

FOUNTAIN of LIFE



6/30/2015

Mid-Year Report

Fountain of Life (Malawi) in 2015 has seen a growing presence on Social Media and recognition of our work at the One Stop centers. Our Facebook page is almost to the 500 like level on a weekly basis, new YouTube clips are posted, a potential partnership with UNICEF and a growing relationship with the Segal Family Foundation are all part of this report. Read on.

Fountain of Life

MID-YEAR REPORT

FOL SOCIAL MEDIA

2015 has seen a slow but steady growth in our social media presence. The Fountain of Life Facebook page is close to the 500 like level and when we post something of interest our reach is heading towards 1,000! There are more clips on our Youtube page and we encourage people to visit the page and browse through the clips. One of the series of clips done this year was from a client who was willing to share her story and Natalia produced a series of 10 clips that cover many aspects of the reality of what rape does to a person. We are hoping that, over time, these clips will help many.

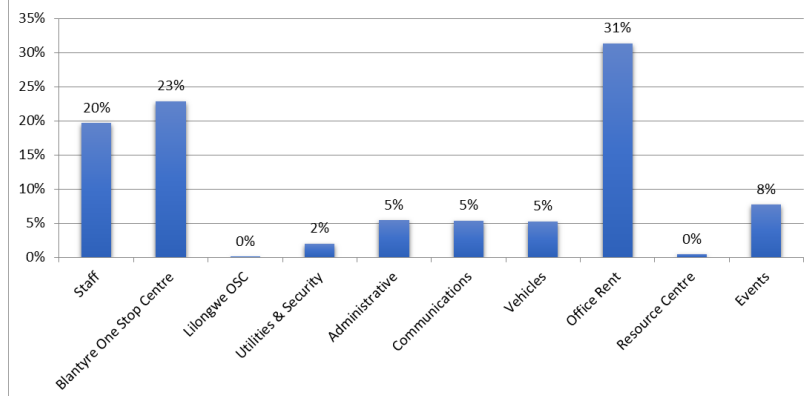


FOL MID YEAR FINANCE REPORT

2015 Mid Year Report



2015 - How the Money Was Spent



A OSC Story.

Three girls under the age of 10 were brought to the One Stop Centre in Blantyre. All three were assaulted by the same perpetrator, a neighbor. One of the girls shared with the counselor how the neighbor calls her his wife and asks her to clean dirty dishes for him. On one particular day the neighbor came to their house while she was with her mother and asked her mother, "where is my wife?" She was with her friend and the man took them both to his house where the man defiled both girls. When the parents heard about this and checked into it, they became aware that another little girl had also been defiled by the same man.

Education and sensitization need to be intensified to educate parents on the safety of their children. Parents must be very careful to let their children know that it is never ok for a neighbor to treat them in such a way. The neighbor must not be seen to be given permission to refer to a 10 year old girl as his wife as this gives the perpetrator power and control with indirect authorization from the parents which puts their children at great risk. **(Tandu - FOL Team leader)**

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS IN SCHOOLS.

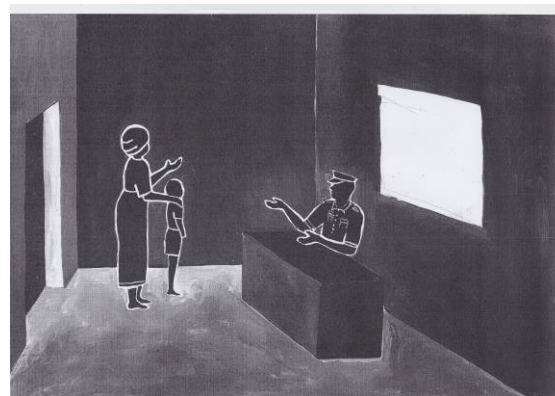
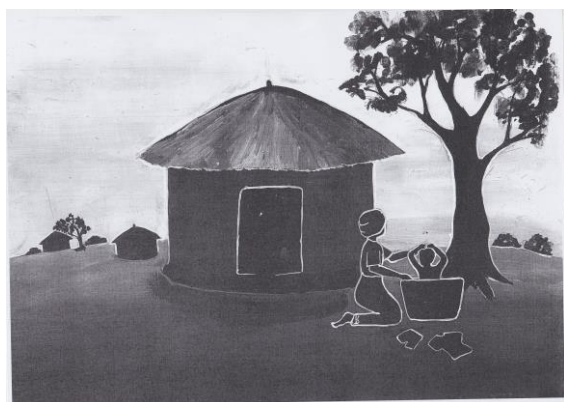
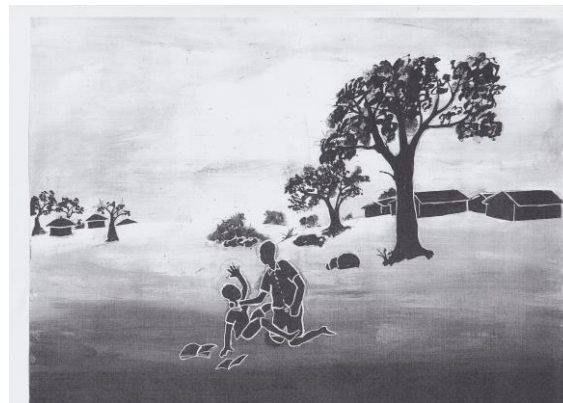
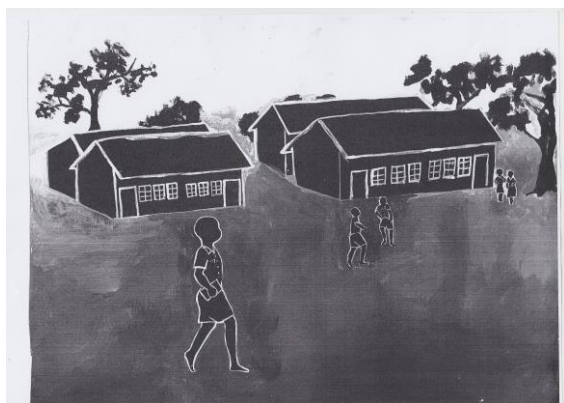
Natalia and the team of volunteers in Lilongwe visited some Primary and Secondary Schools in the city. They used the Church Tool Kit (see below) to begin discussions on rape and how to help a victim of such violence. These sessions were well received and over 1,500 students and teachers were exposed to the message. Some of the comments were surprise that Primary level children were already aware of these issues and that this message needed to begin at the Primary level so these children and the teachers could take steps to address the issues.



THE TOOL KIT FOR CHURCHES TO BE DISSEMINATED THIS YEAR

The same foundation that covered the cost of producing the Tool Kit has agreed to support the costs of disseminating it. We are currently having meetings with the Evangelical Association of Malawi to do this in the North, Central and South regions of Malawi.

Below is another one of the “stories in pictures” in the Tool Kit. This one is about a child with a disability that was attacked when he was left alone at home. It was only when his mother was giving him a bath that she noticed there was a problem. Children with disability are at high risk of sexual assault and FOL has partnered with Children of Blessing Trust to address this.





A RETREAT FOR OUR VOLUNTEER LAY COUNSELORS



Caring for the Care-giver is always so important. FOL has two teams of volunteer counselors so far – one in Blantyre and one in Lilongwe. This year those who could make it from the two teams had a retreat for them to help them relax, get support, get to know each other better and simply recover and be refreshed. They had a great time and it helped all of them gain the right perspective that enables them to continue to

commit themselves to the challenge of helping victims of rape.

FOL STAFF CHANGES



Salome



Natalia

Natalia and Salome work out of the Lilongwe FOL Office. There is no longer a FOL full time person in Blantyre as the model of trauma counseling linked to the One Stop Centers continues to develop. The team in Blantyre share the administrative responsibilities and it is working well.

FUTURE PLANS & HOPES & DREAMS

Fundraising Efforts

In the early part of 2015 a great many proposals went out to a variety of organizations and foundations. To date it has been amazing to see how many different ways “no” can be said. Two organizations did say yes. Thanks to the Charis Foundation and Zoe Projects for believing in FOL and supporting our work. Currently discussions are under way with UNICEF for funding to expand our trauma counseling model that is working so well at the Blantyre One Stop Centre. If the funding comes through we will be working with UNICEF to test the model and further develop it in Lilongwe, Zomba and Mzuzu. There is another potential donor that has indicated that if FOL gets support for 2 years of approximately USD50,000 a year they will match this with USD25,000 a year over 2 years. So far we have not reached that goal but if anyone is interested in this kind of matching support strategy, let us know!

Place of Refuge

One of original volunteers that went to Cape Town for the training has offered her home as a Place of Refuge for victims of rape. We are trying to make this dream become a reality. **Stay tuned to see if this can happen!** If you know of anyone who is interested in supporting this project, let us know.