

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION



UPDATE FROM THE KF FOUNDERS

First Newsletter & Update

Dear Friends,

It has taken longer than expected, but greetings from our first official newsletter! We are excited to have this newsletter in place and hopeful that it will allow us to stay in better communication with all our friends and supporters around the world. It has been an exciting journey since the founding of KF, and we remain deeply grateful for all the support you have given KF. We hope that this newsletter finds you well.

We are pleased to report that all the Kucetekela Foundation (KF) scholars are doing well and achieving great successes, in and out of the classroom. We are currently sponsoring 20 students (9 girls, 11 boys) in secondary school - ten students in Grade 8, and ten students in Grade 9. KF currently offers scholarships that begin in Grade 8, and the accepted students are placed at one of three private secondary schools in Lusaka, Zambia.

As of September 2008, the students have finished their second trimester of the 2008 academic year. Our students remain in top academic positions and continue determinedly to out-compete their classmates for grades and achievements. The Grade 8 students, who entered new schools in January 2008, have adjusted well to their new and challenging environments, thanks to much help and support from teachers, mentors, and older KF students.

Their scores are reflecting their growing adjustment and have improved markedly from their first term. The Grade 9 students are setting good examples for the Grade 8's through their work ethic, attitude and determination. At the end of the academic year, the Grade 9's will take a national examination. All our Grade 9 students are studying intensely in hopes of achieving high scores on that exam.



Oliver with a Grade 9 KF Scholar, Penius Mumba in July 2008

We hope that this newsletter will serve to highlight some of the inspiring events and activities that are on-going at KF, both in the U.S. and Zambia. We further hope that you will get involved with our program and continue to support the futures of these fantastic, deserving Zambian children. They will truly become the leaders of their communities and nation.

Yours gratefully,
Florence, Simasiku & Oliver

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LAKEVILLE COMES TO LUSAKA

Students, teachers come to teach, paint, and learn

In July, a group of 11 students and 2 teachers from the Hotchkiss School (Lakeville, CT) traveled to Lusaka as part of a community service trip, with KF as their host. Prior to the trip, this group worked hard while at Hotchkiss to raise money in order to sponsor a KF student, and were eager to get involved on the ground in Zambia. The group taught classes at our KF partner schools, tutored individual KF students, and made many new friendships. Additionally, the group from Hotchkiss teamed up with the KF students to paint a group of classrooms at a primary school from which KF draws applicants. The painting project, as well as the entire visit was an overwhelming success for both the Hotchkiss and KF students, and we hope to organize a Hotchkiss trip annually!

Pictures and more details can be found on the KF website.

Perspective from a KF student

Visitors from America

It was on 15th June 2008 on a Sunday when Chalo Trust School had visitors from America and these were students who are part of Kucetekela Foundation. When they came I was a bit shy but I pulled up enough courage and managed to give them a nice warm welcome. These students were from a school in America called Hotchkiss and I thought they were shy and quiet but they were fun and nice to have around. There were eleven students and two teachers. We introduced ourselves to each other and thereafter they were shown to their dormitory where they were to spend their nights. After settling in we did some cultural things they showed us how they dance in America and so did we. The following week was very busy. In the morning I was in class and the afternoon I was with the visitors. We also went to paint a community school called Kaunda Square Basic School and that took about three afternoons.

When Sunday came it was exciting because we went on a tour visiting some of Kucetekela students homes and one of them was my home. The visitors loved my home and they were able to meet my grandmother and my two sisters. We also took some photos with my family and the visitors and I were very delighted because they loved where we live and they liked my home.

(continued)

Excerpts from Hotchkiss student and faculty Hotchkiss Perspectives

“From living with the girls at Chalo to sports day at Ibex Hill and the cultural day at Leopards Hill, I learned so much and it was such an amazing experience to work with such bright kids... All the students will be with me forever and I will never forget everything they have taught me. They have given me something to move forward with and I wish I could thank them enough. This experience is one that has changed my life tremendously.”

- Brady Cooper, Grade 9

“Although all of the students we met at Chalo Trust, Ibex Hill, and Leopards Hill [KF partner schools] were wonderful, the KF students definitely stood out for me with their exceptional motivation and unassuming intelligence...A highlight of the trip was visiting the KF students’ families and seeing how supportive they are of their children. Hearing some of the families’ difficult stories gave us more insight into the meaningful work that KF does and the students it chooses to sponsor.”

- Polina Kasparova, Grade 10

“For me, this trip was the opportunity to understand a little about Zambia and see the lives of our Zambian boarding school counterparts. I hoped to give something back and I felt the workshops we taught and the painting were valuable contributions to the community. However, it was reciprocating the exchange of culture where I felt I made my greatest contribution. Living with the boys at Chalo, waking up at 4 a.m. for a warm shower, waiting in the lunch line for our ‘nshima’ and discussing our countries, our philosophies and our lives during power outages, they are what I value most. It was there that I felt our presence in Zambia the most meaningful.”

- Lambo Zhang, Grade 9

“All of us from Hotchkiss were impressed with the kindness and hospitality shown to us. Zambia is known as a friendly country, and our experience proved that to be true. All of us made new friends, and the trip has helped our formation as global citizens.”

- Stephanie Thomas, Hotchkiss faculty member

NYC2DC4KF

BIKE RIDE FROM NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON, D.C. TO RAISE MONEY FOR KF

In August, Ken Cook, a KF Trustee, led a bicycle trip from New York to Washington, D.C. with two friends - Richard Miller and Darren Muller - in an effort to raise money for KF. The three bicyclists rode over 300 miles in four days and raised more than \$14,000! The team kept a blog of their incredible experience, from training through the grueling days on the route. The three cyclists rode as long as 8 hours in one day! The blog can be found on the KF website. KF is deeply grateful for the efforts of Darren, Richard, and Ken. The money raised through their efforts will allow KF to accept more students into the program.

An excerpt from the final day of the ride:

“We all agreed that this was probably the hardest thing we had ever done physically. At the same time, it was tremendously rewarding. We had challenged ourselves on a physical level, enjoyed our time together on the bikes, saw great countryside, and raised a good deal of money for the Kucetekela Foundation.”



Cyclists in D.C.!



Hotchkiss students, teachers in traditional Zambian dress with Zambian teachers

(Zambian perspective continued):

As we got back to the boarding house I was privileged to have the students counselling me about completing my education which I am very keen to do. Whilst I was with Cornelia, Paulina, Alexa and Brady they told me that they had something to tell me I felt scared but then realised that all would be well. Alexa then told me to work hard in school and Cornelia told me that the Hotchkiss students are raising money to be my sponsors. I was so shocked that I began to cry a cry of joy and happiness. I thanked them so much although they did not want me to thank them. After that we all had a good laugh but I was sad I knew that my visitors would soon be gone and I do not know when next I would see them again. Before they left I asked them to give me their email addresses which they did.

The following day they left and I was very sad and wished in my heart that they should come and visit us again and as the saying goes “EASY TO SAY HELLO BUT VERY HARD TO SAY GOODBYE.” As for Kucetekela Foundation, I would like to thank them most sincerely for giving me this opportunity to link up with the students of Hotchkiss and for the sponsorship that they have accorded me. Without Kucetekela Foundation being there for me I would not have been blessed with all that has been done for me and may the good Lord shower you with many more blessings so that you may continue with the work that you do. MAY GOD BLESS KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION.

Merilyn Vallabh - 13 years old, Grade 8, Chalo Trust School

KF Mentor Luncheon - July 2008
Developing Mentor relationships

At several times during the academic year, KF organizes and hosts luncheons for the KF students and their mentors, in efforts to build and strengthen mentor relationships. Mentors play a vital role in the lives of our KF students in many capacities - as a role model, academic advisor or tutor, and as a positive source of support and encouragement.

In July, we hosted the second mentor luncheon of the 2008 academic year for all KF students. The luncheon was a



great opportunity for mentors to spend time with their mentees, and included a presentation by Jonathan Hill, KF's Information Technology Officer, who was visiting from the U.S. Jon gave a short and inspiring talk about the role that mentors have played in his life and career.

Student Selection Progress
Choosing the next KF Scholars!

The application and selection process for the 2009 class of KF scholars started in earnest during August. We have greatly expanded both the number of primary schools from which we draw students as well as the number of applications. This year, we have received **105 applications** from **7 different public primary schools**. In 2006, our first group of scholarships, we received only 15 applications from 2 schools. Last year, we received 90 applications from 6 schools. This substantial expansion over the past two years has produced an in-

creasingly competitive applicant pool, and we expect to select another outstanding class of deserving scholarship recipients sometime in November.

We urge you to consider sponsoring a KF student for one academic year (\$5,100) or half the academic year (\$2,550). As a full or half-year sponsor, you will receive:

- School reports from your student
- Extracurricular achievement updates
- Personal correspondence from your student

Your generous support will allow KF to support more deserving students in 2009!



*KF students with academic awards
 December 2007*

GET INVOLVED

Please consider making a donation or getting involved as a volunteer

2009 SCHOLARSHIP COSTS

\$2,000 - Tuition Fees

\$1,300 - Boarding Fees

\$800 - Dormitory needs

\$650 - Uniforms & books

\$200 - Attendance at KF events including orientation and mentor lunches

\$100 - Tutoring sessions during school holidays

\$50 - Exam fees

**Total scholarship costs:
 \$5,100**

**To donate online:
www.kucetekelafoundation.org/donate.html**

**Make checks payable to
 Kucetekela Foundation**

**Send to:
 Kucetekela Foundation
 1220 Park Avenue, Apt 1B
 New York, NY 10128
 USA**

Thanks for your support!

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED AS
 A VOLUNTEER?**

**Please contact:
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