

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ISSUE #1

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JANUARY 2024

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A JOURNEY OF HEARTS AND HOPE: MATCH FOUNDATION'S LEARNING VISIT AT JACARANDA FOUNDATION

In the crisp January morning of 2024, the MATCH Foundation embarked on a transformative journey to the heart of Blantyre to visit Jacaranda Foundation, a beacon of hope and education for less-privileged children, partnered with the Segal Family Foundation.



Welcomed by Mrs. Kookie, the MATCH team began a day filled with revelations and heartwarming encounters. Guided by the visionary founder, Madam Marie Da Silva, they traced the roots of Jacaranda's compassion, starting from Madam Da Silva's childhood home. This emotional journey became a testament to the foundation's mission, grounded in empathy and care.

Their exploration continued to the Jacaranda Mullen Preschool, where the team was welcomed by the headmistress, Mrs. Matupi. Uniform-clad children, provided for free, exemplified Jacaranda's commitment to accessible education. The state-of-the-art kitchen and meetings with teachers added layers to the narrative of dedication and care.

The Jacaranda Jan Kulczyk Vocational School unfolded as a realm of dreams and skills under the guidance of the spirited acting principal, Mwayi Jande. From tailoring to entrepreneurship, this space nurtured aspirations, with notable artists like Skeffa Chimoto leaving their creative imprints.

Beyond education, Jacaranda's impact extended to healthcare. The MATCH team visited the Jacaranda Community Physiotherapy Clinic, a haven for children with disabilities. Physiotherapist Dorothy Wesley shared stories of resilience, emphasizing the transformative power of challenges.

The journey concluded with a tour of primary and secondary schools, revealing diverse extracurricular activities supported by global contributions. Madonna's dance house stood as a symbol of international solidarity.

Engaging in a heartfelt conversation with Madam Da Silva at the main campus, critical initiatives like the school feeding project and the library were discussed. Luc Deschamps, Jacaranda Foundation's executive director, became a collaborator for library initiatives. Madam Marie insisted on a need to have a full time social worker. We left with grateful hearts as Luc promised to bring the Luc's library to our school, Tadala abc Primary School. We left them with smiles and goose bumps as we narrated our magnificent impact created in a very short period of time.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, the MATCH team reflected on a tapestry woven with stories of courage, resilience, and kindness. Jacaranda's unwavering commitment left an indelible mark, prompting the MATCH Foundation to depart Limbe Chigumula with hearts full of gratitude. They carried not just insights and strategies but a newfound relationship and a shared commitment to making the world a brighter place for every child. This journey, from hearts to hope, became a chapter in the ongoing narrative of transformation and impact.

This trip was supported with funding from Segal Family Foundation, our proud partner!