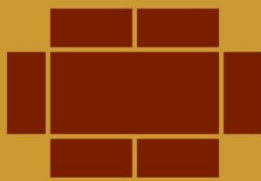




**Zikomo kwambiri**  
(Thank you very much)



**Kitchen Table  
Charities Trust**

*Changing Lives By Thinking Small*

**for**

**Supporting 9 more children in Malawi with  
severe mobility issues.**

**6 of the children have been assessed and fitted with wheelchairs tailored to their specific needs and 3 more have received home chairs for tots.**

### **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 or a home chair for tots funded through the generosity of Kitchen Table Charities Trust.**

## WHEELCHAIRS



This is 7 year old **Bright** from Samson Village, Thomas, Thyolo, Malawi.

He has cerebral palsy secondary to premature birth. He is spastic and quadriplegic.

He has not been to school for want of a suitable mobility and posture aid.

Bright is now well fitted with an appropriate child's wheelchair with a pressure relieving cushion to provide him with good sitting balance and protection from sores.

The mother has been trained on pressure relieving techniques and how to properly fit Bright on the wheelchair. The wheelchair will be used in a rough terrain type of home environment.

This is 11 year old **Felix** from Savala Village, Ngolongoliwa, Thyolo, Malawi. He has Osteogenesis Imperfecta which means he has lower limb paralysis. He has good sitting balance and head control but has some lateral curvature of the spine. He has physiotherapy treatment to strengthen his lower limb muscles.

He has now been fitted with a child's wheelchair with a pressure relieving cushion, a lap tray for him to be well supported and improve trunk stability. The mother has been trained on how to properly and safely put him on the wheelchair and also how to take care of it.



He can now continue to attend school relieving his family from carrying him on their backs.



**Gift** is 13 years of age and comes from Nazombe Village, Kuntumanje, Zomba.

He has Hydrocephalus. He is incontinent but has no history of pressure sores. He has a good range of motion in all joints of upper and lower extremities. His trunk is weak but he can sit in an upright position. He has no other medical conditions and is not on any medication.

His dad has been using a bicycle to take him to and from school. Carrying the boy had to stop as he increased in weight.

He has now been fitted with a child's wheelchair with a pressure relieving cushion and a head rest. It also has a lap tray for him to use at school as a desk and at home as a table. His mother was trained on proper ways of fitting him on the wheelchair and taught basic repair and maintenance of the wheelchair.

This is 12 year old **Harvey** from Malika Village, Mpama, Chiladzulu. He has Hydrocephalus. His mother has been encouraged to take him to physiotherapy clinics because he is at risk of developing pressure sores due to immobility. He has no other medical condition and he is not on any medication.

He is now well fitted with a child's wheelchair with a pressure relieving cushion and an adjustable type of backrest in order to help him sit upright. The wheelchair has been fitted following biomechanical principles of sitting. The mother has been taught some mobility skills and pressure relieving techniques as well as some basic skills of repair and maintenance.





Meet **Imed** who is 7 years old and lives in Jalasi Village, Namwali, Mangochi.

He has Spina Bifida. He had surgery in early 2017 to close the wound on his vertebrae column. He has reduced level of sensation from the xiphoid process below. He has weak trunk and both lower limbs. He is incontinent and is at high risk of developing pressure sores due to moisture and muscle atrophy. He has no other medical conditions and he is not on any medication.

He has been fitted with a child's wheelchair after a thorough assessment by a technician at our service. His wheelchair has been fabricated and fitted with all necessary postural supporting devices. His mother was trained on mobility skills and wheelchair handling and its effective use. It is hoped he will now be enrolled in school.

15 year old **Marko** from Machinjiri Village, Blantyre referred himself to our centre because he is planning to be enrolled at a Government School where the Head teacher has guaranteed him a place if he receives a wheelchair!



He has Cerebral Palsy Diplegia. He is incontinent and has weak lower limbs and has muscle power of grade two. He has good Range of Motion but sometimes is restricted due to tendon tightness in the lower limbs. He has no history of pressure sores but is at risk of getting some due to immobility and muscle atrophy. Marko has no other medical conditions and he is not on any medication.

He now has his wheelchair complete with pressure relieving cushion to prevent him from getting pressure sores. The mother was trained on how to push the wheelchair on different types of terrain. She has also been trained on the basic repair and maintenance of the wheelchair in order to improve its life span.



## Home Chairs for Tots



This is **Yankho Jackson** from Nanguni Village, Bvumbwe, Thyolo.

Yankho is 7½ months old and has Spastic Cerebral Palsy.

This **Hammeck Masache** from Chidule Village, Kagula, Zomba.

Hammeck is 22 months of age and has Cerebral Palsy.



This is **Elanive Landani** from Imbwa Village, Kunthembwe, Blantyre.

Elanive is 18 months old and has Cerebral Palsy.



## **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.**