CENTRE FOR HUMANITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CHUSDE)

EMBRASING THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

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WELCOME TO CHITHAPHWI CBCC

"Volunteerism is the glue that holds our society together"



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A transformative initiative named Ulendo WA Ana (UWA) is currently underway in Kasungu villages, including Matako village, which is home to the Chithaphwi Community Based Childcare Centre (CBCC). UWA, guided by the Centre for Humanity and Sustainable Development (CHUSDE), aims to propel early childhood development to the forefront. This program is harnessing resources and empowering local communities, instilling a renewed sense of engagement in nurturing their children's comprehensive development. Moreover, it strives to rejuvenate the spirit of volunteerism within communities, serving as a catalyst for holistic growth and advancement.

MISS LUHANA JOINS CHUSDE



In the spirit of volunteerism, CHUSDE welcomes Miss Ireen Luhana to the team. Miss Luhana has just completed her bachelor of science studies in Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Malawi. She is passionate about Early Childhood Development (ECD) which is one of the Projects CHUSDE is implementing in Kasungu District, TA Lukwa GVH Matako in Matako village. When asked about her experience so far, she say " **I like the leadership and working style I found here**. Where everyone gets involved in every day operations of the organizational. Not only that, I also like the leadership style because we are treated equally regardless of post. I love it here and I believe I will learn a lot here"

The Aftermath of Tree Planting Season

"Take care of trees, do not just plant"

The long-standing objective of rejuvenating our Earth's environment has been championed for years. In Malawi, the annual tree planting season witnesses various stakeholders, including NGOs, government agencies, and the private sector, planting thousands of trees with unwavering dedication to the planet's well-being. However, a lingering challenge has persisted: the aftermath of these tree planting efforts. The crucial question of who will nurture these planted trees has often remained unanswered. CHUSDE has ingeniously approached this matter by empowering community members and students to take on the responsibility of tending to the newly planted trees. Through diligent follow-ups and gentle reminders, the survival rate of these trees has significantly improved. During this year's endeavours, CHUSDE has undertaken follow-up activities at Chithaphwi CBCC and Kavunguti primary school. A teacher at the school aptly stated, "This innovative approach is refreshing; it has rekindled our awareness of the trees in our surroundings." Furthermore, the suggestion to allocate these trees among students has been voiced, allowing each student to nurture their own tree—a notion that resonates with the spirit of care for our environment.



Rekindle the spirit of volunteerism

On a wonderful Wednesday, July 19th, 2023, CHUSDE hosted a special training event for volunteers, a gathering filled with meaning. The goal was simple: to inspire the spirit of volunteering among its cherished members and those joining the workshop. CHUSDE believes that volunteering is like the glue that holds our society together. Imagine a world without this spirit—our community's harmony could be at risk.

Think about chiefs, the village leaders who skilfully guide their communities every day. They embody the spirit of volunteering, working tirelessly for the community's well-being without expecting anything in return. Similarly, consider the dedication of 'adzukulu akumanda,' those who selflessly contribute their efforts without seeking rewards. This illustrates the power of volunteering, a message that encourages everyone to embrace it, no matter if there's payment involved.

To nurture this spirit, CHUSDE has carefully created a guide—a volunteer policy. This policy not only helps volunteers but also educates the public about volunteering's importance.

Volunteering isn't just for those with specific roles; it's for every member of the community. It's a light that guides us all toward selfless commitment and positive change.

With the spirit of volunteering as our guide, we present a tapestry woven with dedication, adorned with passion, and stitched with diligence. CHUSDE is determined to bring back this spirit because it strengthens our social bonds and ignites a passion for progress.



"Volunteerism shines as a unique force that binds communities through selfless contributions "

"Volunteerism is the glue that holds our society together"



JULY AND AUGUST COVERED

You might have heard the saying, "If you don't plan, you plan to fail." CHUSDE believes in this idea and has a smart way of doing things. Our way of working is different and special. It's like having a secret strategy. We start by making big plans for the long term and smaller ones for the short term. These plans show us how to succeed step by step. Each month, we follow plans that tell us what to do. The key is setting clear goals that help us work together towards success.

Following this idea, CHUSDE has made a detailed work plan. It's like a plan for a big building, and each of us is like an architect for our part. This plan guides us like a map to reach our goals. Our work plan is carefully made so that everyone knows their job well. It also makes our workplace full of energy, where everyone can be themselves. When we work together and support each other's ideas, it's like a beautiful music playing.

Imagine visiting our workplace – it's alive with activity that shows how much we care. Each of us does our daily tasks with a clear goal in mind. We all work together like a team in a coordinated way, creating a picture of success.

Remember, it's important to think smart all the time. Having a plan helps us move towards success like a compass, making sure every effort counts and brings us closer to reaching our goals."

"United through volunteerism, we weave the threads of commitment and togetherness, creating a tapestry of civic engagement that empowers us to achieve sustainable goals, aligning with the vision of the SDGs and the developmental aspirations of Malawi."

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

CENTRE FOR HUMANITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CHUSDE

From People, To People, for People

FOOD PRINT PROJECT

In 2020, CHUSDE in partnership with Good Health Organization and other international organizations in Kenya, Germany, and Poland. started implementing the 'Food Print Project". . This program aims to address the impacts of our food choices in relation to the environment and seeks to create awareness of best practices

Part of the project is the youth exchange program. Through this initiative CHUSDE and its valued youth officers and those from the local partner organization, "GHO", have made conducted two Youth Exchange visits to contextualize how food choices are impacting the environment in different countries across the world. The first YE took place in Bremen, Germany and the second in Luanda, western Kenya in 2022 and 2023 respectively. Through these visits CHUSDE has been able to draw a lot of lessons and also made a network to international organization.

Further, I the quest for the local action on the project, CHUSDE and GHO organized a "FOOD FAIR", which was meant to create awareness about responsible food choices that ensure environmental protection and sustainability. The event was organized at Kasungu District Council. It was a successful event as it was patronized by many people most of who were the youth. The event was carried out along with Yasenya and Wanda Foundation Youth Clubs.





Some of Our Partnerships since 2022

For the past two years, CHUSDE has been collaborating with Yasenya Youth Group on various developmental fronts, with a primary focus on Environmental Management and restoration. In pursuit of this goal, we've established a tree nursery, cultivating seedlings that have been distributed to all members of the youth club, as well as to Chithaphwi CBCC and Kavunguti Primary School.

CHUSDE is also an active member of the National Youth Network for Climate Change (NYNCC), a collective of young individuals dedicated to addressing climate change's impact on our planet, especially within our own country. Through our involvement, we aim to advocate for environmental issues and raise awareness about harmful practices while seeking innovative solutions that foster a better ecological balance. Our engagement has extended to the National High Level Children, Youth, and CSOs Engagement Policy Dialogue on Climate Change, and we've taken part in various other environmental initiatives under the same umbrella.

In addition, CHUSDE has formed partnerships with Impact Management Consultancies (IMC) and Curve Africa, focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) matters and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHH). Our vision entails a continued collaboration with Yasenya Youth Group, with plans for interactive sessions that empower the group further. Moreover, we are determined to broaden the group's horizons by supporting endeavours in areas like business, vocational skills, SRHR, governance, and education. Together, we're building a future of progress, unity, and holistic development.









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MEET CHUSDE TEAM

Today you have an opportunity to know the humble and hardworking team at CHUSDE. What is amazing at CHUSDE is that its workforce comprises of youths from diverse education backgrounds and professionals. Not only are they different in professionals, but these team members have diverse passions too.

Mr. VERNASIO PHWANDAPHWANDA



Meet the great Mr. Vernasio Phwandaphwanda, a humble man, the Director and founder of Centre for Humanity and Sustainable Development (CHUSDE). He graduated from Mzuzu University in Bachelor of Science in Water Resources Management and Development. He achieved a leadership certificate from the University of Georgia's under J.W. Funning Institute of Leadership Development through the African Civic Engagement Academy in 2022. Mr. Phwandaphwanda has also a wider international network having lived and travelled to different countries for different programs and reasons. He has been to Germany and Kenya for youth exchange program under Food Print Project. He is the only Malawian to have participated in the European Voluntary Service (EVS), now called European Solidarity Corps.

Mr Phwandaphwanda's advocacy for sustainability is seen in his expertise in Permaculture Designs, honed under renowned permaculturist John Button in Germany's Peace of Land Institute. Training with the Ghana Permaculture Institute in Teichiman, Ghana, further expanded his knowledge. He is well vested I international relations, it explains his international contacts too.

A part from being a Volunteer, Mr. Phwandaphwanda also works as a Co-Principal Consultant at Impact Management Consultancies (IMC). His dedication to meaningful change is evident through his involvement in designing an impactful evaluation report organizations like Tumaini Letu of the Dzaleka Refugee Camp Environmental Impact Assessment for GIZ under MIERA Project and now developing questionnaires for Momentum "Tikweze Umoyo Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA)" as a CSO member with consultancy background from IMC. Vernasio's humble demeanour and steadfast focus underlines his commitment to creating enduring impact.

Mr Vernasio Phwandaphwanda's life journey speaks of determination, resilience, a commitment to positive change, and unwavering dedication to sustainable development and cross-cultural understanding. His story stands as a testament to the transformative power of individuals who translate their passion into action on both local and global stages.

MEET CHUSDE TEAM

Mr. Diverson Alfred Chirwa



Mr. Diverson Alfred Chirwa is Malawian from S.T.A Mangwazu, G.V.H Chawa in Kasungu districts. He holds a degree in Political Science and a certificate in Research and Statistics from the University of Malawi. He also hold a certificate in Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation from Impact Management Consultancy and he also hold a certificate in Civic Leadership from Young Africa Initiative (YALI).

Mr. D. Chirwa is a committed volunteer at CHUSDE and he has been a volunteer since last year. He is passionate about promoting gender equality, rights of minority groups, rural development, education and student mentorship. Through out his education journey and profession work he has proven to be hard working and committed. CHUSDE appreciate his endless and reasonable contribution, and the commitment to make a difference in society.

Miss Tamanda Chinunda



Miss Tamanda Chinunda is a volunteer at Centre for Humanity and Sustainable Development. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work obtained from DMI St John the Baptist University in 2017. She is a compassionate and experienced social worker with 4 years experience in social protection, counselling and project management. And she is passionate about sustainable initiatives that seek to change people's life for the better. Miss Chinunda remains an important member of CHUSDE team having been with the organization for a year now.

Miss Ireen Luhana



Miss Ireen Luhana is a citizen of the Malawi from TA Kaomba Kasungu district. She had a privilege to study BSc in Family and consumer sciences at the University of Malawi pending graduation. She is a remarkable hard-working individual who believes in putting herself out there to achieve greatness. She is also an Early Childhood Development (ECD) volunteer at the Center for Humanity and Sustainable Development (CHUSDE) organization that aspires to provide an inclusive, sustainable environment for the vulnerable groups in communities. She has the burning ambition to serve others in a way that impacts change in the society, her fear of failure and responsibilities fuels her passion and drives her determination and ambition in this journey.

MAKE CBCCs CHEAP AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

In most rural areas of Kasungu district have no kindergartens to promote Early Childhood Development (ECD). To make things worse, the few that exists are in poor conditions, lack basic materials, and lack well trained caregivers. According to The District Social Welfare Office, ECD initiatives are more successful in the northern part of Kasungu District where World Vision and Save the Children have been working than in the central and southern parts. Besides, these kindergartens exists in long distances from each other making them inaccessible to most youngsters. Seeing this, CHUSDE embarked on building a model that will see kindergarten being cheap and accessible to most youngsters. Not only that, CHUSDE's model also ensures that community members are being inclusively involved in promoting Early Childhood Development and the running of Community Based Childcare Centre (CBCC). The UWA project was developed this way after learning why the CBCCs initiated by other stakeholders failed to sustain. This model is called CHUSDE CBCC model, it was developed under the UWA project.

Today, after 3years, CHUSDE can proudly say the developed CHUSDE CBCC model has proven viable. This model has been tested at Chithaphwi CBCC since September, 2020. With this, CHUSDE plans to establish more CBCCs in rural areas of Kasungu District.

CHUSDE GALLERY

























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The Upcoming "Mtetezeni Mwana Project"

Presently, CHUSDE is embarking on an upcoming project known as the Mtetezeni Mwana Project. This initiative addresses a critical concern that resonates not only within Kasungu Municipality but across the entirety of Malawi - the distressing issue of child abuse and neglect. This encompassing challenge encompasses various aspects, including the plight of street children, instances of sexual abuse, the exploitation of child labor, and the harrowing reality of trafficking.

The increase in street children has brought about a surge in criminal activities such as theft and attacks, shedding light on the pressing need for immediate action from both leaders and communities. A lack of parental care coupled with ineffective enforcement of children's rights compounds the dire consequences that befall these vulnerable children, jeopardizing their overall well-being.

Amidst ongoing efforts, numerous cases of abuse remain concealed due to a mixture of fear and a lack of awareness. This silence only exacerbates the challenges faced by the communities in question. Hence, the central objective of this concept note is to establish an environment characterized by proactive measures, closely aligned with international conventions and laws, aimed at pre-emptively preventing instances of child abuse and facilitating swift intervention when needed.

Within this framework, the overarching aspiration is to cultivate sustainable communities, combat the blight of child abuse, and fundamentally reshape societal perceptions. This entails not just addressing the immediate issues at hand, but fostering an enduring transformation that extends to the very fabric of our society.

The journey toward these goals necessitates robust collaboration and unwavering support from all stakeholders, with local communities at the forefront. This collective effort is the cornerstone of safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable children. By uniting our strengths, we can coalesce to create an environment wherein the rights of every child are upheld, allowing them to flourish. Through these united actions, we aspire to lay the foundation for peaceful, just, and resilient communities and institutions that stand as beacons of hope for the present and the future, not just within Kasungu but well beyond its boundaries.

Magis Encounter, 2020

The history of our Journey with Children living in the Street

In 2020, we organized an encounter with members coming from various districts, including Lilongwe, Blantyre, Zomba, Mzuzu, and Dedza, through our involvement with the Magis youth of St. Joseph Parish, here in Kasungu District. As part of its mission to serve the community, the encounter intended to shape young people in the Magis network in Ignatian Spirituality and to increase community awareness of child protection. We also organized a panel discussion on the same with officials from the departments of social services, law enforcement, prisons, youth services, civil society organizations, and churches. It was a big success and some of the youth made an express commitment to continue this campaign upon seeing the need, and here is why we are back on it. The picture below show our interaction with children living in the streets of Kasungu municipality.





Do you want to work with us???

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