

WOMEN OF GRACE WIDOWS' FUND



A Joint Mission Project of Watertown and Canton First Presbyterian Churches

Winter/Spring 2012

Mission of The Women Of Grace Widows' Fund

The mission of the Women Of Grace Widows' Fund is to enact and make real an ongoing structure to alleviate the extreme poverty faced by widows in Malawi by providing funding to meet basic food, shelter, and safety needs, while creating opportunities and resources that enable and empower widows to establish their own self-sufficiency and independence, regardless of religious affiliation.

Clint McCoy Community Center Dedicated

In **July 2011**, a delegation from the North Country was on hand as the community center in Mzenga, Malawi sponsored by the Women Of Grace (WOG) Widows' Fund was named **in memory of Rev. Clinton A. McCoy Jr.**, former Executive for Partnerships at the Synod of the Northeast who passed away in September 2010. In his earlier role as the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery Of Northern New York, Rev. McCoy was instrumental in forging the relationship with the Synod of Livingstonia in Malawi which has produced many beneficial projects for the people of Malawi, including the Women Of Grace Widows' Fund. On hand for the dedication ceremony in Mzenga were Rev. McCoy's widow, **Barb McCoy** and his daughter, **Erin Alarcon**.

Along with others on this trip including **Rev. Fred Garry** of the Watertown First Presbyterian Church, Barb and Erin had the opportunity to meet with the widows and orphans served at this center. **Sam Chirwa**, one of the two Women Of Grace Field Directors in Malawi, recently reported that **29 orphans & 84 children**, whom he characterizes as vulnerable, come to the center twice each week to receive fortified porridge and care. **Widows in Mzenga** provide the cooking at the center and work with the children. For the village of Mzenga, this center has become a hub of the community.

The newly named Clint McCoy Community center was built during 2010 with bricks and labor supplied by the villagers, and money for roofing and other needed materials provided by the Women Of Grace Widows' Fund. **Heather White**, a member of the WOG Board from Watertown, and her husband **Jonathan**, visited the community center during their July 2010 trip and purchased the **cooking and serving utensils** for the center with funds from other private donors.

The feeding costs for the Clint McCoy Community Center were paid through 2011 with **memorial donations** sent to the Women Of Grace Widows' Fund for Rev. McCoy. Funding for **2012** will be paid with mission funds from the **Canton First Presbyterian Church**. Funds are also designated for the feeding costs for **2013** from **Watertown First Presbyterian**. Feeding costs each month are **\$125**. However, as food and fuel costs rise in Malawi, as in much of Africa, we expect this amount to rise. Additional donations which are designated for the Clint McCoy Community Center will be used for upgrades and maintenance at the center.

Right - Barb McCoy & Erin Alarcon



Thank You (Zikomo!) To Our 2011 Donors!

Erin & Michael Alacron	Kathleen Hill	Ann & Armond Spencer
All Souls Unitarian Universalist	Mark & Connie Holberg	Philip & Emily Sprague
Anonymous	Karl Keller	Stephen Squinto & Adrienne Block
Margaret Anzul	Linda & John Kenny	Gael Steele
Barbara Ayer	Maria & Jim Ketrick	Carol Stevens
Nora Bajjaly	Elaine Kuracina	Joanne Stirling
Christopher Behan	Mark & Joanne Lavarney	Janet & Wes Stitt
James & Pamela Bethell	Patricia Marra	Dick & Jeanne Stone
Liz Bonisteel	Deborah Marziano & William Lang	John & Kathy Tate
Alison & Joe Brant	Barb McCoy	Mike Temkin & Marianne Dimarco-Temkin
Margaret Brizendine	Joe & Sarah McDonough	United Community Church, Tupper Lake
Andy Burns	Margot McGorman	David Valois
Norman & Jennifer Buyagawan	Sarah Mercer	D. Peter & Dacia VanEenenaam
Canton First Presbyterian	Gordon & Betty Moore	Elena VanEenenaam
Mike Catanzaro	Susan Morrison	Suzanne Waite
Childwold Memorial Presbyterian	Deanna Nelson	Gail Warner
Matt & Lanell Clark	North Country Savings Bank	Pat Washburn
David & Anne Marie Cory	Shirley Norton	Renee Waterbury
Mike & Kathy Crowe	Vicky Oakes	Watertown First Presbyterian
Doug Crowell	Ogdensburg Presbyterian Stone Church	Watertown First Presby. Outreach Council
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Carol & Allen Drew	Sandra Plimpton	Jeffrey & Carolyn Weldon
Claire Duffy	Martha Pott	Shirley Wells
Barbara Eldridge	Bob & Francie Potter	Western Presbyterian, Palmyra NY
Linda Fay	Linda Potter & Michael Catanzaro	Western Presbyterian Church & Society
Tom & Janice Fife	Toni Potter	Carol & Brad White
Thomas & Clara Fisher	Michael & Brenda Powell	Heather White
Michael & Edith Frazer	Presbyterian Women Of Summit Ave	Mickey Williams
Dr. Hugh & Zola Fulmer	Windsor & Kay Price	Women Of Sackets Harbor United Presby.
Ted & Jan Gaylord	Mark & Maria Purcell	Susan Zabriskie
Richard & Michelle Gefell	Presbyterian Women of NNY	Joe & Connie Zelinski
Rita & Robert Gefell	Helen & Joseph Randi	Tiffany & Daryl Zook
Anne George	James & Kathy Reichhart	
Todd & Kimberly Gerrish	Jo Ann Reid	Special Thanks:
Judy Gibson	Anne & James Russell	Sale of Malawi Notecards in Watertown
Rich & Carolyn Glass	Anne M. Ryan-Rudd	Zumba-thon in Watertown
Ed Goldstein	Dr. Stephen & Mrs. Harriet Sabo	Mom Prom In Canton
Brian & Debi Grayson	Winny & Robert Sachno	
Ellen & Rich Grayson	Saranac Lake First Presbyterian	Over \$16,200 was raised by the WOG
Ralph & Lu Green	Mary Ann Sawyer	Widows' Fund in 2011. Thanks to you we
Pat & Paul Grzybowski	Janet & Peter Scheid	are able to meet acute needs of food
Rena Haigh	Jane & Peter Schmitt	and shelter; provide micro-loans for
Joanne Harter	Scotch Presbyterian	widow-run businesses and allocate
Hammond Presbyterian Women	Renee & Roy Smith	additional funds raised beyond our
Phil Harden & MJ Heisey	W. Kent & Kayellen Smith	annual goal for upgrades to the Clint

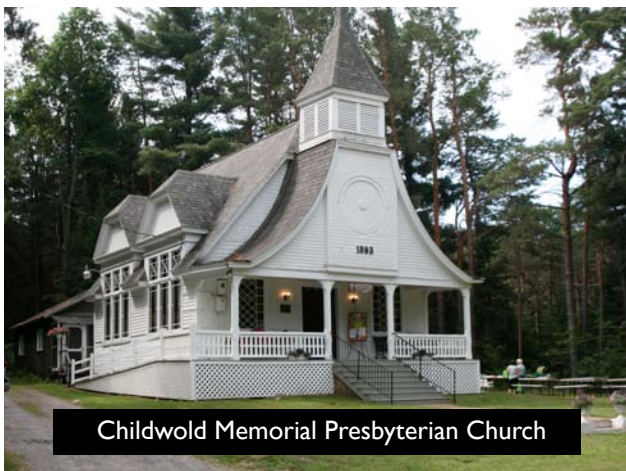
Every effort has been made to provide an accurate list of donors. Please bring any omissions or errors to our attention.

Small Church - Big Heart

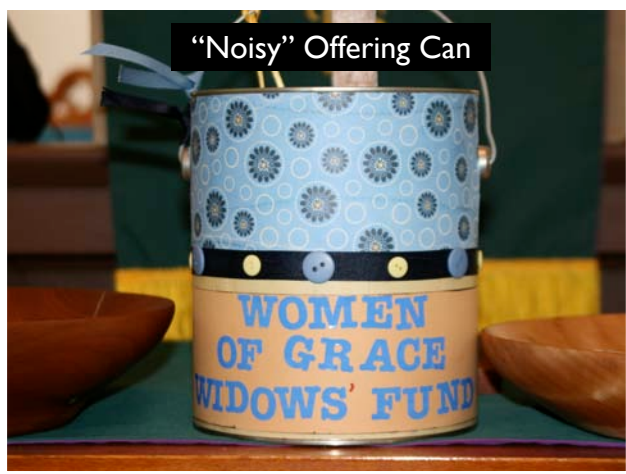
The **Childwold Memorial Presbyterian Church**, a **summer-only church** with deep roots in the **Adirondack Park**, recently made a generous donation of **\$1,000** to the Women Of Grace Widows' Fund.

In June 2011, **Vicki McLain** and **Linda Potter** of the Women Of Grace board, were invited to speak during the worship service about the widows' fund and how it is changing lives in Northern Malawi. Part of the offering that day was a **"Noisy Can" collection** with loose change placed in an empty paint can for Women Of Grace. Vicki and Linda stayed afterward for a luncheon and saw the start of an auction to benefit Women Of Grace. At the service, the pledge was made to raise \$1,000 and in a **few short months**, the congregation and friends attained that goal!

Many thanks for their generous support!



Childwold Memorial Presbyterian Church



"Noisy" Offering Can

2012 Educators Trip Planned

Four Watertown area educators, **Heather White, Rita Gefell, Julia Bonisteel, Renee Waterbury** and **Sue Remington** (an educator from Colorado) are busy planning their mission trip to Malawi for **mid-July 2012**. The two-week mission trip will include **teacher training, school visits, and modeling** the use of educational materials with a concentration of primary teaching practices in **reading, writing, and math**. While some materials will be brought from the U.S., the balance will be purchased in Malawi to support their local economy. The schools included in the itinerary are in **Mzuzu, Mzenga, Kanininga, and Chivumu**; all located in Northern Malawi.

Rita Gefell, Julia Bonisteel and Renee Waterbury serve on the Woman of Grace Widows' Fund board along with Heather White, the **group leader** for the 2012 trip. Heather traveled to Malawi in 2010 where she and **Sam Chirwa**, Malawi WOG Field Director, assisted in the construction of a **WOG funded home in Mzenga** for a widow. This effort will continue during the 2012 trip when, along with the educational focus, the women will be **assisting in the construction** of a new residence for a widow and her family. The widows served by the WOG Widows' Fund in Mzenga **select the most deserving** among them for the new dwelling.

The 2012 Educators Trip has recently submitted a **Thank Offering Grant** which is awarded through Presbyterian Women at The Presbyterian Church (USA) for funds to **continue the sharing** of basic primary education knowledge, tools and resources for **three years**. Notification of the grant awards will be made in **early 2012**.

Donations made payable to the **Women Of Grace Widows' Fund** can be designated for the July 2012 Educator/Widows' Fund Mission trip by writing **"July 2012 EDU"** on the memo line and mailing them to the **Canton First Presbyterian Church, 17 Park Street, Canton, NY 13617**.

Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated!

Sam & Grace To Visit North Country

Sam Chirwa and Grace Chiumia, our Women Of Grace Widows' Fund **field directors** in Malawi, will be in the North Country from **December 20, 2011 to January 17, 2012**. Along with being an opportunity to meet with the Women Of Grace board members, church congregations and supporters to update them about their work in Malawi, this trip is a **"honeymoon"** journey for Sam and Grace who were married in July.

Sam & Grace will be attending the **Christmas Eve service** at **Watertown First Presbyterian** and speaking at a **luncheon** there on **Saturday, January 7th**. The luncheon is open to the public with a **\$5** cost for the meal and a **free will offering** for The Women Of Grace Widows' Fund being taken at the end of their presentation.

They will then continue their North Country tour at the **January 8th** service of the **Canton First Presbyterian** at 10 a.m. To learn full details of their visit or arrange a meeting, contact WOG board member Linda Potter at nautilus@twcnyc.nyrr.com or (315) 386-4364.



Find Us On The Web!

The Women Of Grace Widows' Fund is on the web at **WomenOfGraceWidowsFund.org**. You will find photos from the 2008 trip which started this project, hear past radio interviews, learn more about our mission and who we are. You can also make **donations online** via PayPal. **Check it out!**

Mom Prom!

A Mom Prom was held at the Best Western University Inn in **Canton** in **June 2011** to benefit the Women Of Grace Widows' Fund. The event was proposed by **Tiffany Zook** of the Canton First Presbyterian Church who provided the creative energy for this fund raiser. The event brought together **women of all ages** who went through their closet and pulled out formal apparel, including prom, bridesmaid and wedding dresses, for an evening of dancing, food, drinks, door prizes and raffles. A Mom Prom Queen was crowned and corsages were sold. Over **170 women** came out to raise money for Women Of Grace and their enthusiastic response generated **\$3,414** for widows in Malawi. Plans are currently underway for the next Mom Prom to be held in **June 2012**. **Thanks to all who made this evening a huge success!**



Stewardship Of Your Gifts

The management of the funds raised by Women Of Grace Widows' Fund is a primary concern for **all-volunteer members** of the WOG board. The **only overhead costs** are the printing and mailing our newsletter, and website hosting which are all covered by a **designated donation** from the mission funds of the Canton First Presbyterian Church. **All other** donations are used to support the **Women Of Grace Widows' Fund mission**: alleviating the extreme poverty faced by widows in Malawi by providing funding for basic needs and creating opportunities to establish self-sufficiency, regardless of religious affiliation. Together, we are making a **real difference** in the lives of widows and those they care for in Malawi, Africa. **Thank you for your generous support!**

Sharing The News About Women Of Grace

Since their return from Malawi in 2008, the **eight women** from Canton and Watertown who were part of that mission trip have shared their experiences with many. We would love to come and **speak to your group** and share updated information about our **efforts in Malawi, photos** of the people and the land, and answer any questions about what **our mission program** is doing and **how you can help**. To arrange for a speaker, contact **Linda Potter** in Canton, (315) 386-4364, nautilus@twcny.rr.com or **Heather White** in Watertown at (315) 788-9867, heatherwhite4@gmail.com.

“And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16

Women Of Grace Widows’ Fund Board Members:

Watertown:

Julia Bonisteel

Rita Gefell

Renee Waterbury

Heather White

hwhite4@gmail.com

Canton:

Ellen Grayson

Katrina Hebb

Vicki McLain

Linda Potter

nautilus@twcny.rr.com

Gift Giving Made Easy

You can make a **gift in honor or memory of a loved one** to the Women Of Grace Widows’ Fund for **any occasion** - Christmas, anniversary, birthday or any day you want to recognize with generosity and sincerity. Complete the information below and send it in with your donation. The Widows’ Fund will **notify the individual** that the gift has been given in their name and that it will be used **to assist widows in Malawi with daily needs and improve their futures**.

Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ to The Women Of Grace Widows’ Fund
which is being made in honor/in memory (please circle) of:

(Amount of donation is not disclosed on the gift card.)

Please send notification to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

This gift is from: (names to appear on card): _____

Your name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

**Make checks payable to: Canton First Presbyterian Church & note Widows’ Fund on the memo line.
Please mail to the First Presbyterian Church, 17 Park Street, Canton NY 13617.**

Please consider a gift for our 2012 efforts!

As we move into 2012, the Women Of Grace Widows' Fund continues its efforts to meet its yearly goal of \$12,600 to address acute needs and provide micro-loans for widows in Malawi for the long term.

“Zikomo!” - thank you for your continued support!

___ Yes, I want to support The Women Of Grace Widows' Fund with their continued efforts to assist and empower widows in Northern Malawi. Enclosed is my/our donation of \$_____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____



Please send future Newsletters (twice a year) via email (in PDF format).

Thank you! Please make your check made payable to:

Canton First Presbyterian Church (On memo line: Women of Grace Widows' Fund)

Mail check and completed form to: First Presbyterian Church, 17 Park Street, Canton NY 13617.



Women Of Grace Widows' Fund
17 Park Street
Canton, NY 13617