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Big News from the Clinic!

Dear Friends of Billy,

For more than 17 years, the Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic has been the only provider of medical care to this remote community in Malawi. Our efforts and growth have been generously supported by our USA donor base. A very big "Thank You" once again for your support throughout 2021. With your help, during 2021, we were able to expand the solar energy system to ensure an ongoing and environmentally-friendly power supply to both the clinic and the volunteer centre. Your donations during 2021 also helped to purchase much-needed medications to treat the 500+ patients who attend the clinic each week.

Here in Malawi, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected all sections of the community. For many, the continuing pandemic has brought ongoing stress and anxiety. For the Billy Clinic, 2021 has been a year of change and optimism for 2022. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Medical Director, Dr. Tendai Mussa, who joined our team in August. Appointing a Malawian doctor is a step in the right direction, as this will reinforce local control and long-term sustainability.

Sustainability is the hallmark of good development. The loss of revenue due to the pandemic-related ban on travel brought into sharp focus the need to further utilise local medical staff. Since the clinic's founding in 2004, the village population has increased by nearly 5,000. For a number of years, the community has expressed the need for a maternity unit at the clinic. Sustaining a more comprehensive service to a growing community requires the permanent involvement of an organization with guaranteed financial resources. After carefully considering all options, and after extensive and lengthy discussions and negotiations, I am delighted to announce that we will be partnering with The Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM), which will be supporting our day-to-day operations in the clinic. Four local medical staff have already been employed by CHAM on a permanent basis. They will work with the volunteer medical staff to provide a more comprehensive medical service to the Chembe community. As founder of the clinic, I continue to oversee the project, including the recruiting of volunteer doctors, nurses and other medical personnel. This involves working with The Irish College of General Practitioners to provide opportunities for Family Doctors to do part of their training at the clinic.

With the ongoing support from you—our generous donors—we very much look forward to providing an expanded service with a high level of clinical care to the community of Cape Maclear for many years to come. Your contributions will continue to help us to provide medications and other supplies free to patients attending our asthma, hypertensive and epileptic clinics. We also have ongoing needs for our bi-annual Bilharzia Treatment Program in Cape Maclear's schools. And, we anticipate continued growing capital needs as we expand our program offerings to the community.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude for your support throughout the years. Please continue to help us grow and expand, and thank you for remembering us in your charitable giving.

In appreciation,

Mags Riordan, M.Ed. MPH.
Founder/CEO.

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