



Kucetekela Foundation Newsletter

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Celebrating student achievements,
leadership, and community impact
across our foundation family.

A Sports Day to Remember: My Race at Nationals

By ALPHERT BWALYA - Grade 10



It was a momentous occasion when I, representing Pestalozzi Education Centre, had the opportunity to compete in a national sports competition. After rigorous training and commendable performances in school races, I was selected to be part of the school team.

Our destination was Martin House, the venue for the nationals, where numerous schools gathered to compete in running. Despite weeks of preparation, the race day was a mix of excitement and nerves. As I sized up the competition in the Under-16 group, I couldn't help but feel a twinge of fear. Some of the runners were towering and looked incredibly strong.

But once the race started, I felt comfortable and focused on running. I told myself that I could do it. The race was 3.5 kilometres long, and it was not easy. My legs got tired, but I kept going. I remembered my training and stayed strong until the end.

In the end, I finished in third place! I was so happy and proud of myself. We were given medals and certificates for taking part in the race. Standing with the other winners and receiving my medal was a special moment.

This race was a testament to the power of perseverance. It taught me that even the most challenging goals can be achieved with unwavering determination and continuous effort. Running a long distance is undeniably tough, but it's within reach with practice and a never-give-up attitude. I will never forget this sports day. It showed me the power of hard work and believing in myself.



Alumni Spotlight: Timothy Chibinda -- Building Skutopia, a Scalable Future for Zambian Learners

By TIMOTHY CHIBINDA - KF Class of 2020

Contact: chibinda2020@gmail.com



I'm Timothy, a proud Kucetekela Foundation (KF) alumnus and current student at Ashoka University in India. KF supported me throughout high school, from academic support to guiding me through the complex university application process. That foundation shaped not only my academic journey but also my desire to create something that could uplift others.

It's one of the key inspirations behind what I'm building today: Skutopia Academy -- a tech platform for Zambian students in Grades 8-12, <https://skutopiaacademy.com>. Over the past few years, I've helped students across Zambia unlock access to learning, from past papers and study guides to mentorship for global leadership programs and university admissions.

More than 10 of the students I've worked with have gone on to join programs like Our Moon Education, UWC, Yale Young African Scholars, and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program -- gaining admission to top universities in the USA, Russia, Algeria, Morocco, Ghana, Kenya, and Zambia. Some of those same programs also shaped my journey. Witnessing students follow similar paths and not just succeed, but thrive, brings me a profound sense of joy and inspiration.

But there was a problem. Increasingly, students began reaching out through WhatsApp and Facebook, seeking academic support. I couldn't keep up. There were just too many to support one-on-one, and I realised the need for a scalable solution. And underneath that? A bigger issue: Most of these students had never had access to quality learning tools. I intimately understood that struggle -- growing up in a public primary school in Lusaka, it was my everyday reality. This personal connection fuels my determination to make a difference.



1

Shaping the Vision

That experience shaped my vision: To build something scalable, student-first, and efficient -- a platform that meets students where they are and gives them what they need to succeed.

With my tech background, I began to design something. The Venture Design Lab course at Ashoka University, led by Professor Srikant Sastri, was pivotal. It forced me to delve deeper into the why, who, and how, bringing the Skutopia Academy vision to life.

2

Developing the MVP

I teamed up with fellow students Omera Yusuf, Victoria, and Yonas Gebremichael Hordofa. Together, we built our MVP: Skutopia Academy, a platform for Zambian secondary school students, featuring:

- Study notes
- Video lessons
- Flashcards and quizzes
- An AI-powered study buddy named Muzanga ("friend" in Chinyanja)

3

Rapid Early Success

In just 3 weeks, Skutopia Academy demonstrated significant traction:

- 300+ students joined through word of mouth.
- 14 mentors led two mentorship sessions.
- We partnered with Yale Young African Scholars to connect students to global resources.

At the end of the course, our efforts were recognized as the "Best Deck Presentation" by our peers, validating our approach and potential.

4

Looking to the Future

This wasn't just a school project; it was proof of what's possible. It affirmed my conviction that we can build systems that scale, last, and truly matter. I'm grateful to Srikant Sastri, Susanth Mahapatro, Amit Gupta, and Anurag Moyde for their support in turning a personal journey into something bigger.

I'm thrilled for Skutopia's future impact. If you're passionate about EdTech, youth leadership, or expanding access to opportunities, let's connect -- together, we can build something truly meaningful.



A Journey of Service in Bauleni Compound

By EMMANUEL CHOLA - Grade 12

Engaging in a community service initiative in Bauleni Compound, Lusaka, was an extraordinarily enlightening experience that deepened my passion for leadership and social impact. Together with my colleagues, I had the privilege of visiting an elderly woman residing with her aged daughter and grandson under dire circumstances.

Their cramped single-room home was devoid of electricity, lacked a nearby water supply, and suffered from poor sanitation, all while the family grappled with the absence of a stable income. Observing these hardships up close intensified my awareness of the daily struggles faced by many marginalized communities.

To extend our support, we provided vital supplies, including a bag of mealie meal and washing paste, to alleviate some of their immediate challenges. In addition to our donations, we engaged in practical help by washing their bedding and carrying water in containers, contributing to lessening some of their everyday difficulties.

Although these actions may seem minor, the heartfelt gratitude expressed by the family served as a poignant reminder that even the simplest gestures can offer relief and rekindle hope. It underscored that true service transcends mere material assistance; it involves showing genuine compassion and dedicating time to understand the needs of others.

This experience profoundly influenced my personal growth, shaping my perspective on leadership and the role I aspire to fulfill in the future. It strengthened my conviction that effective leadership is grounded in empathy, proactive engagement, and a steadfast commitment to uplifting others.

I realized that meaningful change begins with individual effort, fueling my ambition to continually seek sustainable solutions that address social inequalities. As I pursue my goals in leadership and community development, this initiative has solidified my determination to create a lasting impact, ensuring that underserved communities receive not only immediate assistance but also the empowerment needed for long-term change.

Kucetekela Foundation

The stories shared in this newsletter represent just a fraction of the impact your support makes possible. From Timothy's innovative EdTech platform reaching hundreds of students, to Alphert's athletic achievements, to Emmanuel's community service - each success story is built on the foundation of educational opportunity and mentorship.

Our students are proving that with the right support, young people from underserved communities can excel academically, lead meaningful initiatives, and create solutions to challenges facing their peers and communities. The ripple effects of education extend far beyond individual achievement. When we invest in one student, we invest in their family, their community and the future of Zambia.

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

<https://kucetekelafoundation.org/donate>