

OUR VOICES

The Official Newsletter of Kucetekela Foundation



L to R: Abraham Tembo, Timothy Chibinda

L to R: Nchimunya Mukuwa, Peter Sichona, William Changa, Denzel Chinda

L to R: Lusungu Musonda, Leah Mtindya, Oswald Mutale

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the 2019-20 Kucetekela Foundation newsletter.

During the third term of 2019, we had a number of exceptional events that took place.

At Chalo Trust School, traditional and awards giving day was a blast as students showcased their traditional dance skills. Grade 12s finally sat for their exams, and produced good results. They were also sent out with a wonderful graduation ceremony. We also learned that the Bike for KF fundraiser was a success last year. **All the KF students were very grateful.**

The KF office has moved to a bigger, better and more conducive place. It shouldn't too distant for some students, hopefully. With more inside this news letter, sit back and relax as you will be amazed by events made by our outstanding officials and students with more details to them.

Warmest Regards,
Peter N. Sichona

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *Meet KFs Grade 8s*
- *Tributes to Class of 2019*
- *Note from Chalo Headgirl*
- *KF Alumni in Action*
- *December Work Experience Interview*

TERM HIGHLIGHTS:

- 7 students graduated Grade 12
- Chalo Traditional Day
- Grade 10s and 11s attended University Fair
- Holiday Community Service
- 4 students completed work experience placements

MEET THE GRADE 8S

the new students are here



Sherise Zulu - Pestalozzi Education Centre



Gloria Mbewe - Chalo Trust School



Mukande Monde - Chalo Trust School



Louis Binda - Pestalozzi Education Centre



Rachel Phiri - Chalo Trust School



Mumba Kapasa - Chalo Trust School

Harriet Mwanza

By Esther Mulaisho

I have known Harriet since she was in Grade 9, up until where she is now. She has been a friend, companion and sister to me. She lived and left a good legacy at school. She was one of my role models.

She inspired a lot of people in the way she carried herself with dignity and self respect. She considered everyone to be equal and understood everyone as they were unique in so many different ways.

She socialized even with the most unexpected people because she was unique in so many respects.

She was always there when I needed her help and looked at me as her young sister.

"She will forever be remembered for her impact, her dedication to her work and perseverance."

Esther Mulaisho, Pestalozzi Education Centre, Grade 11

As always, she lent a hand to anyone that needed help. I will forever appreciate her and will always cherish her. I will forever miss her. Harriet has left a gap at school. Everyone that she associated with loved her self confidence, knowledge, wisdom and heart of understanding.

Despite her leaving us behind, she will forever be remembered for her impact, her dedication to her work and perseverance. Harriet has taught me to be focused in all I do and see everyone as an equal. Harriet's impact is far more reaching than what I have described.

I wish for her to continue having the same spirit and personality even as she soldiers on into society. I would like to tell Harriet to remember to let the young Harriet carry into the present and future. Your youthful energy defines you. Harriet, let your personality keep on driving you to your dreams and always feel every bit of your passion.



Being with Terry in school is one of the most unforgettable memories of my life. For he was not just an entertainment prefect, but a humble, funny and social guy who interacted with almost everyone in school.

One of my favorite moments with him is the time of the month in July during one of the Kucetekela Foundation meetings on Thursday. It was a windy and cold session, everyone was covered with winter attire. During the meeting when one of us complained that the season was very cold, Terry stood up and removed his jersey saying that the season was very hot. In addition to that, he asked for cold water to be sprinkled on him. This act made everyone laugh, including Uma, who was shocked at first.

My "entertainer" has taught me to be hard working in school, including extracurricular activities, creative in clubs or small organizations, manage time and be innovative, and he has also helped me to apply to different organizations of scholarship.

In relation to extracurricular activities, Terry told me that they help one gain experience and knowledge on how to handle certain duties.

In conclusion, I am sure that the whole school will miss Terry for his greatness. With this, I wish him good luck, joy and blessings to always be on his side, and also pray for him to have a prosperous life.



"For he was not just an entertainment prefect, but a humble, funny and social guy who interacted with almost everyone in school."

Blessings Chileshe, Grade 11, Pestalozzi Education Centre

Susan Kamono

By Mervis Banda



Becoming friends with Susan since studying at Pestalozzi Education Centre has been so memorable and surprising for me.

Susan and I were not very good friends in the start because I was intimidated by her. Little did I know that she is the most loving and caring person on earth. As time went by, Susan and I grew to have a close relationship where we hugged and held hands.

"She was open to me and always willing to listen to me. Susan is a fighter who never gives up..."

Mervis Banda, Grade 12 Pestalozzi Education Centre

I experienced many things when I started understanding Susan and following her footsteps. Every time I did something wrong, she would sit me down and ask me why I did what I did. Through being friends with Susan, I developed good character.

Everything I love about Susan reflects what I love about myself. She was kind and friendly to me. She was helpful. Last year in the room, she used to wake me up every night to study. This showed me that she was also a very determined and hardworking person who would do whatever she has to in order to achieve her goals. This made it easier for me to talk to her whenever I had a problem. She was open to me and always willing to listen to me. Susan is a fighter who never gives up and I will never forget about her.

Gift Kasweka

By Lazarous Shamenda Moyo

Born with social intellect, built with artistic enthusiasm, Gift Kasweka, Chalo Trust School KF graduate, embarks on his journey to fulfilling his long-awaited ambitions from his secondary education.

Gift Kasweka started 8th grade at Chalo Trust School in 2015 with little or no knowledge of his capabilities.

"Gift is known among his peers as 'The Flash' or '200 M' as a result of his remarkable athletic skills."

Lazarous Moyo Shamenda,
Chalo Trust School, Grade 11

He later discovered his artistic talents in drama as an actor—a moving and spell-binding character, and in RAP (rhythm and poetry).

His remarkable talents have given him the spot to be one of the greatest and most expressive performers at Chalo Trust School has known since its establishment. His recognition even won him an "Actor of the Year" award.

Aside from his extracurricular activities, Gift is academically able to see himself achieve his goals and objectives he sets at the beginning of every term. Gift believes that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" and that, "all play and no work make Jack a mere toy."

He therefore believes that a person should be well-rounded, not being on either side but neutral.

When it comes to sporting activities, Gift is known among his peers as "The Flash" or "200 M" as a result of his remarkable athletic skills. During the yearly ISAZ (Independent Schools Association of Zambia) Gift usually scooped either 1st or 2nd position in the 9 kilometer cross country marathons. His endurance levels are off the charts. Since 9th grade, he has been awarded "Sportman of the Year" each year for four years straight.

Although he is no longer at Chalo, he has inspired us by his overall capabilities.





Ethen “Wow” Kantu. A little something silent, yet vibrant.

Your jokes were always news to me and my laughter could fill the whole room as a result of it all. In many areas, I felt your upright personality also helped me believe that I am the right person to overcome my situation everyday.

You said family is who you decide to mend with and let in.

"You left a legendary mark here."

Lusungu Musonda, Grade 11 Chalo Trust School

With your help, I fit into the KF family (although my English then was hilarious). Time was a key you handed to me when I needed an ear – emotionally and academically. You always offered gladly.

A role model in academics, former deputy head boy, my senior, genius, traditional and modern dancer, choir singer and adviser. Many said this is what you are to them. Your smart mind showed through your outfits, too. You are also uniquely transparent, which keeps many looking up to you as an example at school. I am sure that society will be as grateful as I am to have met you. I will refer to you as the brilliant football addict and rapper, and many other names.

You left a legendary mark here. You played enough roles to fill the ocean of friendship. If anyone asked who Ethen is, I would have a lot of stories to let out of my chest. Focus and discipline are two guidelines tattooed on your forehead—not for decoration or showoff—for direction and achievement.

Wishing you the best of luck out there as your exposure will help you grow more into a man. Let others discover who you are so that they too many one day say, “You are a blessing.” We will miss you deeply and the bittersweet feeling is proof that you mattered.

All the best in your endeavors, may God richly bless you. Always remember you are one of KF’s successes.

Emmanuel Banda

By Leah Mtindya

Everyone needs a friend to be by their side in all situations. Emmanuel's presence in school was really impactful to everyone else in school. I have learned so much from being around him. One of the things I learned is to be happy always and to put a smile on my face no matter the situation or circumstance. I have known Emmanuel for three years now and he has moved to be a very caring person and wonderful too.

My favourite memory is when we were composing the chorus of my music project until we came up with something that was really good. Other times, he would call me "Learson Mbewe," which is the most recent nickname from him. One thing about him is that he always gave me nicknames that would make people wonder.

It is important not to forget that he is an awesome singer who would bring joy whenever he sung whether during chapel or not.

"I am going to miss his smile and happiness."

Leah Mtindya, Grade 10,
Chalo Trust School

He's a person that would spread his joy to others and was at peace with everyone in school. He used to be a noise maker at peace with everyone in school. He used to be a noisemaker uniquely with his music on campus and I've seen that Abraham Tembo is also noisy in such a way. He brings Emmanuel's memories back as he would sing loudly whenever on campus.

In as much as he has benefitted from KF, he has also brought something to KF. He has been an ambassador for KF in many events that he participated in such as United World College Short Course, Yale Young African Scholars and Yale Young Global Scholars. Through this, he has helped expose many others to KF and its benefits. Throughout the time I've been at Chalo he has always gotten an award for most disciplined except only once and this has also taught the other KF students something and the name has been lifted up even in Chalo.

I am going to miss his smile and happiness and also his presence because it will be felt that he has left. "The Moving Drum" as someone has named him.

As he continues living his adult life, my hopes are that he'll continue to be the Emmanuel I knew and even more. I wish for success in everything he does and that all may be well with him. I also wish his great potential of leadership in him may be brought to life and be attained.



Francine Balasi

By Timothy Chibinda



Francine Balasi, most people know her as an intelligent young lady with lots of dreams and also as a sports women. And that's the truth, but most people haven't seen the most exciting part of her, the part that brings out smiles and laughter in people during both sad and happy moments.

"Francine, please before you graduate can you tell us all, what makes you laugh all the time..."

I remember the director of Chalo Trust School, Mrs. Chileshe, asking her that question during the our last chapel with the 2019 Grade 12s. Well up to now I am among the few whom are still waiting to hear her response to that question. Nevertheless, I'm sure her answer will still leave most of us smiling and laughing, because that's what defines her: Francine the joy giver. I'm glad that she is part of the KF family.

I have learned a lot from her but one thing that stands out the most is her leadership style. Before being selected as the school head girl she used to be the school sports prefect. During her leadership as the sports prefect she fought for equal participation for girls in all sports disciplines, from basketball to football, short distance running to cross country with her taking the lead.

From her I have learned that all is possible only if we work hard, pray consistently, and have endurance in all our activities.

Her absence in school will definitely be missed and I wish for her all the best as she starts her new journey.

Decemeber Work Experience Interview

Featuring Rosemary Mbao and Kelvin Ziwa

December Work Experience Placements included William Changa at Legal Aid Board, Oswald Mutale at BongoHive, Kelvin Ziwa at Metropolis Healthcare and Rosemary Mbao at HOT FM.

What was your favorite part of work experience?

Kelvin: I think my favorite part was carrying out the tests themselves. The different medical exams. It was more like the treatment itself. Finding a cure for different ailments and giving out the results.

Rosemary: For me, it was the part where I had to produce a show for the radio station. it was interesting because I had to go on the internet where I had to research an interesting story. But it was kind of difficult because most of the time you find that nothing was trending by that time. But I really enjoyed doing the research.



William Changa, Chalo Trust School, Grade 10 at Legal Aid Board

What was the biggest surprise of your work experience?

Kelvin: My biggest surprise was that I came to find out that in a medical setting, people play different roles. I thought perhaps they all take part in one thing, which is finding cures and curing people. But actually, there are specific people who do the research themselves. There are people who prescribe the medications that should be given to the patients. And those who give the advice themselves to the patients. So there are different roles.

Rosemary: I think it was a part where I thought at first that maybe they wouldn't broadcast while they were outside. I thought maybe only they broadcast in the station. The surprise was that despite them not being in the station, they still broadcasted while outside, using the same equipment which they used in the station.

One takeaway that you will apply to your future professional life?

Kelvin: My work experience helped me to really find out what my career was. I am yet to make the choice, but I know one field that I am interested in. Now, medicine, but I am yet to find out about the others.

Rosemary: For me, I think it confirmed what I want to do. I discovered that journalism is the thing for me. I enjoyed it, I have a passion for it, and I am good at it.

Advice to future WE students?

Rosemary: When they are given a work experience opportunity, they should just enjoy the fact that they're doing it. Make sure they do the assignments which are given to them. They should not take it as a punishment but enjoy what they are being taught.

Kelvin: The main purpose of work experience is to discover our careers, so the advice I would give future students is to take that opportunity to discover your real career. You'll find the work experience you attend will not always be your career. Rather, it is an opportunity to discover what you really like to do.



Kelvin Ziwa, Pestalozzi Education Centre, Grade 10 at Metropolis Healthcare

Being Head Girl Requires Vision

By Teresa Phiri



L to R: Teresa Phiri, Lusungu Musonda

It is a well known fact that a good leader is a good communicator and a reader. This is simply because one cannot be a leader without a vision, especially when you are the head girl.

The tasks performed by the heads of the prefecture are complicated and often difficult. As a head girl, my main duty is to ensure that the deputy heads and prefects carry out their duties and tasks to the required standard. Everything that they do must be just and fair, so as to avoid complaints from higher authority and disrespect from students.

Being the light and an example to everyone in school makes it even more complicated. I have to live my life to my level best. I ensure that my conduct sets an example to the students and that no one feels out of place.

So far, being the head girl has been the best part of my high school life. I have the opportunity to change all the bad things that make me feel uncomfortable and which still make the other students uncomfortable.

One of the things I am going to change is bullying. I abhor bullying because it diminishes a person's self-esteem and instills fear in them.

Having the position, I know that it is time to make a difference and ensure every student is independent to perform to their level best.

I shared my aim and objectives with my fellow heads and prefects. We want and hope to ensure that all the pupils are responsible of their own academics and lives. They should be able to know what to do at what time and when to do it.

Above all, my vision as the head girl is to ensure that all the pupils attain good grades while believing in themselves that they can do it. I see my school having good results, starting from my class and all the others classes graduating after us.

I believe this will happen, as I have put measures in place such as group studies, peer tutoring and academic punishments. I have already started these strategies. Most students are improving at a faster rate and by October 2020, the school will not have any student with low results in any exam.

Being given this position has made me happy as I know things will never be the same – the time to make a difference is now.

ALUMNI IN ACTION

This past term, we celebrated the accomplishments of the following KF Alumni:

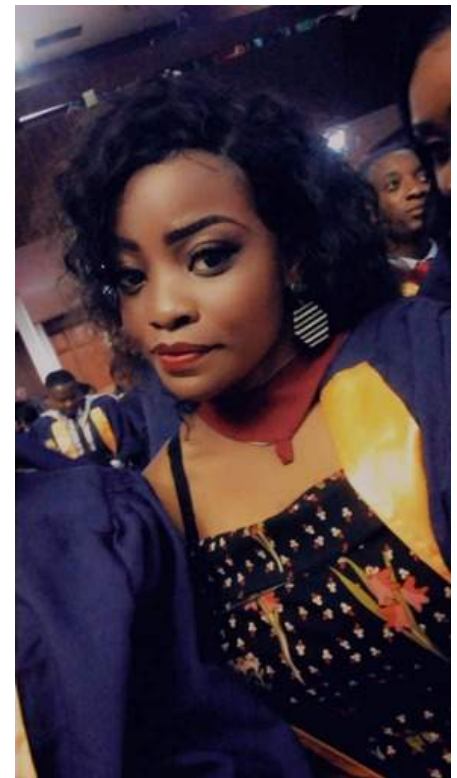
- Lydia Njovbu, Class of 2017 - Dean's List at Skidmore College | Sarasota Springs, New York
- Martin Milanzi, Class of 2017 - Elected President Ashinaga Africa Initiative | Nansana, Uganda
- Ased Chipangano, Class of 2018 - Started studying at People's Friendship University of Russia | Moscow, Russia
- Edna Lungu, Class of 2012 - Graduated from City University in Lusaka, Zambia as a Registered Nurse
- Ngosa Besa, Class of 2013 - Graduated from Chreso University in Lusaka, Zambia with a degree in Clinical Medicine



Armand Yambisa and Martin Milanzi visit the KF office



Cararise Lumumbia represents Zambia at UWC ISAK



Ngosa Besa graduates from Chreso University



Dennis Kayebeta displays his up-cycled tire furniture business



Cecilia Banda and KF Princeton in Africa Fellow, Diane, in Accra



Lydia Njovbu with former KF Fellow, Olivia Thompson



Edna Lungu graduates from City University

Life in Armenia

By Emmanuel Sakala

My name is Emmanuel Sakala. I was in the Kucetekela Foundation class of 2018 at Pestalozzi Education Centre.

I graduated from Pestalozzi Education Centre in November of 2018. After graduating, I started a paid internship at Book World Zambia. This internship was due to the partnership Kucetekela Foundation has with Bookworld Zambia. The internship was for three months after which the company awarded a two-year contract as a full-time employee.

I was doing the internship as a way of making my own money for the things I wanted. While I was working at Bookworld, I was applying to universities in the USA. I applied to about four universities and the closest I got to acceptance was a waitlist. I lost almost all hope of going to tertiary school. With the help of Mina and Uma, I decided to apply to pre-university programs.

"I lost almost all hope of going to tertiary school. With the help of Mina and Uma, I decided to apply to pre-university programs."

Emmanuel Sakala, Class of 2018

I sent my applications to African Leadership Academy (ALA) and United World College (UWC). then the day of the UWC deadline with one more document to be sent, Mama Nkowane called me with the news that I had been awarded a 100% scholarship to study business administration in China. She told all the requirements and provisions of the scholarship.

I was not really excited about the scholarship, to be honest. Under this scholarship, I need to provide my own lodging and food which something my aunt could not manage due to economic hardships. And the course was something I had no idea about.

At this time, however, I had no options. I was not sure that this opportunity would come again and the places for UWC and ALA were very competitive. I sent the last document to UWC even though I had already given up hope of going to A UWC school.

I stopped work at Bookworld to start my mandarin lessons. Unfortunately, the Chinese scholarship required about \$3900 to be paid to the school and I had nowhere to get the money from. With the help of Mama Nkowane, I went back to Bookworld and waited to hear from UWC and ALA. I got to the final stage of the selection process both UWC and ALA and eligible for the interviews. I did the UWC interviews first and before I could do the ALA interviews, UWC national committee told me I had been nominated to attend UWC Dilijan in Armenia.

So, I decided not to do the ALA interview. However, the acceptance for UWC was provisional, meaning that the school could either say yes or no to my nomination. I waited for almost three months and again gave up all hope. In early May the school emailed and I started talking to the admissions officer. The scholarship was 100% including the plane tickets. I sorted out all the things such as medicals (with a big thank you to KF for paying for medicals).

However, I later encountered a problem with the visa application. I was not proactive enough and was waiting for KF to apply for my visa for me. Since I could not get my visa in Zambia, I had to DHL my documents to the Armenian embassy in Cairo, Egypt.

"Traveling alone was exciting and scary at the same time. This was my first time traveling by plane at all and I was doing it alone. I managed to reach the school safely."

Emmanuel Sakala, Class of 2018

It took a long time for DHL to bring back my passport in time for my flight, my original flight was pushed to a later day because my visa had not yet come. I got my passport two hours before my flight.

Traveling alone was exciting and scary at the same time. This was my first time traveling by plane at all and I was doing alone. I managed to reach the school safely.

Armenia is an amazing place. UWC is a great place with so many cultures. There is so much unity in the UWC community with such an amazing support system of friends and staff.

Recently I had the opportunity of being hosted by an Armenian family for the winter break. One thing I learned about Armenia is that they value family life and eating. Here you don't choose when you are full your grandma does. Over the year the new year period, we visited all the relatives of my host family. In Armenia, Christmas is celebrated on the 6th of January.



Happy New Year. In Russia we say С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ , read (с Novwim Godam) I could not think of a better way to start this article than showing gratitude to KF, for the emotional support, financial and academic advice through each step of the way.

Russia is a good fit for me. Upon getting to Russia, I felt some for the first time. At every juncture of success since I joined KF I never alone. Looking back to achievements like Yale Young African Scholars and Yale Young Global Scholars I always had a close friend or two.

However, the interpersonal skills that we are taught in KF go a long way. In a very short period of time I started getting used to being with fellow students here.

"University here and home is very different. Lecturers want to see you in class, they want to see you speak and engage in class activities..."

Ased Chipangano, Class of 2018

I experienced a lot of cultural shock upon arrival. Firstly, Russia is very cold. Even at the airport it made my warm clothing look like summer clothes. Russian people walk extremely fast and respect their time. University here and home is very different. Lecturers want to see you in class, they want to see you speak and engage in class activities to the extent of you have poor class attendance they deduct marks from your exam results. Russian people have a very good reading culture. During journeys in buses and trains, people are always reading. However, they consider material gifts like shoes or clothes as a very rude gesture. To some extent the Russian language culture is similar to that of Zambia. In the same way one would put "Ba" before addressing an elderly person, the Russian language conjugates verbs and pronouns the same way. Russia has a very international population of students and even workers, half the people I have met in banks and Eateries are not Russian.

I am every engaged in activities outside of academics in school. Firstly, I continued with basketball. Except here, people I am exceptionally good. I also play volleyball and since Russians like table tennis, I play a lot of it as well. My very good English speaking is being recognized too, I am currently teaching my Russian Tutor English. I hope she makes it official. There is a very good Zambian community in Moscow, and I am part of the executive of the Zambian community at my school which has 30 students from Zambia. On a larger scale during the elections for city president among Zambians I was part of the organizers of the election.

I am currently learning how to trade forex with a friend and I have intentions of putting a price tag on my music.

Generally everything is okay, my academics are top notch I'm doing my the best to push my self to the very limit. Happy New Year once more.

We are on the web! Visit us at kucetekelafoundation.org

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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!



NEW ISSUE COMING NEXT TERM! Stay tuned....

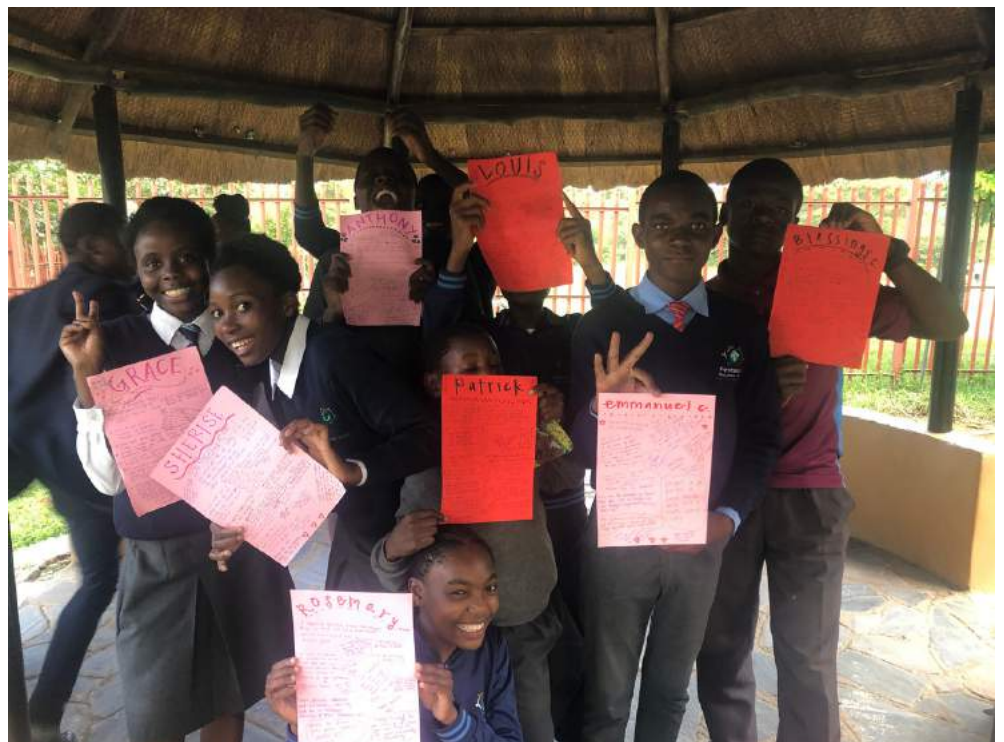
Our Team

Oliver Barry
Co-founder and President

Florence Nkowane Lutale
Co-founder and Executive
Director

Simasiku Mukena
Co-Founder and Finance and
Programs Manager

Diane Arthur
Programs Coordinator



Pestalozzi Education Centre students celebrate Valentine's Day with words of affirmation.

If you were encouraged by our students and would like to contribute towards their education, please contact Mrs. Florence Nkowane at +260971594959 or kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com to make a donation.