



Together, we're making a difference!

Love a Village

We are a grassroots organization dedicated to changing the face of extreme poverty. We are the voice for the voiceless, silenced by the chasm the grip of poverty has left them in. We exist to empower villagers, not through handouts, but by working together with local leaders, coming alongside them and assisting them to live independently.

Luhomero, Malawi

Luhomero is nestled in an isolated, low-lying mountain range with a population of over 5,000. As subsistence farmers, their survival depends on what they grow. They're determined people, who's lives are changing!

Follow my team!

Photos and updates will be posted during our trip!

www.facebook.com/loveavillage

@loveavillage

www.lavm.org/blog



Rob Lovering Spencer

Hello! I'm so thrilled to have this life altering chance to go to Malawi with Love a Village!

I have been blessed by a great God who keeps me going. I have been married to a loving wife for over half my life and have been challenged to remain 'current' by my two teen sons. I teach Kindergarten at the local school and am involved at Good Shepherd Community Church of Scarborough. I love playing volleyball, basketball and biking. I enjoy going to the gym and walking my dog to keep from seizing up! I enjoy playing guitar and singing. Gardening is a way of refreshing my spirit as is travelling to see the marvels of creation.

I want to go on this adventure because I want to see Love a Village's transformational work first hand. I want to be a long-term supporter and want to bring back news to other support networks and be





LAV Projects

LAV works to reduce poverty and promote independence by partnering with Malawians in:

- Clean Water - boreholes and water filters
- Safe Shelter - roofing
- Food Security - farming techniques, beehives, mushrooms and so much more
- Health & Hygiene - toilets, hygiene classes
- Focus on Girls - sewing and menstrual hygiene management

Support

Prayer is essential and is the single most important gift people can give me. Financial gifts are also needed in order to enable me to go and advance LAV projects in Lhomero.

Here's how you can help:
www.loveavillage.org/donate.

Receipts issued for donations over \$25

motivated afresh to keep on working for positive change in development and global mission. I want to be stretched past my extroverted comfort zone, and be reminded of values worth holding.

I've chosen Malawi because our school group has supported LAV for several years with student run bake sales for clean water and collecting school supplies. When Julie was forming the mission I heard about her initial experiences and how she felt God was directing her to setting the focus on Lhomero. I respect the vision and the careful steps taken by the mission to empower, rather than be a 'hand out'. I've never been to Africa, though my in-laws were missionaries in Ethiopia and I've heard many stories of their years there.

My goals would be that I learn to 'let it go', like the song in 'Frozen'. That I become more comfortable in the unknown times, not controlling the aspects of the trip, but have eyes ready to see and ears ready to hear and learn of new things. I need to be reminded that stuff doesn't mean much, but caring relationships are transformational. I want to see how God uses my gifts in another context, outside what is familiar. I want to learn to be brave and less anxious, essentially to live by faith and serve from a place of love.

I'm excited to see the school and the children particularly. I'm excited to see a well project and to hear from farmers about their experiences. I'm excited to see the landscape, and hear group singing. I would like to spend some time working on a garden project and sing with the children.

I'm a bit nervous about sitting in airplanes for such a long time with my long legs squished up, and dealing with the heat and the potential effects of eating new foods.

But overall, I wish to live under the motto of Helen Keller, "Life is a daring adventure or nothing at all!" The gospel writer, John spoke it well too, "But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us." (1 John 4:12)

Thanks for reading and supporting our team in various ways. Peace, joy and love to you.

