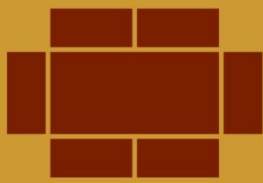




**Zikomo kwambiri**  
(Thank you very much)



**Kitchen Table  
Charities Trust**

*Changing Lives By Thinking Small*

**for**

**the gift of dignity and greater health security**

**to**

**4 more children in Malawi**

**with**

**severe mobility issues**

**Family responses**

Surprised, overwhelmed, tearful, but very, very grateful ..... all of the families had similar reactions when told that their children would be assessed, fitted and supplied with a wheelchair funded through the generosity of Kitchen Table Charities Trust.



This is 10 year old **Promise MacDonald** who lives in Ndalama Village, Machinjiri, Blantyre, Malawi. She has never been to school for want of sitting and mobility aids. She likes to play with her friends who visit her but she cannot join them when they leave.

Promise has diagnosed Cerebral Palsy secondary to birth complications. She has good range of motion in her upper limbs but limited in her lower limbs due to tight muscles. She is currently dependent for all activities of daily living.

She has now been fitted with a child's wheelchair appropriate to her needs with a pressure relieving cushion for comfort and pelvis stability and a lap tray to be used at school when writing and at home as a table when eating.

To ensure effective use of the wheelchair, the mother was trained on how best she can put her on the wheelchair and also on basic repairs and maintenance.

Meet 5 ½ year old **Rabson Allia** from Duwa village, Nkumba in Mangochi, Malawi. His parents and siblings have been carrying him to and from school on their backs. Rabson enjoys watching friends playing and he easily interacts with them.

He has Cerebral Palsy Spastic Quadriplegia secondary to delivery by unqualified people. He is prone to fits but has good range of motion in all the joints although subject to spasticity. He is incontinent so is at risk of developing pressure sores because of moisture.

Rabson now has a child's wheelchair appropriate to his needs with a pressure relieving cushion to prevent him from getting pressure sores. The wheelchair has a lap tray which will be used at school as a desk when writing. This will improve his hand function as well as using it as a table and for play.





Pictured here with his grandfather, **Steven Zambezi** is 11 years old and hails from Thukuta Village, Nsamala, Liwonde, Malawi. He attends school being carried the 1km to and from it. He is a very friendly child who easily mixes with friends. A wheelchair will secure his place at school and maintain his upright sitting posture.

He suffers from Muscular Dystrophy which began when 4 years old and cannot walk. Steven does not have any other medical conditions and he is not on any medication.

He is now fitted with a child's wheelchair following biomechanical principles of sitting. The wheelchair has a pre-ischial bar cushion to prevent him from sliding

forward and getting pressure sores. It has a lap tray for support and he will be using it as a table while at home and for writing at school.

**Upile Anderson** is 7 ½ years old from Malukula Village, Jalasi, Mangochi, Malawi. She goes to school but only when her mother feels able to carry her on her back. A wheelchair would mean better attendance at school plus promoting upright sitting posture.

She has Cerebral Palsy Spastic Quadriplegia secondary to birth asphyxia. She is incontinent but has good coordination and communication skills and attends physiotherapy clinics.

Upile now has a child's wheelchair made following biomechanical principles of sitting. It has all necessary postural supporting devices to help maintain her body in a recommended sitting posture. It also has a lap tray to make her stable and to use it as a table when eating and when playing with toys.



## **IMMOBILITY in MALAWI**

**If life for the average, 'healthy' Malawian child is poor then life for those with severe mobility problems can be dire.**

**The consequences for the child and its family can be many and debilitating.**

**The Government of Malawi does not provide mobility aids.**

**Even if they could find them, most families would not be able to afford a mobility aid for their child.**

**Without a mobility aid the child cannot go to school and will have a very limited social life.**

**If the child cannot go to school, in most cases this restricts both parents from working therefore impacting the family income needed just to survive.**

**Without a mobility aid, like a wheelchair, parents and guardians carry the child on their backs. As the child grows the weight causes back problems for the adults....and so the above negative cycle continues.**

**The prosthetics workshop at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre, Malawi has been developed to make wheelchairs, home static chairs and orthoses each to meet the specific needs of those children fortunate enough to receive charitable funds to meet the cost.**