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[www.ageafrica.org](http://www.ageafrica.org)

“I have learned that girls have the right to an education and to express their views.”

—Girl Shower Participant, August 2010

## Celebrating 5 Years of Service...

### And 140 Students Served in 2010

As we near the end of our 5<sup>th</sup> year of providing educational opportunities to talented young women in Malawi **we thank you** for your support in what has been an extraordinary journey for us as an organization. In 2010, AGE embarked on an exciting experiment to provide vital extracurricular programming to our students. In Malawi, basic information about qualifying for University, enrolling in vocational training, and where to go to pick up registration forms, etc. is simply not available to the majority of graduating high school students.

**Because of your support**, 140 students from regional community day schools have attended AGE's 'Girl Shower' weekend retreats that provide sexual and reproductive health education & self-advocacy training to young women at a pivotal time in their development. Additionally, our 21 scholars received comprehensive career guidance counseling, and 13 of

them have finished their 4<sup>th</sup> and final year!

**Thanks to all of you for believing in the power of education to transform lives!**



*Meet three generations of Malawian Women: Emmie, her Mom & Grandmother*

In June 2010 AGE Scholar Emmie Chilenga (like many of our students) became the first woman in her family to finish her high school education. Thanks to AGE Africa and our supporters, Emmie did not drop out in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year despite her inability to pay school fees. She not only finished her secondary education, but passed her exams with high marks. After four years of boarding school, Emmie is now back home with her family. AGE staff fully expect her to sit for entrance exams this Spring at one of the country's many Nursing Colleges.



*The gate of Providence Secondary, 1 of 3 boarding schools where AGE currently works... (over)*

## Looking Ahead to 2011...

We are pleased to announce that in December of 2010 AGE was awarded an additional \$25,000 from the Brush Foundation. These funds will allow us to continue our important work in sexual and reproductive health through the Girl Shower program series. This year, Girl Shower retreats will serve approximately 360 students at 8 schools. As part of our ongoing commitment to women's empowerment, AGE will work with the Girl Leader Empowerment Program (GILEP)—a Malawian NGO—to establish a rural rape crisis center in 2011. The Pamthuzi Sexual and Reproductive Health Community Center will be the first of its kind in the country, serving women of all ages in Chiradzulu District. A joint community venture, Pamthuzi is one small piece of the sexual & reproductive health strategies that empower our scholars and their communities with the knowledge and resources necessary to make healthy choices.

### Our Scholarship Program...

In 2011, we hope to dramatically increase the number of scholarships we support, the types of schools where we work, as well as expand our staff in Malawi. Early on this year, we will hire a Program Assistant and open an additional base of operation in Zomba district—the site of Mulunguzi Secondary and seven of AGE's scholarships (see picture p. 1). AGE is also in the process of drafting a 5-year strategic plan for program growth designed to maximize the net-impact of our work.

Thank you for joining us in what is shaping up to be a dynamic year and a pivotal moment in our growth. In all of these pursuits, you make a difference. We are sincerely looking forward to an exciting year of collaboration!

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*Efelo, one of AGE's first scholars from Bowa village*

### The AGE Scholarship Model

In Malawi, what we call the 'hidden costs' of secondary education can often be well over twice the cost of actual tuition. These things include school uniforms, notebooks, transport to and from home, national exam fees, soap and shampoo, proper shoes (required at school), flashlights for doing homework when the electricity goes out (an almost daily occurrence in many parts of Malawi) and a half dozen other essential items. At AGE we are committed not just to getting students to the academic finish line, but to equipping our students with the knowledge they need to make the most of their education after school—whether it is in their home villages, on the job market, or in higher education.



## An Update on AGE Scholar Idah

After spending a summer studying at Phillips Exeter Academy in 2009, Idah Savala returned to Providence Secondary & to Malawi to complete her 4<sup>th</sup> and final year of school. We are pleased to announce that Idah's national exam results are in (these largely determine what opportunities are available to students post-secondary), and she is among a very small percentage of students nationwide who qualify to sit for the University of Malawi entrance examinations.

On behalf of the entire AGE family, **Congratulations Idah!**