the beginning to the end like the church at Kamwisa. This church construction intervention has brought about good results as there is a tremendous

increase in members for those churches when the construction has been completed.

## **Kamwisa Church Success Story**

Kamwisa SDA Church is located in close proximity to the Edunite2serve site that provides a nearby church for staff and local villagers to attend on the Sabbath. Initially 15 people attended church service, but now the membership of the church has grown to 100 people because of the construction of the new church structure.

## 4.0 FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION OF GIVE HOPE INTERVENTIONS:

Give Hope interventions implemented in the period of July 2023 to June 2024 were many and they were meant to help in bringing hope to a wide range of community members. Below are some of the details of the key interventions:

# **4.1 Construction of the 2 classroom block and office at Mangunda Primary School:**

There is Mangunda Seventh Day Primary School in Thyolo which has classes 1 up to 7. The school has 200 learners. The school does not have enough classroom blocks and this prompted Give Hope to come in to support in the construction of the 2 classroom block. The classroom block is at window level stage as show in the picture. It is expected that the school block will offer a conducive learning environment for the learners at Mangunda as number of students learning under a tree will be reduced.



The construction is following the standards for construction of a school block as prescribed by Malawi Government to ensure that the structure is strong and resilient. It is expected that 120 learners will benefit considering that government recommends 60 learners per classroom.

## 4.2 Mangunda Adventist Primary School feeding programme:

From March 2024, school feeding was introduced at Mangunda Adventist Primary School. Considering that many learners come from homes where they may not afford to get a morning meal, Giving Hope is providing porridge made of soy, groundnuts and corn to the learners every morning. This meal helps the students to have improved energy levels as they engage with different types of lessons as such the learning becomes interesting for the learners. There are 200 learners that are directly benefiting from this school feeding program. The programme is being supported financially by the Ben and Elizabeth Miller family.

# 4.3 Provision of school learning materials to Mangonda Adventist Primary School:

In order to continue in improving the quality of education at Mangunda Adventist Primary School, the school was provided with school learning materials which included 300 assorted books, pencils, rubbers and pencil sharpeners. In the picture are some of the materials that were received at school.



## 4.4 Support to Give Hope Contest for school children

Give Hope interventions extended to Neno Montessori School as the learners were allowed to participate in the Give Hope contest. The same contest happened at Ntcheu Preschool in Ntcheu District. This gave opportunity to the learners to play many interactive games and also experience how faith and learning can interface. In the Picture, children for Neno Montessori School are carrying Give Hope posters while the other two pictures are for Ntcheu Preschool children.



## 4.5 Other spiritual empowerment activities for Give Hope:

Give Hope has done other activities that were meant to help many catergories of people to be empowered spiritually and these include the following:

- i. Training of teachers at Mangunda Adventist Primary School to incorporate faith in learning.
- ii. Conducting school chaplaincy at Ntcheu Secondary school every Friday evening where students of different denominations attend the sessions.
- iii. Students that are on attachment from Malawi Adventist University conducted a crusade that was meant to share good news about Jesus.

#### 5. ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Edunite2serve is a charitable organization which the founder receives no income. On the contrary, Prof. Sharon Pittman is the main donor. She nominates those who show interest in the organization's goals and objectives to be a board member. Individuals who are leading sub-projects serve on the board for collaboration and accountability of that designated project. Board members serve a two-year term.

## **5.1 Board Members / Management Committee**

- i. Becky Vermilyea/Lakeside Wellness Retreat Center
- ii. Sheron Ndhyovu
- iii. Andrew Mkumbatira/Lakeside Wellness Retreat Center
- iv. Wilbert Mwale
- v. Greg Saunders
- vi. Kathy Saunders

### vii. Prof. Sharon Pittman/CEO and founder

**Note:** Being a newly registered organization some details of board member roles will not be specified until a board meeting is conducted. Areas to review include the different positions to be nominated after casting votes. As a new start-up organization, continual assessment is to be conducted to solidify the structure and constitution.

#### 6.0 FUNDRAISING

Individuals can make voluntary contributions of money through the founder (Prof. Sharon Pittman). She networks with prospective donors, creating a strong fundraising message that appeals to potential donors, identifies and contacts potential donors and utilizes online platforms to raise donations. For example, when helping students who are struggling with tuition fees or SDA members who are conducting their prayers in a church building without iron sheets.



### 7.0 GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

Edunite2serve has a set of core, minimum standards on how to run our organization, and also compliance with regulatory bodies. In this case being accountable both to the beneficiaries, and also, it's the right of everyone in the organization to know what is happening.

## **8.0 FUTURE PLANS**

- i. Build Wellness Center This facility is designed as a wellness education center with scheduled live-in lifestyle programs. The facility will be available for scheduling in advance for conventions, special events, meetings, and reunions during the open times between our residential wellness programs.
- ii. Build permanent building and water retention wall
- iii. Build women's shelter in Mponera The goal is to end violence against women and children through a multi-week transition program. Potential partners to include social work interns to provide strong family principles and missionaries/volunteers to provide trades training.

- iv. Increase the number of students assisted with tuition
- v. Build more SDA churches in all different parts of Malawi

### 9.0 CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

As an organization we have one volunteer within Malawi.

- Grey Sagawa-
- Prof. Sharon Pittman

## 10.0 EMPLOYEES/STIPEND INTERNS VS DAY LABORERS

- i. Juliet Dzikolo-Accountant/Chief Operations Officer
- ii. Dyson Bwayala-Orchard Manager
- iii. Mr Kachaso-Security Guard
- iv. Bikala Chilabadi-Driver and Maintenance
- v. Bizilio Tasizio-Security guard
- vi. Brenda Chinyama-cleaner

### 11.0 SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

- i. Gross total expenditures 20,186,233
- ii. Sources of income: o Private Donors/well-wishers from the United States through Edunite2serve in Atlanta, Georgia (501c3 nonprofit charity)
- iii. Capital items donated; o Tractor o Orchard Equipment o Block building machine o Iron Sheets