

Name of Organization: DevXchange International  
Name of Applicant: Gail Hudson Title: Project Lead Member  
Address: PO Box 224, Barrie, Ontario, Canada, L4M 4T2  
Telephone: 705.326.3926 Email: gail@ablekidsrehab.org  
Charitable Registration: 846885523 RR0001  
Year founded: 2006 Able Kids: 2013

Date: September 14, 2018

Dear Mrs. Davis-Kerr:

Please accept this package as a mirror format to your electronic application. DevXchange International respectfully requests a grant in the amount of \$12,500.00 for our Able Kids Rehab/Clinic Project in support of its Nutrition Program. As a development exchange organization, we have accrued the support of Canadian volunteers to work alongside Indigenous organizations and their humanitarian efforts to improve the lives of the marginalized. With over 30 development projects in various sectors and has raised over \$3,800,000.00, we seek to develop and advance educational programs for all ages and abilities.

As a groundbreaking initiative in Malawi, the Able Kids Rehab Project was developed to provide children with physical and/or intellectual disabilities with an opportunity to have a quality education. Since 2013 they have received full administrative and technical support from our board of directors and have raised over \$60,000 to date. Like Mr. Foster, the foundation was developed by one man's relentless devotion to give to those who could have a life worth living if given the means to do so. By empowering families through educating program staff/volunteers/participants and counselling parents, Victor Musowa and his associates are impacting the community at large. The continued effectiveness of The Able Kids Rehab Clinic is largely dependent on the nutritional program as food scarcity in Malawi is a huge determinant in the development of children. By funding the nutritional program, children are not only guaranteed food throughout the day but rather, they are enriched to be at their best to receive education and therapy services.

Currently serving 70 children, with 500 families on the waitlist throughout Blantyre and surrounding area, the grant could provide the Rehab/Clinic the means to serve as a model for similar initiatives throughout the country.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. I look forward to following up with you in the following weeks to answer any questions you may have as well as discuss the merits of our proposal. Please feel free to contact Melody Sargent at [info@devxchange.org](mailto:info@devxchange.org) or by telephone at 1.800.434.1238.

Sincerely,

G Hudson

Gail Hudson

**Name of Organization:** DevXchange International  
**Street Address:** PO Box 224, Barrie, Canada, ON Postal Code L4M 4T2  
**Telephone:** 1.800.434.1238 **Email:** info@devxchange.org  
Charitable Registration 846885523 RR0001  
**Name of Contact:** Melody Sargent  
**Title:** Fundraising Coordinator  
**Year Established:** DevXchange - 2006 Able Kids - 2013

**Foster Foundation funding received most recently:** \$0

**Amount of Funding Requested:** \$12,500.00 which would be met by a matching grant from Central Coast Children's Foundation.

**Total budgeted cost of program/project for which funds are requested:** \$15,000.00

**Description of program/project to be funded:**

The particular project this grant is targeting is called "Able Kids Rehab Project," in Malawi. Children in Africa are facing significant barriers to education with a lack of schools and teachers available. For children with disabilities, the struggle is even more complicated. Thanks to the Able Kids Rehab project the school/clinic can make sure children with disabilities are receiving a high-quality education, therapy, and nutritious meals.

Imagine being a parent of a child with a disability in a country where there are not only an alarming lack of schools to educate your child, but where stigma suggests that your child does not even deserve an education. Imagine barely being able to feed your family, and wondering how you will continue your income-generating activities when you have to simultaneously care for your child with a disability.

In Blantyre, Malawi, thanks to the vision and tireless devotion of one man and also our implementing partner, Victor Musowa, children with disabilities are receiving a high-quality education, therapy, and nutritious meals. And it's not just traditional school-aged children who attend this school. Recognizing the critical role of early intervention therapy, this school, the Able Kids Rehab project, admits children as young as four months.

The clinic/school has imported educational ideas from other parts of Africa and the United States and Canada, enabling Victor and his staff to take a much more ambitious and innovative approach to the development of early literacy and numeracy skills in the populations that they serve. Rarely across the entire subcontinent can you find a 6-month-old with disabilities that are already in a rehabilitation program. Seldom in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa can you see any organized services for pre-school children with disabilities, but, at the Able Kids school, you can.

Victor and his associates are also empowering families to help each other. To promote sustainability, he has developed an innovative training program in which mothers of children

currently enrolled in the school train mothers of children on the waiting list on educational and therapy techniques that they can perform with their children at home while they wait for a spot in the school. Victor conducts teacher training at several local primary schools so that when his students transition to “traditional” school, they receive appropriate support from their teachers.

For many of Malawi’s 18 million residents’ food security, HIV/Aids and extreme poverty are part of everyday life. Children with disabilities fall far down the line when it comes to being a priority or even a consideration for funding. Because food security is a predominant issue in Malawi, the importance of the nutrition program at Able Kids is critical to further development. It has been found that the feeding program has significantly improved the learning ability of many of the malnourished children. The nutrition program ‘eats up’ half of the budget annually. Other areas that require funding are day-to-day expenses, rent, utilities, and wages for the staff at Able Kids; Victor works as a volunteer.

**Program to be funded will directly benefit participants as follows:**

The children enrolled at Able Kids Rehab and their parents experience hope, possibly for the first time in their child's life. Children who have been neglected, shunned and ignored in a society facing their own struggles are now given an opportunity to grow. Each day these children are greeted by a team of loving, dedicated and caring staff members whose focus is to build up bodies weakened by cerebral malaria, cerebral palsy, malnutrition and a long list of other health challenges common in third-world Africa. Children receive therapies which may include occupational therapy, physical therapy or speech and hearing therapy. Without the benefits of the nutritional program, these therapies are not nearly as successful. Also, with children being cared for at Able Kids Rehab during the day this gives their parent/caregiver the opportunity to look for work. Before Able Kids Rehab, this would not have been possible as their children require such dedicated attention.

**Participants with an intellectual disability registered in programs this year (if applicable)**

Yes

**Participants with an intellectual disability represent % of total registrants (if applicable)**

+50%

**Receive government funding** - No (However, Victor is a Member of Parliament and works hard to be a champion for children with disabilities. Victor strives to educate government officials on the importance of inclusion).

**and / or other private funding**  Yes but soon to end.

## **Other types of fundraising undertaken**

Able Kids has a dedicated group of donors that have been touched by the work that Victor is doing. These donors are friends, acquaintances and 2 churches that met and got to know Victor when he was a student at Georgian College in Orillia, ON in 2005-2006. These people have followed his tireless journey to help children with special needs since his return to Malawi in 2006, and from the inception of Able Kids in 2013. With the sun setting of Central Coast Children's Foundation, we realize now is the time to reach out to other potential organizations to share our story and look for a donor/s who wants to be part of a tiny miracle currently happening in Malawi.

Our primary fundraiser is called 'Lunch Money'. Each year since Able Kids opened we would approach our funders to support this initiative. Because the food budget is about 50% of our annual budget we wanted to provide our donors with an experience, not just an ask. 2 years ago we decided to host an Able Kids Picnic where donors are invited to spend a few hours on an afternoon in July hearing an update about Able Kids directly from Victor. Attendees enjoy a BBQ and have the opportunity to bid on Malawian art in a silent auction. It is well attended by about 55-75 people. This is our main fundraiser and is met with a matching grant from a donor in the US. The matching grant comes from an organization in California called Central Coast Children's Foundation (CCCF). CCCF and its founder Harvey Pressman has been a champion for Able Kids since Able Kids Rehab opened in 2013. That being said, Harvey's Foundation is in the first stages of phasing out. CCCF has funded various projects around the world for over 20 years and was set up to finish when Harvey was at a time in his life when he could slow down and enjoy other interests. CCCF will stop funding Able Kids in the next year or so, this is why we are so hopeful to find other donors to step in where CCCF has stepped back. If we are fortunate enough to find a donor/s to cover 'Lunch Money' we can direct additional funds raised in other directions like updating equipment, painting classrooms, and/or technology for the children.

**Is this organization part of a larger charitable/non-profit organization? No**

**If yes, name of parent organization? Not Applicable**

## **Other Programs / Services offered:**

Services offered at Able Kids include; Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech, Language and Hearing Therapy. Lessons are taught by a Specialist Teacher. Parent/guardian training and Saturday group therapy (for children on the waitlist). There is also parent to parent support where parents with children that have been enrolled for a while counsel new or incoming parents on how processes and therapies work, what is realistic to expect.

**Recognition Opportunities:** Victor was nominated in 2015 for a Colleges of Ontario Premier Award for his work in Social Service. Nominees are chosen from over 2 million Ontario College graduates and celebrate the outstanding contributions college graduates make to Ontario and throughout the world.

<http://georgiancollege.uberflip.com/i/602646-georgianview-2015/9>

**Social Media recognition - Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn**

**Website:** [www.ablekidsrehab.org](http://www.ablekidsrehab.org)

**Facebook page:** Able Kids Rehab

**DevXchange page:** <https://devxchange.org/campaigns/able-kids-malawi/>

**Please include a list of your current Board Members**

**Board of Directors:**

Kate Parker - Chair

Tara Bailey - Secretary

Tessema Bitew - Treasurer

Sofia Seer - Board Member

Brandi Bailey - Board Member

Alanna Salpeter - Board Member

Elias Omer - Board Member

Audited financial statement and Annual Report included at the end of this package.

**Other comments:**

We are very hopeful to find a donor like you.

**Enclosures with this application are as follows:**

- Cover Letter
- Application printed from website
- Completed Application
- DevXchange Audited Financial Statement
- DevXchange Annual Report
- Detailed Outline and budget for project
- Able Kids Bookmarks

**Name of Applicant:** Melody Sargent

**Title:** Fundraising Coordinator

**Signature:**

**Date**

Detailed outline and budget for the project or program for which funds are being requested (highlighted in the top section of the table shown below).

| Item  | Purpose  | Cost  |
|---|--|---|
| Nutrition Program                             | To provide regular nutrition to children Monday-Friday (70-80 children) that are currently enrolled. Also, provide a nutritious meal to the children in the Saturday program who are currently on the waitlist (typically 100-130 children show up on Saturdays) | \$15,000<br>Annually CAD<br>\$1250 monthly<br>usually paid<br>quarterly or bi-<br>monthly |
| Rent  | \$400/month  | \$4800 Annually<br>CAD<br>\$400 monthly<br>paid quarterly                                 |
| Desks & Chairs,<br>Standing Frames,<br>braces | Custom made for children with mobility issues  | \$2000 CAD<br>Once annually   |
| Staff Salaries and<br>Allowances              | Specialist Teacher, Rehab Technician, Cook, other<br>staff/volunteers  | \$6000 Annually<br>Staff are paid<br>monthly.<br>Paid Quarterly                           |
| Miscellaneous                                 | Includes utilities, annual Medical and NGO<br>Memberships etc.   | \$2200<br>Annually when<br>requested  |
| Total   |  | \$30,000  |