St. Joseph’s Hospital, Blantyre, Malawi
Building Programme

St. Joseph’s Hospital is based in a rural setting in Blantyre with a catchment area of approx. 55,000 people. It’s Out-Patients Dept., sees almost 18,000 people per year, hospital admissions are approx. 8,000 per year and it operates a large Maternity Unit for the more complicated maternity cases. It is also the referral centre for smaller rural clinics. The hospital has a Palliative Care Unit, Pharmacy and a TB Unit with Out Patients Clinics. Staff include 2 doctors, 6 clinical officers, 4 medical sisters, (nurses), together with a pharmacy technician, a dental technician as well as other staff, totaling 200.

Structured outreach clinics providing Vaccination Clinics, Ante Natal Clinics, Under 5’s Clinics are staffed by St Joseph’s and this provides healthcare education to communities which live within a 15-20k radius from the hospital.

All of the above programmes are carried out as part of their Primary Health Care initiative. The hospital has a service agreement with the Ministry of Health to be a referral Unit for Maternity cases from 3 outlying rural areas. St Joseph’s is hoping to achieve its Millennium Goal by reducing maternity deaths, currently it has 0.2%, while the country average is 8%. Contraceptive advice is provided by the hospital.

Playing for Life plans to create a building fund for St. Joseph’s and expand the facilities for in-patient care & to upgrade the services for the outreach clinics.

To do this, we need to raise €50,000 broken down as follows:
- A mother and child vaccination programme: €10,000
- Re-organisation and updating Hospital I.T systems: €25,000
- Hospital Extension: €5,000
- Ante-Natal Clinics: €5,000
- Under 5’s Clinics: €5,000
- Total: €50,000

We are aware of the many calls on your generosity and hopefully you will understand that we are making this appeal on behalf of people who are merely existing and living from day to day. In terms of sickness, St Josephs is their only hope. Your generosity will turn that hope into reality for many of them now and for many years to come.

If you need any further information please contact Playing for Life at 045 482479, call Anne Jones at 087 6300201 or Seamus Hayes at 086 2307330.
Volunteer Programme

Playing for Life works with underprivileged African communities delivering a health awareness programme and providing skills training and education facilities.

Our aim is to help as many people as possible gain the skills necessary to earn a living and stay in their communities rather than drift into urban slums.

To succeed, we are looking for volunteers to deliver, through the medium of sport, a programme on HIV/Aids and other health issues. Together, we travel to Africa to work with these communities providing the varied short courses requested e.g. health, sport, computers, accounts, music & drama, dressmaking, home economics. And so we are always looking for builders & tradesmen, skilled and semi-skilled but most of all, we need people with lots of energy and enthusiasm...!

Thank you,

Tracy

For more information on volunteering with Playing for Life, please visit our website—www.playingforlife.ie, phone 045 482479, 086 2307330 or email: info@playingforlife.ie

The Playing for Life concept is fantastic and long may it continue. I was delighted to have been able to go and teach music to such talented people. It has been the most sad, happy, humbling, emotional experience of my life.

Ray McDonnell, Co Dublin

“The poverty is just as bad as you could ever imagine. ‘Nothing’ is a daily word that we use very liberally, but honestly, these people have absolutely NOTHING”

Kevan Owens, Co. Down

To those considering the experience I would say go for it – you’ll get back a lot more than you could ever give.”

Mary Dooley, Co Offaly