

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Dennis Kayebeta**

Gender: Male
Date of birth: 28th December 1991
Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Guardian: Agatha Samanenga
Relationship: Grandmother
Profession: Restaurant Owner

Primary School: Vera Chiluba Primary School / Chibelo Basic

Secondary School: **Ibex Hill Secondary School**

2011 Level: **Grade 12**



Family Background:

Dennis was born and raised in Lusaka. He is a “double orphan,” meaning both his parents are deceased. His father died in 1992, when Dennis was just an infant. His mother raised him but sadly, she also passed away in 2005. Since his mother’s death, Dennis has been living with different relatives. He was living with his uncle, Mr. Clifford Mukuka. Clifford has held various jobs, but none has been permanent. Most recently, he worked as a Programs Assistant at the HIV/AIDS Technical Support Foundation. He recently moved in with his grandmother, who owns an nshima restaurant in town. Dennis lives with three of his aunts and uncles, all of which are in college. He recently reconnected with his older brother Matalia, and is looking forward to getting to know him.

Dennis' Educational Background:

Primary - Vera Chiluba Primary School / Chibelo Basic School

Dennis started attending primary school at Vera Chiluba Primary School in Helen Kaunda, Mtendere. He then transferred to Chibelo Basic School in Grade 5, after moving in with his guardian. Dennis’ performance at school was consistently outstanding.

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At Ibex Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

When Dennis first started off he felt he wasn't doing well in class, but as time went on everything started to change. In the beginning of the year he placed thirteenth in the overall class position. With more hard work he started to place sixth, and enjoying enormous improvements in his reading and speaking skills.

Grade 9

In grade nine Dennis continued to strive for excellence as he improved in the areas in which he was struggling. He placed fourth in his overall academic standing, making a greater effort to manage his time wisely and improve his study habits.

Grade 10

Dennis continued to improve in all subjects, and began to hone in on math and science as his favorite subjects. He still struggled in English, but he also took steps to focus more on his reading and writing. He was also proud to be elected as a prefect.

Grade 11

Dennis has grown into a confident, mature, and genuine young man. He jumped from 5th position to 2nd across terms one and two, and continues to excel in maths, Biology, and Physics/Chemistry. In term three, Dennis came out in 3rd position, earning stop marks in math and science. He acknowledges that he still needs to continue working on his English and plans to work extra during the break by reading books on the side. Dennis understands the importance of the grade 12 exams coming up, and vows to dedicate his final year in secondary school to improving in his weak subjects.

Grade 12

Dennis's final year at Ibex Hill began with a bang when he earned 4 A's during Term 1. This put him in 3rd position in his class. His Term 2 marks were also strong, but he slipped slightly in English, Biology and Geography. He dropped to 4th position in his class, but he recognizes he is capable of much more. He has been working hard over the August holiday in preparation for the National Exams in November, on which he plans to earn a perfect 6!

Dennis' Interests:

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Dennis continues to play soccer at Ibex Hill as a defender on the Ibex team. He is also a natural all-around athlete. At the Interschool Athletics Tournament, Iwell came out first in the 400 meter race. At Interhouse Sports Day, he came out second in the same race. He competed during in a volleyball tournament near Central Province, leading his team to the quarterfinals. In the under 19 tournament at the Lusaka Olympic stadium, Dennis was part of a winning effort against Crested Crane.

One of the defining moments of last year came at the Global Issues Service Summit. He was selected, along with a small group of promising Zambian students, as a Golden Heart Scholar by the American International School of Lusaka to attend the conference. Of keynote speaker Austin Gutwien, a young student who started an AIDS foundation in Sinazongwe, Dennis said: "I was inspired by him such that I felt like running away and doing the same for my project teaching children volleyball and reading. He was my favorite speaker because he made me gain hope that my project can grow as long as I stay focused."

Community Service

"I saw that there were a lot of children in my community who did not go to school because their parents couldn't afford to pay school fees. A small number of them went to school but didn't have their hearts in it. I decided to help these kids by teaching them how to read and write. I also help them in subjects like math, science, and religious education. Apart from that, I also coach the children in soccer and volleyball. Most of the children are now fairly good in English and Math. Their parents are also happy about the work I am doing. Some of the kids now have hopes of becoming doctors or great footballers. I feel good that I am able to contribute positively to their lives and give them hope."

Career Interest and Work Experience:

His dream in life is to become a surgeon because he wants to relieve the suffering of children he has seen in Zambia who do not have access to medical care. Dennis did his work experience in the pediatric wing of University Teaching Hospital. "It was, he said," a sobering experience as malnutrition took the lives of three children under their care in the first day. Nevertheless, while difficult, it further confirmed to Dennis that he wanted to be a doctor and make a difference in such children's lives. Dennis also took part in a tuberculosis research project with Iwell (another KF student) and two students from the International School. The project required the students to research the disease and its impact on society, culminating in an article for the United Nations website.

Dennis's Role Model:

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Dennis is inspired by the example of Ben Carson, the first African American doctor to complete a separation of Siamese Twins. His own accomplishments gave Dennis the confidence to pursue a career in medicine.

What the teachers think of Dennis:

His teachers say that Dennis is “one of the best pupils in class.” Furthermore, they mention that he is well-behaved in class and committed to his class work.

Dennis’ Thoughts:

“I am happy to be a part of the Kucetekela Foundation because I have achieved some things that will really help me in life, to be a better person. The education I am being provided with will help me be a very helpful person in society. I have learnt how to be responsible and determined in whatever actions I take. I have learnt to deal with tougher situations that I have come across and how to face them.”