

## From Prince to Steward: Otterbein actor aims to serve.

You know him from his many performances on the Otterbein stage (he is currently Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods*), but Jordan Donica is working in a new role to help young people in Malawi, Africa, a small country landlocked by Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zambia.



Jordan Donica in Malawi

Jordan visited the country last summer as part of a study abroad program led by Otterbein professors Denise Shively and Glenna Jackson. In preparation for the trip, students completed service projects and fundraisers in order to collect medical supplies and raise money for the African people.

"A large portion of our grade was the completion of the service project," Jordan explained. "We sold buttons decorated with the Malawi flag and were able to donate \$600 towards classroom supplies for a small village school. Others raised money for malaria nets via t-shirt sales and collected more than \$1000 in medical supplies."

While visiting the village of Nkhoma, he was struck by just how much was needed in this area of the world and he returned to Otterbein determined to return to Malawi and to continue to help their Malawi people. He cannot make the trip again this summer because he was selected to join the Utah Shakespeare Festival as an actor in several of their summer productions, but he has partnered with friend Matt Hofacre to work to make a difference for his new friends.

Instead of raising a few hundred dollars or collecting supplies, the two endeavor to do more - to raise \$15,000 (which is the equivalent of more than 6 million quacha, the national currency) in order to build an additional classroom for the village.

"The current school is one room and many students have to stand in order to receive an education," said Matt, a junior Mathematics major at Otterbein. "There are about 50 students in a classroom that is just 10 square meters. There isn't nearly enough room."

A Malawi construction company has drawn plans so that ground can break as soon as the funds are collected. "This is important because the Malawi people will be able to create what they need. They won't have to rely on us telling them what they can and can't do. And the Malawi people will get to do the much needed work," Jordan explained.

For more information, or to donate to Jordan and Matt's cause, please contact Denise Shively in the Otterbein Communications Department, 614-823-3380 or [dshively@otterbein.edu](mailto:dshively@otterbein.edu).

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