



YOUTH SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT “YOSSA”

INTRODUCTION

Youth Support for Social Advancement (**YOSSA**) is a non-profit making Organization based in Area 49, Lilongwe, Malawi, Central Africa. The organization is recognised by the government of Malawi under the National Youth Council of Malawi (**NYCOM**). **YOSSA** was founded in August 2000, by a young man who by that time was studying the B.A. Degree in Biblical Studies at African Bible College, Lilongwe. The young man started this youth ministry with the target of making the youth and the orphans busy through social and religious activities that could keep them away from immoral behaviour, after realizing that *an idle mind is the workshop for the devil*. **YOSSA** is a Community based youth ministry.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

MANAGEMENT TEAM:

YOSSA has the Management Staff which is responsible for planning and objective setting. The management comprises of the following positions;

- Executive Director
- Administrative Officer
- Project Officer
- Finance Officer
- Information, Education and Communications Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

YOSSA has a nominated Board of Trustees. Constitutionally, it will be responsible for the formulation and enforcement of the policies of the organization as well as planning and fund-raising. The Board is formed of members from the churches

and the community. The Board is formed of nine members. The Board Committee is the mother of **YOSSA** because it is where all the problems that have failed to be solved by the Management Staff are presented for the solution.

VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteers often form an important backbone to an organization. There are 40 registered volunteers in **YOSSA**. Committees and Staff in **YOSSA** are often made up of volunteers and they need to be cared for in the same way as paid staff or any other member. In **YOSSA** volunteers are asked to choose to belong to the organization only before considering them to be registered as our volunteers. Volunteers are drawn from the churches and the community.

PAID STAFF:

Currently **YOSSA** has no any paid staff in place, but it will employ some professional staff in the future to help in running the organization's services. This will be done depending on the availability of funds. At present all the management members deliver their services on voluntary.

IMPACT AREA & LOCATION

YOSSA is currently operating in the area of T/A Chitukula, which has a cluster of nine villages. The area is located in Lilongwe district, Central region of Malawi, Africa.

TARGET GROUPS:

The Youth & Orphans.

MISSION STATEMENT

YOSSA exists to empower the youth, orphans and vulnerable children in the community in order to help them meet their spiritual, emotional, intellectual,

social and physical needs, so that they can live productive and dignified lives in their communities.

OVERALL GOALS

YOSSA is a Non-Partisan, Interdenominational, youth ministry with a specific focus on prevention and protection of the orphans and Young people against poverty, which generally tends to push them into destitution which in turn exposes them to exploitation, all that lead to dreadful diseases like STI's and HIV/AIDS that deter both individual development and of the Nation.

YOSSA believes that there should be new approaches of advocacy and rehabilitation programs that target victims of circumstances and this is by the community taking charge of vulnerability issues arising from within it, including those surrounding poverty, which **YOSSA** defines as the Grave Deprivation of Life's Opportunities and Access to Human Social Amenities that inevitably leads to destitution and exposure to exploitation and disease and hence there will be far less children heating the street as street kids and orphans.

NETWORKING

YOSSA works with different organizations and institutions that are in line with its aims and objectives.

- **YOSSA** therefore designed approach that encompasses all community members to work towards enhancing a healthier interaction and to promote good will between people that should eventually result in a more sensitive and caring community. The key approach is the mobilization of all key players in the community including: **Community Elders, Church Leaders Social Workers, School Teachers, Civic Leaders, and Healthier Workers**. The idea or

mobilizing these individuals and organization is to help in empowering the community members living in especially difficult situations both socially and financially to such a degree that they will themselves deal with issues of vulnerability to poverty in their lives and by so doing, protect it's young from contracting STD's and HIV/AIDS.

To do this *YOSSA* collaborates with other organizations and ministries in doing the work

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Conducting HIV/AIDS Education in schools through various participatory approaches.
- Offering Bible lessons to orphans & the youth at *YOSSA* centre, Area 49.
- Community based feeding program for 264 orphans.
- Education support programme for 35 orphans as a gateway toward self reliance and a sustainable future.
- Nutrition programs.
- Offering sports recreation facilities to the youth at *YOSSA*.

SPECIFIC GOALS:

- **Spiritual Support:** By Conducting household and group prayers among the Youth and Orphans, having Bible Camps, establishing and facilitating prayer cells, weekly communal worship services with all beneficiaries, encouraging local churches to teach sound doctrine, and provision of Christian literature where necessary.

- Advocate for Youth Friendly Policies and Protective Laws.
- Training: By sending orphans to school and Provision of different Life Saving Skills and Support Services for Young People in Hazardous Situations (Young People in Extreme Poverty and without Life Opportunities such as Education.)
- To promote Community based options for the care and support of orphans and other vulnerable children.
- To bring the orphans in the way of the Lord (James 1:27).
- Public Awareness Activities on issues related to HIV/AIDS.

MAIN SOURCE OF FUNDS

- Income Generating Activities
- Donors

FUTURE PLANS

- Acquiring farmland to grow maize and other farm products whose harvest shall be used in the feeding programs for the orphans and vulnerable children.
- To construct a multi-purpose hall for skills training and shows to be offered to the outgoing school youth and the orphans.
- Reducing donor dependence Spirit, this has helped multiply street beggars, by developing a self reliant spirit of competitiveness and productiveness among the youth and orphans.
- Promote positive living among people living with HIV/AIDS.

NEED STATEMENT:

The number of orphans in Malawi is increasing at an alarming rate and the Area of T/A Chitukula is one of

the areas severely hit by this problem. Grand parents are taking care of the orphans and the households have less or no food. Worse still children head other households. The need in these families is not only physical but also spiritual. In order for the orphans to grow and become responsible citizens of Malawi, *YOSSA* has a vision of bringing the word of God to them, while meeting their physical needs such as education, food, clothing and shelter.

FOR these needs to be accomplished, *YOSSA* cannot work independently. We are therefore calling all local and international faith based organizations, churches and interested individuals to join hands and make life better for these orphans.

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