



### Making a Difference: One letter at a Time

In a release from Kim Ingold of Anson High School: Malawi, the 'Warm Heart of Africa' is a small landlocked country in the southeast region of Africa. Anson County has a connection to this small third world country. Students at Anson High School have pledged to work in a service learning project of helping Malawian students to learn English. Anson High School has partnered with North Carolina A&T State University in assisting with their continued projects to promote literacy and education for Malawian youth at Domasi Demonstration Primary School in Zomba.

Education is the key to help engage the young people of Malawi to reduce HIV statistics. (Currently, one in ten adults and one in three teenagers are infected with HIV.) Learning English will help Malawian youth advance in their school system and possibly earn a Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE). In Malawi, primary school is free and consists of standards one through eight. However, difficulty in education prevails when one class could have 60 to 100 students to one teacher. All standard eight students must pass an examination for the Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education. Their scores determine eligibility for secondary school. Notably, this exam is written in English. Secondary students are required to wear shoes, a uniform, and pay fees to attend. This is the challenge for many Malawian students. They are unable to pay the fees to continue with their education.

Most families have multiple siblings in which the family chooses which child will attend school. Not all children get the opportunity to a free education like students in the United States. In order for a student to attend their standard nine year, it costs \$100 US. This includes fees for the first year, a uniform, and shoes. The fees for all four years, uniform, and shoes would cost \$200 US. Anson High students have pledged to assist some of their pen pals to advance to secondary school. The students have developed an Anson Scholarship to help support some of the Malawian students through secondary school. Our students will be provided information on the Malawian students who receive their scholarships.

The Malawi Pen Pal Project began in the spring of 2012. Students pledged to begin and sustain a relationship with students of Domasi Demonstration Primary School. The sustainability and motivation of the project has come through several activities during the year. Dr. Elizabeth Barber, Associate Professor of Leadership Studies at North Carolina A&T visited Anson with a "kick off" to learn some background of their soon to be Malawian friends. Dr. Barber provided foundational information of the school and ongoing projects that NC A&T State, Radford University, and Virginia Tech University have collectively began and currently sustain. Students had the opportunity to interact with her and Dr. Tom Smith concerning their nine years of experience in working with this school in Malawi.

Students had a rare opportunity on April 30 to meet the Honorable Annie Fletcher and her son Dr. Peter Thompson from Malawi. The Honorable Annie Fletcher has been a member of Malawian Parliament and currently owns a chain of Annie's Lodges throughout Malawi. Dr. Peter Thompson is planning to run for Parliament in the near future. Students heard first-hand the challenges their pen pals face and were motivated to do more.

Anson High School faculty members, Kim Ingold and Christina Rose have been the driving force behind the emerging project. Dr. Barber, Ms. Ingold, Ms. Rose, along with Kanton Reynolds, a PhD candidate at NC A&T State, were selected to present the Malawi projects at the International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement in Baltimore, Maryland in September 2012. Ms. Ingold and Ms. Rose presented on Anson High School's Pen Pal Project which was just one component of the entire presentation.

Kim Ingold and Christina Rose accompanied by students, Rachel Meachum and Miranda Curran, participated in the Leadership Studies Roundtable on Summer 2012 Malawi trip. Anson students have collected donations of pens, paper, paint, cloth, pencil sharpeners, classroom supplies, etc. to aid students in school.

The Malawi Pen Pal Project has also benefited from a grant through Donors Choose.Org. Stationary of various styles, envelopes, and printable postage were items received to help motivate others to join and continue the project. The generosity of one of the donors, Mr. Ross from Casa Grande, AZ commented, "I gave because I want children to learn from our example of service to others." Simple actions, such as being pen pals, can help everyone learn from each other.

If any of the community members would like to assist and contribute in any way for this project, please contact, Ms. Ingold or Ms. Rose at Anson High School.

### Morven Elementary School Honor Rolls

Morven Elementary School has released their honor rolls for the second 9 week period.

#### A HONOR ROLL

**Third Grade** Tristian Rivers

**Fourth Grade** Olivia Bacon, Jose Castaneda-Garcia, Arianna Delts Zalyn Henderson, Teyona Leak, Udra Little, Trinity Marant

**Sixth Grade** Gabriel Bustos-Hernandez, Makayla Kirkley

#### A/B HONOR ROLL

**Third Grade** Krystal Gatewood, Edwin Horne, Dominick Owens, Omare Price, Trinity Spencer

**Fourth Grade** Tamaria Bullock, Evans Little, Tyeion Little, Mariah Rogers, Taliyah Sharp

**Fifth Grade** Lavonia Little, Jordan Roscoe

**Sixth Grade** Robert Crump, Dayasia Hudley, Aleshia Lindsey, Ashanti Little, Angel Lopez-Vazquez, Ariana Marshall, Nasia Marshall, Izion McCray, Jaquan Moses, Kendrick Moses, Anaih Nieto, Demya Pratt, Valen Pressley, Nordeza Ratliff, Shymari Robinson, Iris Seegars, Jaylen Smith, Jamal Townsend, Curtis Williams

### Play Presented in Cheraw

The Cheraw Arts Commission presents Porkchop Productions in *The City Mouse & the County Mouse* on Wednesday, February 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the Theatre on the Green in Cheraw. Worlds collide when two cousins decide to pay each other a visit and soon discover that their lives are more different than they could ever imagine!

Preschool audiences will delight in the whimsical adaptation of this favorite fable with song, dance and audience participation. Admission is \$3 per child, and adults with children are admitted at no charge. For additional information contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843-537-8420 x12.

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