



Open Arms Infant Home

P.O. Box 509
Blantyre
MALAWI
Tel: (265) 01820160
openarms@africa-online.net
www.openarmsmalawi.org

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Update on the Famous Four

Three of the Famous Four live at Rose's House: Aubrey, Wilson and Norman, together with Moses from Open Arms. The House Mother is Ellen Kanyatula and she has helped them make considerable progress with their English by having set times when they speak only English. In the last year a TV and DVD player were purchased for the house so for the first time they are watching football matches, national ceremonies (such as Independence Day) and Malawian TV shows.

A major development is that the boys started computer lessons in December, after a second-hand desktop was set up at Rose's House. They are very excited about learning how to type and playing some games. We are working on sourcing more educational games.

One highlight of last year was when the boys went with Neville for a holiday to the lake. They went on a boat ride, splashed in the lake, and visited Open Arms Mangochi.



Open Arms Teacher's Reports:

Norman



Norman is in Grade 5 and is doing really well. He academically the best of the Rose's House boys and often takes the role of leader. I talked to his Teacher at Ladybird International School and he said that Norman is doing well. His best subjects are Maths, French and Computer Studies. Norman enjoys watching football matches and the local soap 'Survivors'. He says he would like to be a soldier.

Aubrey



Considering that Aubrey has cerebral palsy he is doing well in his class. I talked to his teacher and he said Aubrey can verbally answer questions correctly. His main problem is he can't put what is in his mind on a piece of paper. His writing is better sometimes but other times he can't even write a single letter. We hope that learning to use a computer will give him the ability to write.

Aubrey loves to play football and he is a good dancer as well. He would like to be a Director like Neville. Aubrey enjoys watching football matches and music shows on TV.

Wilson



Wilson is generally doing well, though his hearing has continued to give him some difficulties. He was fitted with hearing aids but it is not easy to adjust to using them, and at his school no one had seen them before so it seemed odd to his fellow pupils. The situation improved when the Open Arms Teacher did a presentation to the class about hearing difficulties.

Today Wilson is being fitted with another pair after his first set stopped working. We hope this will make learning at school easier for him.

Wilson enjoys the computer lessons, and quickly picks up new skills. He is becoming good at touch typing.

Mary

Mary Robert lives in Richmond House, together with Agness, Nelifa and Malita.

The Richmond House Mother, Grace Kanguwa, is married with two small children who also live at Richmond House. Grace takes pride in the care she gives and the way she keeps the house.

Mary and her foster siblings changed schools last year. It became apparent that the school had some problems with management and the Open Arms children were not progressing well.

Since their move to St Columba Mary and the other children have improved considerably.



Open Arms Teacher's Report:

Mary is in Grade 4. She is doing alright there and she is also a good leader. I talked to her House Mother and the teacher at St Columba School and they said her problem now is mathematics and agreed to have extra lessons. Mary is good at English and Social Studies. She wants to be a nurse in the future.