

## New Web Site Streamlines Wheelchair Project

September 5, 2007

Our wheelchair project is on track to help 100 people in 2007 with manual, power and pediatric wheelchairs. Recently we have greatly improved our process for providing wheelchairs by creating a special database-driven Web site that provides for a self-service search for wheelchairs that are available. The site is located at [www.lifenetswheelchairproject.org](http://www.lifenetswheelchairproject.org). This program is managed by Alexandra Kubik.

The new Web site was designed by her husband, Michael. This has made our work of matching donors and recipients easier. Chairs are provided free of charge to recipients who cannot afford one and who do not qualify under a government program or insurance.



Volunteer Karen Barbush in Romeoville, Illinois, is the assistant director of the HighPointe Centre. She stores wheelchairs that are dropped off for LifeNets.

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*We are also looking for wheelchairs in good condition to provide for the needy. A tax receipt will be issued for donations.*

## Vinogradov Van

Since 2001 LifeNets has been helping Vasyl and Irina Polichko care for nearly 40 street children in the town of Vinogradov, Ukraine. We have provided financing for food and other expenses. For the past two years there has been an increasing need to have reliable transportation for the children.

A late model Mercedes diesel van has been purchased in Germany and converted into a 20-passenger van. We give special thanks to our friends in California and Indiana who provided most of the financing. The conversion was done by a pastor in Minden, Germany. The job is now complete and we are working on papers to drive it duty-free into Ukraine for use by the *Light of Love* mission that cares for the children.



## Food Security in Malawi

In Malawi as well as Zambia we have provided seed, fertilizer and irrigation pumps to help people produce more food. One example is the Peter Kawinga family in Malawi.

The Kawingas were able to build a reservoir for collecting water that he can then pump up to the garden. We also helped with inputs of seed, fertilizer and pesticides, along with additional gardening tools. A cement wall is being constructed to strengthen the dam. The dam washes out from time to time during heavy rains. The irrigation from the dam will make it possible to grow produce during the dry season providing for the family's food needs and selling excess on the market for cash.



Peter Kawinga with his bountiful maize crop



Treadle pump for irrigation



3707 Turfway Court  
Indianapolis, IN 46228

888 821-0095

fax: 317 536-3388  
email: info@lifenets.org

## Blankets for Orphans

In 2006 United Church of God ladies in the Pacific Northwest made 220 high-quality blankets for the LifeNets Orphan Care Centre in Balaka, Malawi. The blankets all had individual designs and will be used as bedrolls by the orphans who especially need them during the colder season that comes in June and lasts until August.

All the blankets were distributed June 20 to the orphans by our three volunteers on the Malawi medical mission.



Three courageous volunteers participated in a LifeNets-sponsored medical mission during June and July. Two of the young people are medical students, Phil Myers from Ohio and Aaron Blue from Dallas, Texas. The third member was Jennifer Myers, who is Program Officer for the Noble County Community Foundation in northern Indiana. They worked under the direction of Dr. Sam Chilopora and his wife Esther, who is a midwife and nurse at the Chizeni Clinic in Balaka, Malawi.

Phil Myers blogged the experience in an interesting, touching and often humorous way that you can access from the LifeNets home page.

The three worked with the daily medical needs of the clinic. An important function of the

clinic is caring for orphans under age five from the surrounding communities.

Our volunteers helped us to assess in greater detail how we can serve more effectively.



Jennifer, Phil and Aaron

Jennifer describes her experience: *"My journey in Malawi has brought so much to my life. The struggles I saw and the beauty I encountered will always be with me. My heart cried for those I met who were trying to support their large families by selling fruit at a price that barely gave them enough money to travel home."*



Aaron Blue working with Dr. Sam Chilopora

*"My heart cried for those who walked for miles after waiting days to get medical treatment. My heart cried for those who were battling an incurable disease, who were hungry, who were just trying to survive. Even after seeing all of that, I left Malawi with hope. How? Because though I saw poverty, tragedy, and struggle, I saw people reaching out to address these issues. I saw projects that were working to eliminate such challenges. I met people with such caring and loving hearts who spend their days serving others. There is hope!"*

## Third Annual LifeNets Mandan, North Dakota, Triathlon

MANDAN, North Dakota—The North Dakota chapter of LifeNets sponsored the third annual LifeNets Triathlon, held at the Mandan Community Center on August 26, 2007. A total of 80 registrants competed. The Bismarck United Church of God helped by serving at the event and preparing food at the concessions stand.

This year brought the addition of an Olympic distance triathlon along with the sprint triathlon that has been offered the past two years. Nearly 20 individuals and teams participated in the Olympic distance this year, with ages ranging from early 20s to early 60s.

Volunteers from the Bismarck swim teams started the event by counting laps for the athletes as they swam and starting the timing



for the race. Volunteers from Anytime Fitness, Kohl's and the Boy Scouts helped patrol the bike route along with former sheriff Bob Erhardt, while volunteers from the Bismarck Rotary Club helped to aid runners along the running trail. Invaluable help was provided to the concessions stand by Mary Kay Tockach and area Girl Scouts.

Net proceeds from this event will go for LifeNets

projects locally and internationally.

More pictures at [www.lifenets.org/mandantriathlon](http://www.lifenets.org/mandantriathlon).