

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Lubona (Mary) Shisholeka**

Gender: Female

Date of Birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Place of Birth: 18th April, 1994

Guardians: Grandparents

Grandfather: Alexander Sitali

Profession: Shopkeeper

Grandmother: Alice Sitali

Profession: Horticulturalist

Primary School: Ngwelele Basic School

Secondary School: **Pestalozzi Education Centre**

2012 Level: **Grade 12**



Family Background:

Mary comes from an elderly-headed household. She lives with her grandparents who took guardianship after her parents who had divorced remarried and neither new spouse wished to house any children from the previous marriage. Her 22-year-old sister also lives with her grandparents. Her mother recently moved in with Mary's grandparents, but she is unemployed and unable to support her full-time. Her mother also suffers from a leg ailment which prevents her from standing for long periods or walking more than short distances. This has made it difficult to support herself, much less her two daughters. She thus relies on her parents to take care and provide for her daughters.

Both Mary's grandparents are retired, but her grandfather runs a small grocery shop, and her grandmother, a horticulturalist, is able to supplement the family income by selling plants. Their incomes however, are inadequate to sponsor Mary at Secondary school level.

Mary's Education:

Primary - Ngwelele Basic School

Mary was such a hardworking student in primary school that she scored above average in her subjects in end of term examinations. She was groomed by her

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grandmother to wake up early in the morning and study before going to school. Her grandfather could also help her with Mathematics while she could have some extra lessons in various subjects that she found more difficult.

At Ibex Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

Mary continued to show determination and maturity at her new school. She was optimistic about the things she will be able to achieve as she applies the needed effort in all her subjects.

Grade 9

Mary's favorite and best subject continued to be Religious Education and History. She said that her participation in Scripture Union, where she reads religious texts with other students and prays, helped her to improve her performance in Religious Education, helping her achieve 96%! She was elected to act as a monitor for religious education for grade 10, a responsibility that requires her to keep order in the classroom, collect assignments, and assist the teacher.

Grade 10

Mary has worked hard to continue improving her grades in grade 10. She jumped from 13th position in term one to 6th in term two, raising her grades in four of her primary subjects. During term three, she jumped up to number two in her class! Mary is hoping to continue improving during Grade 11, especially in the sciences (she is interested in medicine).

Grade 11

Mary had a strong Term 1, earning 2 A's and 2 B's and the 7th position in her class. She worked hard to improve her grades in the Sciences. Term 2 was more of a challenge for her, but she managed to really bring up her History and Religious Education results. In Term 3 she plans to focus intensely on Math and English, two of her weaker subjects.

Mary's Interests:

Mary enjoys singing and dancing, and has performed on numerous occasions at Ibex Hill. She also plays soccer, netball, and basketball. Mary has joined the scripture union club—a club in which they read scripture and teach the gospel. Scripture union, she says, has helped her get to know both herself and God.

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She has also continued to pursue her interest in medicine, completing two weeks of work experience at CIDRZ, a local health consultancy and research firm. At CIDRZ, Mary worked in Quality Control and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission, visited clinics, and worked on a long-term data entry project. Her employers were very impressed with her work ethic and genuine interest in the field, and actually asked her to return another week! "My main duty was to record the patients' height, weight and the temperature and they also taught me how they conduct voluntary counselling and testing (VCT). I really enjoyed my work experience because it helped me develop more interest for my career and know more about what goes on in clinics," she said.

Community Service

Mary has begun teaching children at a local community school during the holiday where there is a shortage of teachers. She taught grade two, teaching social development studies and science.

Career Interests:

"I want to be a medical doctor because I want to help others in the way that KF has helped me. I want to help the sick and to help others because I have experienced a lot of challenges that I wouldn't like to see other people experience."

Role Model:

Oprah is Mary's role model. "She inspires me by the way she helps people who are less privileged in our society. I would also like to help others in the future in the same way KF is helping me."

What others think of her:

Mary is a very friendly and active girl. Her school teachers describe her as a hard working, responsible and dependable girl.

Mary's Thoughts

"KF has helped my family in such a way I will never forget because if it wasn't for them I wouldn't have had the opportunity to be at a good school like Ibex Hill School."