

OUR 2020 REFLECTIONS

TERM THREE KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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**LOOKING BACK AT THE HARD WORK, PROACTIVITY AND TEAM
BUILDING OF 2020 WITH GRATITUDE AND FONDNESS**



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WORD FROM THE EDITOR - Nchimunya Mukuwa

In the words of the late president Nelson Mandela, "It always seems impossible until it is done."

The KF class of 2020 entered the year 2020 full of joy and the year in spite of its massive challenges was still crowned with joy as the twelfth graders graduated. With the advent of the Covid pandemic, for the first time in my life, we witnessed a partial lock down that was declared and schools had to close.

The phenomenon of schools closing was a new phenomenon that threw most of us into disarray and confusion. There was so much uncertainty that characterized the future as we didn't know whether we would get back to school in time to write exams and actually complete our school – a dream we had held on to for so many years. We had to learn how to learn and take exams virtually.

But as fate would have it, our graduation dates arrived. As we sat in the graduation halls, we represented many young talents who would go on to take different career paths gathered in one place. Some would end up becoming doctors, engineers, lawyers and many other fields one could think of.

Dear reader when you think of the 2020 graduates, think of entrepreneurs who will use their knowledge of agriculture and business studies among others to come up with innovations that will create jobs for thousands of Zambians. The intake boasts of students who will stabilize the country's economy.

Therefore on behalf of this amazing intake, I would like to appreciate our parents and sponsors through Kucetekela Foundation for the impact they have made in our lives. You never gave up on each one of us despite our short comings from time to time. You stood firm in supporting us as we traversed the length of our high school journey.

To my fellow graduates, I want us to go out there with this quote from the great Albert Einstein, "Logic will move you from point A to point B, but imagination will take you anywhere." This is life we are heading for and everything begins to move from one level to another once we apply the knowledge and understand the difference between high school and society. I wish you all the best as you step to another level of life. It has been a great pleasure sharing these unforgettable moments. Thank you and happy reading.

MENTORSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Mentorship Experience by Anthony Kunda – Pestalozzi Education Centre

It is well said and known that finding someone with similar traits and passion and with a mind so keen on achieving so much is rare. But I happen to be one of the fortunate young people to be paired with a mentor like Augustine.

The advice and guidance he gives me and my other colleagues during our art sessions is really a driving force to attaining greater heights in every area of one's life, especially to me as a young person. One of my favorite talks with him has been on reading widely to improve on vocabulary and widen my knowledge.

He stressed that each book gives you a fact that you never knew till the time you read it and how less impactful a book is till you take it off the shelf.

This is advice that has been echoing through my mind: the power of books is not in possessing a number of them but reading them.



*Mentorship Experience by
Anthony Kunda – Pestalozzi
Education Centre*

CAPACITY BUILDING

**HATHAWAY BROWN VS PESTALOZZI AND
HOTCHKISS VS CHALO TRUST REFLECTIONS**

by William Changa

The Zambia-USA Introductory Exchange Initiative Virtual Conference with Hotchkiss was an amazing experience for me as I got to learn a lot about students from the USA. The session was mainly focused on helping us students get to know each other better and have an understanding of one another's cultural background. I had a wonderful interaction with my breakout mates whom I had many similarities with.

The internet connection was very stable as such I hardly experienced any network challenges as my fellow KF colleagues did.



HATHAWAY BROWN WITH PESTALOZZI AND HOTCHKISS WITH CHALO TRUST REFLECTIONS

The breakout rooms offered a heaven of opportunity for me to interact with my penpals. I found it interesting to learn that Alex loves soccer as much as I do. Alex literally attended the virtual conference with a hoody labeled soccer! Moreover, she knows my favorite soccer club "Manchester United". I had a wonderful experience sharing information with Helen and Alex. I also noticed that Helen is a social person who loves to talk to people and make new friends.

I had a lot of things to share about myself but due to time constraints, I shared the little that I could. I learnt how to greet in Chinese thanks to Alex since I was very curious about this culture. I really had a great time having the cultural exchange where we talked about our favorite foods, staple food and songs. Our first focus as we introduced ourselves was to talk about COVID-19 and how it is affecting us individually in our respective countries.

My main takeaway of the virtual conference was that I should learn to build relationships with others and always make an initiative to do new things.

LEADERSHIP AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

by Emmanuel Mutambo



Pestalozzi Education Centre hosted two award giving ceremonies in honor of the most outstanding, most improved and those students who have exercised great leadership potential. The audience was fully packed with students, teachers and parents.

Before the shout of each award winner, the audience drowned in cold silence as students exchanged glances with mixed expressions of expectations and uneasy eagerness.

The deserving students received awards including five KF students. I received an award for best student in English and Commerce, Daniel had an award for being the best Mathematician and Esther Mulaisho got an award for being the best student in Civic Education. The two grade eights (Patrick and Sherise) also got awards for the most outstanding students in their class, congratulations to them once more. Three KF students were also appointed as leaders, Rosemary as head girl, Blessings Chileshe as head boy and Anthony Kunda as a prefect.



Those who never got any award were impulsively motivated to work extra hard. I personally believe that next time they will be honored too.

COMMUNITY SERVICE - Children's Engagement WITHIN MY COMMUNITY

By Emmanuel Mutambo



Most children in many communities are not awarded the privilege of going to school due to financial incapability of their parents. With this said, the level of illicit acts among them is high. I saw this as an opportunity to extend my knowledge during the Covid-19 school closure to tutor non school going kids, grades 9s, 7s and 8s and at the same time initiated an awareness program on the impact, causes and prevention of Covid-19.

The kids and some of my peers, especially those in exam classes, were reluctant to take time away from their academics. Additionally, 90 percent of them couldn't attend tutoring centers due to lack of finances. This really motivated me to carry out this project despite some monetary challenges. I held the belief that my knowledge in a number of aspects could make a huge impact. It was easy to understand them because these were students whom I shared similar backgrounds with.

I observed that most boys and girls I tutored had less time to be involved in dubious or illicit activities. I received a lot of appreciation from children's parents in my community. Furthermore, spread of information about the pandemic in cooperation with some community† iconic figures turned out to be a success story because many people started adhering to the safety measures and were able to disseminate the information to others too.



Much as I was helping my community, there were some valuable lessons drawn from the delivery of my community service. I had interactions on a more personal level with members of the community I was working with. I'm keenly looking forward to doing more within my community. Being something in line with my career, I really felt happy and a sense of satisfaction. My social skills in terms of inter-culture relations were greatly enhanced.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Blessing Kasabo writes a poem about her art teacher



You know those times when you are carried away when you see a breathtaking drawing and painting; it certainly makes you strong and brightens up your moment.

That's when you are enlightened that life without "Art" is empty and boring and that everything looks absolutely wrong.

Remember, 'art' is 'full' of 'creativity'. It's an amazing activity that certainly opens up your mind to so much beauty.

I definitely get a certain responsibility to speak up or at least use my ability to say the fact that from my perspective, that "never before have I met such a person."

His uniqueness is like an element which can't be changed or split by any means.

Yes, he is a potential rising star just by judging from his drawing. He shines despite his scars. His smile is like a piece of glass, 'transparent' and 'glowing'. I can see his kind heart, ready to bring out the best in his students.

Independence Day - By Sherise Zulu



For the first time my expectations towards independence were exceeded. There had never been a time in school that amazed me like this one.

This was a week I successfully achieved my plans and was looking forward to the bigger event of the week, independence day. There was something unique about this year's independence celebration, so many activities were done and many students were more engaged. Sunday morning, I woke up feeling enthusiastic and well prepared for what the day had to offer.

The previous week before independence was packed with rehearsals for dancing, singing, miming, modeling, art and drama. On Saturday, all the students looked very beautiful and were so happy to be present for the event. I was in charge of applying makeup on models and I also took part in an eastern traditional dance.

MEMORABLE EVENT

The Challenge Valley Course –*Pauline Masaka*



I was overwhelmed with excitement when I heard about the interesting challenge valley course that was to take place at Pestalozzi Education Centre. It was a collaboration between Pestalozzi and Chalo students. This was one activity I never participated in or even heard of. All thanks to Martin, Rabecca and Edna for introducing us to this special game. As stated from the name 'challenge valley,' it's a game where different obstacles are placed along a path where every participant has to follow, usually marked by a string or wire.

Participants go through this path by holding the string or wire while having blindfolds on their faces. The group is led by a leader at the forefront who has to communicate to the rest of the members about the obstacles on the way. When all the group members reach the last point of victory, blindfolds are removed from their faces.

We were placed in groups of four with each team having 11 members. Each team had to nominate a leader who was

to alert everybody in the group about the obstacles on the way. All members had blindfolds and wore black clothings, which were ideal for the obstacle valley game. We had obstacles such as mud, poles, wires, stones and trees. The most unforgettable and interesting part about the challenge was passing through the mud while crawling. This was just the first stage of the course and I kept on wondering what would be next. It was a great achievement to see all the team members make it till the end.

Much as we had fun with the game, there were so many valuable lessons to draw from it, everybody did learn something. I personally learnt that life is never a smooth path throughout. Sometimes you will experience ups and other times downs, nevertheless downs should not make one to give up on their dreams and goals. The other lesson was that being too focused on problems makes us forget all the achievements we have attained.

For instance, during the challenge valley there were some smooth paths, slightly rough and very rough paths but our reaction is everything that matters at every stage. Team work was another great skill everybody learnt, more is achieved when people work as teams. I look forward to having another challenge valley but with different obstacles and see how we navigate through them.

THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Nathan Musweu - Alumni



My Name is Nathan Musweu. I am a third-year student pursuing a degree in International Business & Trade at the African Leadership University. I have always been passionate about financial markets and ICT. The emergence of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Big data and smart machines has given new meaning in terms of how businesses are conducted. E-commerce has given a boom to new ways of making money.

Nowadays, with the right skills and knowledge, you could make money in your home's comfort on the phone or laptop. The digital age brings new opportunities that young people can leverage and earn a living. Additionally, make it easier to conduct work.

I have taken a keen interest to learn as many relevant skills while I am pursuing my degree. I always ask myself what makes me unique in terms of skills. This question has led me to be involved and take up courses in data science and mobile programming, and I am currently a forex trader with over one year of trading experience.

FOREX TRADING INFO SESSION

I have and will always see forex, as a tool that can be used to attain financial freedom. It is something that I have come to learn, and I am glad to have had conducted an interactive session with a few alumni who had shown interest. Last year in December, from the 22nd to the 25th, I had the opportunity to conduct an info session about forex with some KF alumni. We covered topics from what forex is to how people can make money and learn the skill. We also touched on the risks that one has to take as a forex trader. At first, it was confusing for most people to fully grasp the forex concept, but once we got to the practical side, it made things easier.



Alumni students posing for a photo after the Forex trading class

My expectations of the info session were to make sure that everyone got a fundamental understating of how financial markets work. I am glad that my expectations were exceeded and almost everyone now has a real trading account. My hope is that a lot more of KF alumni and students get to benefit from forex.

My Journey from Zambia to Costa Rica

By Faith Sakala



I was excited about getting an admission to EARTH university under a MasterCard program in Limón, Costa Rica. But due to the global pandemic, my travel was delayed by several months.

E-learning at this time seemed to be the only possible solution for my Spanish lessons. I engaged in Spanish lessons with my EARTH university professors. I greatly appreciate the assistance Kucetekela Foundation extended to me through the documentation process, fingerprints, passport, COVID-19 test, travelling allowance to mention but a few.

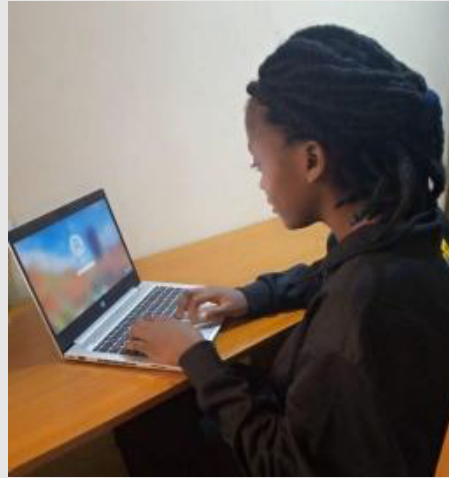
While learning online, I did not relinquish my hope of travelling before the end of 2020 but still held on for a better time words of encouragement on life abroad.

On 26th November, 2020 I left for Costa Rica through Kenneth Kaunda airport in Zambia. My fellow KF alumni who have had a feel of travelling abroad oriented me on the whole travelling process. The airports were not crowded due to COVID-19, making it easy to find my departure points. It was my first time travelling outside the country but I enjoyed the flight and my journey was very smooth.

Upon arrival at the university, I was quarantined for 5 days followed by a COVID-19 test and the results were negative.

My University (A.L.U.) Journey To African Leadership

By Harriet Mwanza



I got admission into African Leadership University in August, 2020 to pursue a degree in computer science under the Dolika Banda STEM Scholarship.

However, I did not have any background knowledge in computer science or programming.

Nevertheless, Kucetekela Foundation (KF) went an extra mile to pay for my computer science preparatory lessons at the University of Zambia (UNZA) from the month of September to December, 2020.

I had dedicated lecturers who gave their time and resources to teach me the basics in Java programming and Databases. I was able to work on homework and hand in exercises. With all the knowledge I was equipped with in the period of four months, I developed codes for a simple calculator and worked on databases.

In Rwanda during a tour on the 5th of January, I began my scholarship orientation and got to meet and interact with different young men and women from all over Africa. The experience has been an opportunity of exposure for most African youths. Getting to learn each other's cultures has been a beautiful thing. My journey with ALU has begun and I'm diving into it with an open mind to embrace other cultures and develop myself as a leader.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM MUNTHALI FAMILY

Dear Kucetekela Foundation,

We- the Munthali family- hereby write to show our gratitude towards the scholarship you gave to Lusungu Musonda throughout the five years of agreement.

You have done everything in your power to cover expenses ranging from textbooks to graduation outfits. Countless times you have offered transportation the very day schools open and close. Furthermore the online lessons and tutoring have shown how true of parents you are to all students in your nest. By ensuring that students receive adequate medical attention regardless of the sickness, you have accommodated Lusungu and many other students like her through difficult situations like the Covid-19 pandemic.

No words can express how much of help you have been and we pray for many of God's blessings to fall upon the hands that have worked and are still working hard to make life for vulnerable children like Lusungu better. Your faithfulness has allowed our daughter to receive high quality education and given us hope for a brighter future. On behalf of many other parents, THANK YOU.

Yours Faithfully,

Munthali Family



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.

