

NEWSLETTER - SPECIAL EDITION

2020 KF GRADUATION EDITION

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THRIVING AMID CRISIS

MY JOURNEY THROUGH KF

By Esther Mulaisho

Just at that moment when you feel down and low. When you are so not sure of how you are going to finance your secondary school after writing the final national examination. But as they say, there is always light at the end of a tunnel. Kucetekela Foundation came as a refuge in my life.

My life took a turn from the very moment the Kucetekela Foundation gave me an opportunity to be one of its scholars. I had never in my life imagined myself learning at Pestalozzi Education Center, one of the prestigious schools in Lusaka. Kucetekela Foundation was my pillar throughout my high school journey. They provided every necessary equipment required for me to excel in my academics.

Through KF, I was exposed to a different kind of life. I had mentors who played a vital role in grooming me into the person that I am today. I have learned to always care for others around me and am now a person that is thirsting for more knowledge and wants to bring about change in my community. Furthermore, I was given sufficient text books to help my studies.

I can't lie but I wasn't one of the best students back then when I just entered grade 8. I would lack behind in almost all the subjects and needed to improve. Through the provision of textbooks from Kucetekela Foundation and the help I received from my fellow Kucetekela Foundation students, I gradually started improving.

I did my community service from grade 8 till grade 10 at Linda Open Orphanage in my community. There, I taught the children literacy, English



and Mathematics. The children at the orphanage really improved and passed with good grades in these subjects.

When I reached my first year of senior high school, KF gave me an opportunity to participate in the Zambia Model United Nations (ZAMUN). I have always been a shy person and public speaking wasn't really my thing and when I was told I was one of the participants, I got scared and didn't really want to attend.

With the little push from friends and KF, I took part in ZAMUN and the whole experience was great and taught me a lot. I was also given a chance to attend the Stanford Pre-Collegiate Institutes in 2019. It was a summer program that exposed me to different courses and I interacted with people from different parts of the world bearing different views and cultures. During my stay there, I learnt the importance of cooperation when doing a group task. I remember being given a project where we were supposed to create a country of our own and give it unique features.

It was not easy in the beginning but by respecting each other's views and opinions, we earned ourselves an award for the best presentation. While still at Stanford, I was also given an opportunity to watch American football live and pass through the golden bridge which I never even thought I would see live someday. Additionally, I had a two-week work experience where I worked as an accountant at KSM consultants. KF drove me to and from the workplace. KF actually connected me to the institution and I really appreciate everything KF has done in my life and making me a responsible person.

I was chosen as the senior prefect in my final year, where I acted as the medium through which information would be passed from the heads of school to my fellow prefects and pupils. I was also the president of the Girls Must Be club. Our main aim was to advocate for girls to participate more in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) subjects.

I wrote my grade twelve final examination in 2020 and I would say the journey was not really an easy thing. Just before writing I was really scared because I knew that I wouldn't want to disappoint KF by getting bad results and so I studied hard. Not only was I going to disappoint KF but also my parents who believed so much in me. On the other hand, I had to work on my University applications which as well needed more effort and I can now proudly say that KF helped push me through with everything and I am hoping for the best to come out of it.

Lastly, I want to appreciate the Kucetekela Foundation for the help they gave me even during my graduation, because it was not going to be possible without them intervening in my life. I am now a proud high school graduate that passed with good grades all thanks to KF. I could never thank you enough but I hope you really do know that I want to help the generation coming behind me in any possible way I can and lift the KF flag to greater heights.

By Esther Mulaisho



GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

"DANIEL – HARDWORKING & AMBITIOUS"



Blessings Chileshe writes:

Daniel Lumbu is a hardworking and ambitious person who relates and associates with people easily. He has had a great impact on my stay here at Chalo Trust School. One of the great contributions to my life was his assistance towards the improvement of my grades in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

Daniel has been one of my role models especially that he scooped the second position in the Grade 9 Final Examinations, getting 507 out of 600.

"DANIEL...GETS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION NO MATTER HOW BUSY THEY ARE"

Apart from academics, Daniel has been part of the entertainment department at Pestalozzi Education Centre and was actively involved in poetry and dancing.

He is a humorous person and would make students and house parents laugh with his famous catchphrase, **"IYEAH."**

I have also come to learn that Daniel is a very big soccer fan and supports Liverpool football club. His favorite players are Salah and Mane.

His passion for soccer has been extended to others especially those who have looked up to him as their coach during soccer matches.

Daniel is motivating and very social. I'm one of the people he helped regain my self esteem and improve on my grades. Spending time with him has been one of the best things ever and knowing he will be leaving is a thought I will need to get used to. I strongly believe he will make great impact in his community and wherever he will go. I wish him all the best.



GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

“ESTHER – A VISIONARY”

Rosemary Mbaao writes:

Graduating with the label of "Visionary," Esther Mulaisho has constantly seen things differently from everybody else, an attribute I love about her. She has a positive outlook on life and always strives to do her best.

***“THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS SUCCESS IS
BELIEVING IN YOURSELF”***

A time came when everyone was so busy preparing for the Pestalozzi Model United Nations debate (PECMUN). I was so eager to participate but was filled with so much anxiety. Esther gave me tips on how to overcome stage fright. She boosted my courage by saying ‘the first step towards success is to believe in you.’

Her encouragement helped me get an award during PECMUN. She has been a sister I never had, always there for me and motivating me to work on my talents.

Esther has extraordinary leadership skills that make her stand out in any given position. She has been appointed class monitor multiple times because of her competence. Other than that, she was selected as senior prefect and has been president of various clubs in school. Her disciplined character has helped her to do very well in her academics too.



Esther's social life has been quite amazing. She has always interacted well with people and created lifelong relationships. In addition, she participates in various community service projects within her community.

I will remember Esther for her good character and will miss her, for the quote she usually gave me defines her: looking at things not as they are but as they can be.



GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

“TIMOTHY – ENTHUSIASTIC”



William Changa writes:

It has been a great journey knowing and socializing with you these past years. It feels like yesterday when you gave your speech at the KF grade 7 recruitment exams. Although we did not have all the time in the world together, the little we had has meant so much to me. You are a person who always believed in me and encouraged me to be my best in everything.

Timothy, your encouragement helped me set goals for myself, take for instance you inspired me with your trip to Ghana for the Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) summer program. Your lively experience and enthusiasm really helped boost my self confidence which later on saw me having a place at YYGS in 2019, in Tema, Ghana.

I really looked up to you especially during the times we talked about our passions and our purpose in life. You helped me realize the importance of knowing my purpose.

“YOUR SMILE IS SO CONTAGIOUS, ONE CAN'T HELP BUT TO SMILE TOO”

You have a unique personality that makes you liked by many people including those who meet you for the first time. Your smile is so contagious, one can't help but smile too.

My prayer is that God should constantly bless you in all your endeavors. Always remember that you left a positive impact on me.



Timothy Chibinda (animatedly in the center of the photo) participates at Yale Young African Scholars in a seminar in Accra, Ghana.

GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

“PETER – CALM, COMPOSED, CONFIDENT”



I would like to attain the heights that Peter has attained and be able to impact others the way he has impacted me. Peter is just the type of person that deserves success in all that he does and I wish him nothing but the best in all his endeavors.

“EMMANUEL – MR. CONSISTENT”



Doreen Mafwabo Mwanza writes:

I describe Peter as a confident person who is both serious about life but very sociable. Peter is always keen on learning new things, not just academic related but just a just a keen sense of interest in many fields."

“SAFE, FAST, COMFORTABLE...THAT IS HIS AIM FOR AIR TRAVEL”

Peter Ndangirwa Peter wants to be a pilot when he grows up so he can “transport people in a safe, fast, and comfortable way.” He is passionate about giving back to his community and as such has already been involved in several community service projects under the KF umbrella.

I really appreciate the time spent with Peter because he is a well rounded guy that managed to properly juggle his academics and other co-curricular activities.

Kelvin Ziwa writes:

Leaving school in the year 2020 with his record unbroken, Emmanuel Victor Chanda maintained not only his academic excellence, but also a good social relationship with his peers.

He joined Pestalozzi in 2016 and since then has been brilliant exhibiting both exceptional leadership qualities and academic prowess. He scored 545 marks out of 600 in his grade 9 final exams and therefore breaking the school record.

GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

As a leader, Emmanuel excelled as the school monitor in his class and was part of the student leadership council. By the time he was in the 11th grade his leadership skills were recognized as he was appointed as the Vice Head Boy.

“... AMAZING... MIND BLOWING. HIS GENERAL OUTLOOK ON LIFE IS ASTOUNDING”

I have personally learnt a lot from Emmanuel Chanda. My interactions with him have been based mainly on academics which included college applications and our future aspirations. He has amazing dreams and goals that are mind blowing. His general outlook on life is astounding.

He was recently accepted into the African Leadership Academy, where emerging leaders are trained and at the same time offering them with 'A' level curriculum to prepare them for university. He leaves school this year with his academic records unmatched. I wish him all the best in life as he goes to the African leadership academy.



“MERVIS – MS. DISTINGUISHED”



Blessing Kasabo writes:

Birds of a feather flock together. Many are times when people have something in common that make them get along easily. I'm writing about how Mervis and I got to know each other and how she helped me adapt to boarding life at Pestalozzi. She was one of the first people to welcome me when I just enrolled into grade eight.

Since it was my first time to be in boarding, I felt totally out of place. Adapting to a new environment is not so easy. I was fortunate enough to meet a KF senior student who made me feel at home. She told me the merits of boarding school as opposed to day school. This helped me to adapt quickly and come to love boarding life.

Mervis is very social and as a result she is loved by most of her peers. She is very open-minded to new things and ideas. I would consult her on a number of things whenever I needed assistance in making the right choices. Above all, she taught me perseverance and hardwork.

GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

"NCHIMUNYA – HUMBLE, HARDWORKING, HEAD BOY"



Jonathan Kalaki writes:

Nchimunya is a humble guy always working hard and respectful of other people. He became a prefect in grade 10 and later became the Head boy in 2019-2020. He participated in different activities such as Scripture Union, singing, soccer and athletics and was the best Junior Engineers Technicians and Scientists club member.

"A PERSON WITH ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE"

He is very religious and upholds good morals. He always strived to do the right thing, a trait that greatly impacted me. Also Nchimunya is one person with an attitude of gratitude.

He's ever grateful for the blessings in his life and always looks for the best in every situation. Now it comes to his last day in school which was graduation day where he dressed so smartly and formal with a nice hair cut and jacket.

He got an award during the ceremony. After the graduation we took some photos with him and later he left for home with his parents. People were literally crying because he was leaving so soon. Besides having the wonderful time at the graduation, it was sad to see him leave.

I just wish Nchimunya and everybody who graduated on that day the very best in society.



"LAZAROUS – THE VOICE"

Monde Mukanda writes:

I describe Lazarous as a strong and confident individual who I looked up to. He is my role model in so many things.

His proactivity made him win leadership titles such as communication forum president, a club aimed at developing pupils' communication skills.

GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

We nicknamed Lazarous **"Kid Overkill"** because of his ability to represent his class during debates. Most students called him the voice of the school because he could fit right in to so many activities in the school.

"HE COULD FIT RIGHT IN TO ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL"

I'm so impressed by his ability to produce and write his own songs. He has written a number of songs and some of them were played even in school. He was part of the school choir and would have special performances where he sang some of the songs he wrote.

Apart from music he is also an excellent dancer, making him a great entertainer. To me Lazarous fits to be a lawyer because of his ability to articulate issues.

He is my personal mentor who helped me get through everything I was going through in school. I believe he will produce great results even as he moves to his next journey of life.



"TERESA – THE ATHLETIC ACADEMIC"



Pauline Masaka writes:

Teresa is a person who talked to almost everyone in school. She used to encourage me when I was down. She would tell me to go to her room to study when I felt like giving up.

"WHEN I FELT LIKE GIVING UP, SHE WAS THERE FOR ME"

Teresa is an avid fan of sports, and is very good at athletics, particularly running, high jump and netball. Her exceptional performance in sports earned her several accolades.

Further Teresa is an inspirational leader and because of these abilities, she was picked as Head Girl.

In spite of her leadership position and various activities, she still maintained a strong academic record and also remained very down to earth. I just love Teresa and wish her the best of success.

GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

“LUSUNGU-KIND, SMART AND RESPONSIBLE”

Rachael Phiri writes:

Lusungu is one person who has been there for me since the time I enrolled into Chalo.

She has helped me develop and grow mentally, spiritually and emotionally. I have learnt self control and respect for others through her conduct. People would describe her in three words: kind, smart and responsible. She has taught me how to express my views and feelings in a proper manner and how to respect other people's opinions.

I really love her character because she is one person who never gives up on anything no matter how hard the situation may be.



“BALANCED, SOCIAL, ACADEMIC”

Lusungu struck a balance between her academics and social life. She generally did well in all her tests. Her hard work is something to be admired and I am emulating the same academic strength she possessed.

WRAPPING IT UP WITH A VALEDICTORY SPEECH TO GRADUATES AND EVERY OTHER SCHOLAR - By Emmanuel Chanda



2020 marked a very important stage in each and every one of the graduating students. It was a special year, different from any other year in history.

I will be there to tell my kids, fifteen to twenty years from now, that my group was the first one at Pestalozzi to have passed our exams from online classes. We never even attended school; that's how good we were. I'm saying this because that's what I've learnt parents say to their kids.

GRADE 12 REFLECTIONS

Anyway, I love to believe 2020 had been so because we are also special, unique, charismatic, young leaders not joining but entering society. We are merely entering society because this is just the beginning of a lifetime journey learning and using what we learn to make the world a better place. Congratulations to us for reaching this incredible milestone. However, this was not the first step, nor is it the last.

Our journeys started almost 21 years ago. School began just as far back. Each one of us embarked on this journey the first time we took those small spaced baby steps. We simply had challenged the world and our parents that we were ready to try something new.

We were tired of dragging our knees and needing structures to stand on our own. We probably haven't realized we've been standing on our own since then. This was among the first signs of growth. We grew an inch further from our parents because, then we could explore further outside.

Learning to stand and walk on our own was not easy. It came with somersaults back and forth from chairs, beds and all you can imagine, even fences and trees. We have explored our curiosity since birth.

Many of our scars can testify to this. But we seemed to have lost that interest and sense of adventure as we grew older, the feeling that got us in trouble and whippings but most importantly taught us new things.

It taught us not to play with fire. Most of us learnt that on our own; not that our parents were irresponsible, but because they just couldn't break that curiosity with high pitched voices from our mothers and often seriousness of our fathers. They gave us the best education we've had. We can't appreciate mum and dad enough. But we can give them a heavy round of applause to thank them for raising such fantastic children like us.

I am delighted to have been a student of Pestalozzi. A proud scholar of all my teachers. To all I say thank you.

Now we are departing with the words 'educating the head, the heart and the hands' engraved on our identities. It is now up to us to think even deeper about our purposes and missions on this planet; but remember that purpose is a journey and not a destination. Your destination is the vision. Your mission leads you to your purpose. Have a vision my friends, because even blind men have one. It has been a worthwhile journey.

Lastly we want to thank our parents, friends and teachers for their consistent support throughout our academic journey. We want to thank our Head of School for his valuable efforts towards making our graduation a reality. This is definitely the best and indeed the most unique of all graduations.

Once again, thank you to everyone for joining in celebrating this imperative milestone of our lives. We shall not disappoint. **THANKYOU!**

We are on the web! Visit us at <https://www.kucetekelafoundation.org/>

Kucetekela Foundation is an organization that sponsors talented, high-achieving students in secondary school. Not only do we provide these high-need students with opportunities for quality education, but we also support their holistic personal development, through mentorship, work experience and community service programs. All of our secondary school graduates are currently enrolled in or have completed tertiary programs. We pride ourselves in providing high-quality services for our students, and always strive to inspire them as much as they inspire us.

Our Team

Oliver Barry - **Co-founder and President**

Florence Nkowane Lutale - **Co-founder and Executive Director**

Simasiku Mukena - **Co-Founder and Finance & Administrations Manager**

Joshua N. Kamelu - **Programs Manager**

Barbara Kifokola - **Alumni Intern**

Edna Phiri - **Alumni intern**

Daniel Lumbu - **Gap Year Intern**

Lazarous Moyo - **Gap Year Intern**

If you were encouraged by our students and would like to contribute towards their education, please use our donation link:

<https://www.kucetekelafoundation.org/donate/>

Or contact Dr. Florence Nkowane @ +260971594959,
kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com to make a donation.

