



in  
**MALAWI**



Thanks to the generosity of



# Kitchen Table Charities Trust

CHANGING LIVES BY THINKING SMALL

7 more children in Malawi have been able to be assessed and fitted with wheelchairs or home chairs tailored to their specific needs.



This is 8 year old **Duncan Kaunda** from Khwalara Village, Sitola in Balaka.

He has Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida. He has reduced level of sensation on both lower limbs. He has no history of pressure sores but he is at risk of developing them due to immobility and reduced level of sensation in the lower extremities.

The wheelchair will help with the risk of pressure sores and has been designed to deal with all his other physical needs.

10 year old **Tadala Magwede** lives with her family at Onga village, Kadewere in Chiladzulu.

She has Cerebral Palsy Spastic Quadriplegia further to prolonged labour. She has delayed developmental milestones and is dependent in all the activities of her daily living. The child also experiences some difficulties in hearing.

The wheelchair immediately removes many of the obstacles in the life of this girl and her family, and addresses many of her needs.



12 year old **Lonjezo Mafuwa** has an ambition to be a teacher. She lives with her family in Safarao Village, Kapeni in Blantyre.

She has lower limbs paralysis secondary to birth complications. She has limited movement and has no sensation on both lower limbs. She faces some challenges in moving her lower limbs due to the muscle tightness and some contractures in the joints. She has been encouraged to attend physiotherapy regularly in order to strengthen her lower limb muscles which are becoming weaker.

**Vincent Chilembwe** is 10 years old and comes from Yotamu village, Chigalu in Blantyre.

He has Paraplegia secondary to Muscular Dystrophy. He is able to control both bowel and bladder. He has weakness of both arms which affects his activities of daily living. He has no other medical conditions and he is not on any medication.





### **Trevor Shawah**

**Age:** 7 months

**Home:**

Chokolozi Village, Tengani, Nsanje

**Diagnosis:** Spina Bifida.

### **Miracle Charles**

**Age:** 13 months

**Home:** Chensomba Village,  
Kapeni, Blantyre.

**Diagnosis:** Cerebral Palsy  
Quadriplegia



### **Cansious Mkwala**

**Date of Birth:** 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

**Age:** 3 years

**Home:** Malika Village, Mpama,  
Chiradzulu.

**Diagnosis:** Cerebral Palsy  
Quadriplegia.



## **FAMILY REACTIONS**

**Surprised, overwhelmed, tearful, but very, very grateful were the typical reactions of the families when told that their children would be fitted and supplied with wheelchairs funded through the generosity of the donors.**

### **Immobility and Children 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.

For children in Malawi with severe mobility and posture problems and who are still too small for a wheelchair, home chairs for tots mean that they are not condemned to life lying on the ground or the floor. With a home chair for tots they can now watch the world from an upright position like everyone else and be fed more safely. The chairs are made locally and to orthopaedic specification, with adjustable strapping through the chair back to allow for each child's particular posture needs. The chairs come with a detachable lap tray that serves many useful purposes.

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

The Malawi Government does not provide aids such as wheelchairs or these home chairs for tots so the Workshop is totally dependent upon charitable donations.

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