



Project Kindy

ANNUAL REPORT FY2425

A TRANSFORMATIONAL
YEAR

WWW.PROJECTKINDY.COM

ABN 66413721370

TEAM@PROJECTKINDY.COM



A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER

This has been a year of true transformation for Project Kindy, now Project Kindy Inc.

In the space of twelve months we have become a fully incorporated association with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status – a new legal structure that gives us the strong foundations and legal support we need to grow with confidence and transparency for decades to come.

My visit to Malawi in November 2024 was extraordinary and I found the impacts of our shared work to be deeply compelling. Every question was answered, two new kindergartens were born, deeper trust was forged, and we returned home with hundreds of photographs, videos and stories of the realities there.

That visit became the birthplace of our 2025–2027 strategic plan – “Dreaming Deeper”. In the villages of Machinga District, around simple tables with the Canossian Sisters and alongside our dedicated committee here in Australia, we shaped a shared vision that is focused, sustainable and full of hope. We now know exactly where we are called to grow (the Machinga District), how we will raise the standard of every kindergarten, and how we will secure the future financially for generations.

This plan belongs to all of us, and I want to name particular gratitude:

To the Sisters and Locals - Sr Giovanna Tosi and Sr Anni Chapinga, and the 80+ local staff and the over 1300 children and your families. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in this amazing mission.

To our committee – Jacqui, Rebecca, Michelle and Kate – thank you for the countless hours, the generous expertise, the wise advice and the unwavering belief you have poured into Project Kindy this year. You have turned vision into strategy and governance. We simply could not have achieved what we have without you.

To our Immediate Impact Givers, we are deeply grateful to you:

- Our foundational monthly donors who ensure the children’s fees are covered
- Our donors who give once a year to also generously fund fees (e.g. lunches, shirts etc)
- InGauge Energy – major support for staff stipends across 80+ local teachers and caregivers
- Avenue’s Montessori Children’s House, Bowen Hills – donated education materials that were gratefully received by the kindergartens in Nov 2024 + Art Auction proceeds covered fees
- Viridian Retirement Village community – ongoing presentations and generosity
- The Saint Magdalene Prayer Group, led by Antonia Toscano
- Every individual donor, prayer group, donor of items for the Nov visit, encourager, and advocate

To our incredible Infrastructure Donors - Rachel and Josh Leembruggen and their boys sponsored a well! And Chris and Jean Manning and the Geoff Booth Foundation who funded the classrooms. Thank you!

To our first ever Infinite Impact Givers - The M F Gill Charitable Fund major donation laid the foundation of our generational endowment. Chris and Jean Manning have reinforced this first gift, forging a path to financial sustainability. Thank you very much.

Zikomo!

DONNA POWER
FOUNDING PRESIDENT



CHILD IN FOCUS - ABRAZAKI



Abrazaki and his beautiful mum (pictured right) first met the Sisters because they used to regularly come to the convent and ask for food for their survival. Due to their extreme poverty, Abrazaki was severely malnourished and his body was weak.

In September 2024 Abrazaki enrolled in the Bakhita kindergarten and grew stronger and more confident due to the daily, filling lunch and care of teachers and kindy friends. Sadly, his mum passed away from a long-term illness a few months later, making him an orphan at the age of 4, just before Donna visited Malawi that November.

Thankfully, he has an older sister who has taken him in, and her daughter is now supported to come to the kindy, too. The Project Kindy Inc. community, the Canossian Sisters and the local staff work together to provide kindergarten for many children because it means so much to these little ones, like Abrazaki.

Donna reflects, "It was very special to be warmly welcomed by Abrazaki and see his sweet nature for myself. He looked quite at home at the kindergarten and I felt so grateful that our partnership will support him through these vulnerable years."

Community kindergarten is life-saving and life-changing for Abrazaki and many children like him. Join the partnership!



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2025-2027

Mission, Vision and Values

The objectives of Project Kindy Inc. are to advance education and relieve poverty by providing funds for community-run kindergartens managed by the Canossian Daughters of Charity in rural Malawi.

Our dream is to partner at the grassroots with the Canossian Sisters and local leaders of the Machinga District to radically improve the lives of the children and communities through the sustainable development of village-run kindergartens. The values we strive to cultivate are:

- **Dignity** - the children in our kindergartens are cared for by all with the highest respect
- **Transparency** - the Australian donors see how their gifts change lives and communities
- **Subsidiarity** - the local Malawians are empowered to run their village kindergartens
- **Respect** - the Canossian Sisters are supported in their mission to provide the project management
- **Trust** - all three partners communicate often as we work towards our shared mission
- **Integrity** - all three partners provide regular and accurate financial and operational reports
- **Sustainability** - all three partners strive towards sustainable operations that protect the long term delivery of our community run kindergartens

3 Year Strategic Objectives in Malawi

- Develop two new village-based kindergartens including two classrooms and one well
- Provide for the annual needs of our 13 kindergartens (1300+ children, 80+ staff)
- Raise the standard of service provided in all kindergartens

3 Year Strategic Objectives in Australia

- Deepen meaningful donor engagement and collaborations, online and in person
- Move to incorporated status and continue to build upon our high level of transparency and governance
- Maximise the charitable impact of our Project Kindy Village donors through the development of major and regular gifts offerings

Subsidiarity
Transparency
Sustainability



Trust
Integrity
Respect
Dignity



OPERATIONS REPORT - PRESIDENT

Impact Snapshot – as at 30 June 2025

- 13 village kindergartens fully operational in Machinga District with over 1300 children
- 80+ local teachers & caregivers receiving stipends
- Daily nutritious lunch and quality pre-primary education for hundreds of children
- 2 new classrooms + 1 new well completed
- 100% of strategic visit goals achieved

Malawi Visit – November 2024

- All 10 goals for the visit were fully achieved
- Two new kindergartens approved and subsequently established during the year
- Project Partnership Plans formally agreed by both the Sisters and our Committee
- Hundreds of new photos, videos, and stories captured for donor inspiration
- Strategic decision confirmed: all future growth to remain focused on the Machinga District (strong local demand, deep relationships, limited interest from Canossian communities elsewhere)
- Communication protocols clarified (Sr Giovanna – finance; Sr Annie – operations)
- Logistics, risks, and opportunities mapped for future donor group visits

Infrastructure

- Two new classrooms and one new community well completed in record time – made possible by major donors and highly motivated Sisters and village communities

Governance

- Successfully became an Incorporated Association, Project Kindy Inc., (with a new ABN) with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status

Teacher Training & Program Quality

- New partnership launched with the locally-based Perivoli Schools Trust
- 16-lesson training program plus 6 months of in-class support rolled out across all kindergartens – teachers report being “very happy”

Long-term Sustainability

- Launched the “Infinite Impact Givers” endowment program with a flagship gift from the M F Gill Charitable Fund into a dedicated Term Deposit
- Inviting ongoing major gifts (cash, shares, bequests) to secure the future for generations

Supporter Engagement

- Shifted from large fundraising events to intimate presentations, externally hosted fundraisers, and a special AGM experience
- Planning underway for our first donor group visit to Malawi in July 2026

DONNA POWER

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

FINANCIAL REPORT - TREASURER

1. Executive Summary

The 2024–2025 financial year marked a period of substantial progress and organisational transition for Project Kindy. On 18 June 2025, we achieved a key governance milestone by becoming an Incorporated Association. Accordingly, this report presents the consolidated financial activities of both the former unincorporated entity and the newly incorporated association, ensuring transparency across the transition.

Throughout the year, Project Kindy sustained its core mission of advancing early childhood education and community empowerment initiatives in Malawi, while maintaining sound financial oversight and accountability during the incorporation process.

Key Financial Highlights of the 2024-2025 year include:

- **Total Income: \$182,273.45**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our generous donors for their invaluable support throughout the year. In particular, we acknowledge InGauge Energy for their outstanding generosity, providing a \$20,000 corporate sponsorship and an extraordinary \$100,000 philanthropic gift from the M F Gill Foundation. This remarkable commitment exemplifies the spirit of partnership and shared purpose that drives our success.

- **Total Expenses: \$141,068.25**

This year, our total expenses included a \$117,000 donation to the Sisters, representing an increase of \$47,000 from the previous financial due to the infrastructure projects. We also introduced a small stipend for our Committee President, in recognition of the countless hours they dedicate to what is effectively a full-time voluntary role. In addition, we covered reimbursement costs for the Committee President's travel to Malawi, ensuring appropriate oversight of our overseas activities. As an Australian charity, we have a responsibility to ensure that all international initiatives align with our mission and that robust controls are in place to prevent fraud and guarantee that all funds are used appropriately.

- Net Surplus: \$41,205.20
- Successful completion of the legal and administrative process of incorporation, enhancing project Kindy's governance, compliance, and sustainability.
- Continued donor and partner engagement, ensuring the ongoing funding of key projects.
- Strengthened financial systems and reporting frameworks in preparation for the association's first full year of incorporated operations

The Committee sincerely thanks the children, families, educators, Canossian Sisters, donors, and supporters who contributed to Project Kindy's mission this year. As we begin our new chapter as an incorporated association, we remain committed to transparency, partnership, and the responsible use of resources to support early learning in Malawi.

JACQUI DU PAYNE
TREASURER



IT'S TIME TO *Visit Malawi*

LIFE-SAVING FOR THEM LIFE-CHANGING FOR YOU!

Escape the ordinary and explore the extraordinary. The best adventures await us in the "warm heart of Africa" as we visit the kindy communities we support.

- Budget: approx \$5000 total
- July 2026. Bookings close March.
- Optional safaris in personal time

OUR SERVICE

- ✓ Pre-Trip Preparation
- ✓ Visit Kindergartens
- ✓ Experience Malawi
- ✓ Thorough Planning & Risk Assessment