

NEWS September 2019

Dear Friends,

As the U.K. summer ends we are so thankful for people that have recently invested in the team. Thank you to Kevin and Erica from 360 Transformation and Nick, Evie and James. This is part of the strength that allows the work in Malingunde to go on with vision, quality and integrity.

This month we are highlighting our Happy Faces work, which is a 6 and under stay and play project. We held our annual graduation ceremony at the end of July, please savour the testimonies and pictures that celebrate all their hard work and the 16 children starting school this month.

Cila 'My little boy was not able to talk with people, he would just run away from them. Since we started coming to Happy Faces, there is a great improvement. Now he is able to talk and is even counting numbers out loud. I will not stop because this is a great foundation for him to be ready for Primary School.'

Anna 'I have a child and 3 grandchildren at Happy Faces. I was struggling before I came to the Thursday group as these children felt like a curse to me, I wanted someone to take them from me. I now feel such a relief to be able to teach them how to count. I understand my role in parenting. The days are going faster than before and I feel happy and blessed because I know who I am as a Mum.'

Beatrice 'Before Happy Faces my child was challenging and I was unhappy. He would beat his friends and do lots of negative things. Since Happy Faces there is a big change. He plays with his friends kindly and other children have started to love him too. There is peace in him, because we are spending time together in Happy Faces.'

Education in young children is still not completely accepted rurally in Malawi as important or necessary, so this is still a pioneering work. Home visits build relationships and encourage families to continue learning in the home environment.

Mrs Shuka 'I have been getting Malaria all my life. A Happy Faces home visit opened my eyes to learn it is caused by a female mosquito. Our local culture teaches it is caused by stale food. I now prevent it by sleeping in a mosquito net, which is keeping me safe.'

Jenny 'As I joined Happy Faces my family was having financial challenges. After a home visit, I had courage to ask my husband for money to start a business. This little business is doing well and our lives have really changed as the stress and the feeling of being failures has lifted from us. Thank you Happy Faces for believing in me.'

Bethany 'I was unable to teach my daughter at home, but as I have started coming to Happy Faces, I can now teach her and give her my time. She can listen as I'm teaching which is beautiful as before I had nothing to say. She is about to start school and is ready.'

Mrs Henry. 'Before my child could not speak with confidence as she was shy. But now I take her to Happy Faces every Thursday. Through the lessons she is now able to speak out loud and play with her friends. Our family is so happy.'

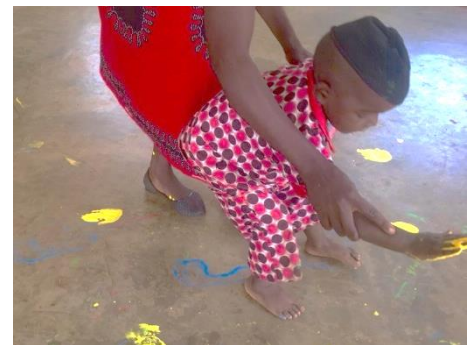
On behalf of the whole team, thank you for sharing the journey with us,

Tom and Ali

Tom & Ali, Directors, The Dalitso Trust



Happy Faces graduates



Hand painting



Happy Faces celebrations



Nick handing out graduation certificates