





We always found her lying on her bed helplessly waiting for her granddaughter Sarah (not her real name) who is 12 years old and in primary five, to come to her assistance. This client totally depended on her little grandchild Sarah.

Sarah is young, but very hard-working. She wakes up daily at 4:30 a.m. to clean and arrange the house, prepare some food for her grandmother, then she leaves for school but returns to prepare lunch for her grandmother. On one of the days during our home visit to their home, we met Sarah running back home from doing “Ganyu” (casual labor), trying to get back to her class, which was starting in 15 minutes time. Sarah walks from house to house asking people if there is anything she can do so that they pay her some money to care for her grandmother. This is her routine. She is always paid 800 Malawi kwacha (about half a dollar) after the heavy work she does, with the current economic situation this money she gets cannot even afford one good meal for them. Seeing how difficult life was for her and her grandmother, she thought wisely and started saving the little she was gathering from “Ganyu” and she bought groundnuts, ground and packed them in very small quantities for sale. Every day after returning from school, she moves around selling the groundnut powder to get some money to buy food for herself and her grandmother.

Her grandmother’s words were: *“Sarah is an angel sent to me from God because she cares for me very well despite*



Sr. Pauline Amulen, MMM, with Sarah

being so young. She truly shares in my pain and is always there for me. However, I am sad that this young girl is spending most of her time seeking ways to help me and always worries about me. She never concentrates at school as she would sometimes go out of her class about three to four times daily to check up on me. This makes me hide the severity of my pain from her most times when I can. I appealed to the teachers to help her by making sure she is always in class. This works some days but some other times, it doesn’t.”

Sarah’s grandmother died in March 2024. Two days after the burial, Sarah came to us in the

clinic and thanked us for all the support we rendered to her grandmother while she was alive. She said, “In future I would love to do the work you are doing, the work of helping the sick and poor people” after this statement, tears rolled down her cheeks. She began to share that her biological parents are separated, her mother is a sex worker, and she does not know where her father lives. She was torn apart with painful feeling as to where she will live or who to live with. At the moment, she lives with her mother even though she is uncomfortable with the lifestyle of her mother. This was the reason her grandmother took her in when she was eight years old.

Our social team was able to get in touch with her teachers to find out about her performance in school. The results were not too great because of the circumstances that surrounded her everyday living. The teachers promised to help her catch up with the many classes she missed as well as working towards improving her grades. It is our hope that Sarah will get the support she needs at this time to pick up again with her grades and that her mother will be committed in paying her school fees. Sarah is a bright and responsible girl, and we hope that with the help surrounding her, she will grow into womanhood and a future with promise. Sarah is an example of the many, many people who enter the hospitality of our MMM health centers and programs. Pray for her and thank you for the ways you allow us to be there for her, and so many like her.



Health education for young ones with Sr. Grace Akpan, MMMj



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