

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION



UPDATE FROM THE KF FOUNDERS

New scholars off to a great start

Dear Friends,

As always, we hope this newsletter finds you well. The first academic term has finished in Zambia (as well as a particularly heavy rainy season), and we write to share with you the program highlights and updates during this period.

As of January, thirty-one students currently attend high quality secondary schools due to the support of scholarships from Kucetekela Foundation (KF). In this academic year, five new students (all girls) started at our partner schools with scholarships from our organization. The older students now in Grades 9,10 and 11 have set high standards of achievements for our newest scholars, but we are confident that our new students will reach even higher.

Our first all-girl class has gotten off to a record-breaking start. They have all earned academic positions no less than 4th in their respective classes! Two of them earned the top academic position in their class.



KF students at 2010 orientation meeting

A few other highlights we wish to share:

- In January, the KF staff in Lusaka hosted the annual orientation luncheon for all new KF students and families. The guest of honor this year was Dr. Okiror Oumo, a professor from the University of Zambia. The new KF students performed songs and poems for their families and teachers, followed by a motivational presentation by Dr. Oumo about the importance of hard work and determination.
- The Global Issues Service Summit, a conference for young people worldwide to learn about sustainable development and community service, was held in Lusaka in February 2010. Four KF students attended and had wonderful experiences.
- A Mentor Newsletter has been created in Lusaka by the KF Zambia staff, particularly Libby Denniston (our current Princeton-in-Africa Fellow), with the help of many KF students. This newsletter will be a quarterly update for KF mentors and students. It is a way to update mentors about the activities of the students and will serve as a forum for students to share updates amongst each other. KF students have written stories for submission, have edited the newsletter and participated in the layout. This issue of the KF quarterly newsletter will feature several of the students' articles.

As is becoming the norm, we have had a busy first term! We are excited for all the developments of our program and remain most proud of the achievements of our students.

Yours gratefully,

Florence, Simasiku & Oliver

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2010 GLOBAL ISSUES SERVICE SUMMIT

International conference attended by 4 KF students

In February, the American International School of Lusaka hosted the 2010 Global Issues Service Summit, a conference that brought together over 200 students from across the global. The theme of this year's conference was "seeking sustainable solutions together". A variety of subjects and issues were discussed, including HIV/AIDS prevention, environmental concerns, education through sport and a particular emphasis was placed on community service.

Four KF students in Grade 11 earned scholarships to attend this conference through an essay contest. Each applicant was asked to write an essay in response to the question, "how have you made a difference in your community?" Our four students each wrote about their KF community service projects and were awarded scholarships from a group of over 100 applicants!

An essay by Dennis Kayebeta, a Grade 11 student at Ibex Hill Secondary School, describes his experience at the 2010 Global Issues Service Summit.

KF student experience

My Experience at the Global Issues Service Summit

by **Dennis Kayebeta**

I was in shock when the news hit me that I was chosen to go the Global Issues Service Summit Africa 2010 at the American International School. I dashed in joy and could not wait to go and meet the people there. The first day we went to listen to keynote speakers who have changed the world.

The first keynote speaker was Kimmie Weeks who was born in Liberia in 1981. When he turned 9, he came face-to-face with civil war. He learnt about human suffering at an early age. He got sick to the point where he was pronounced dead. From this he made he view that he will never allow any young adult hold a gun and kill. He started a foundation to educate people around the world about the war. His foundation has spread worldwide, and he has changed a lot of peoples' lives. "If you have started doing something," he said, "no matter what comes between you, just continue doing it because you can change the world. Change starts with you and ends with you."

The other keynote speaker was Austin Gutwein. He is a determined young man who is only 15 years old but he has a big heart and is changing the world. He has a foundation in Sinazongwe, Zambia dealing with children living with AIDS. He has built a school and a clinic by raising money shooting hoops. I was inspired by him such that I felt like running away and doing the same for my project teaching children volleyball and reading. He was my favorite speaker because he made me gain hope that my project can grow as long as I stay focused.



MY WORK EXPERIENCE

By **Mercy Chisala**

“What is work experience?” some would ask. Work experience is the opportunity to explore the working environment while continuing to attend school. I took part in work experience with the help of Kucetekela Foundation as an accountant at Kings Pharmaceuticals Limited. I worked with different, older people which made me uncomfortable at first, but since they were friendly I became used to them - I laughed with them, and we ate together. One thing that I did not forget was that they were older than me - respect.



Mercy working at Kings Pharmaceuticals Limited

Well, work experience was one of the most exciting things I have done. The week was tiring, exciting, and very involving! I learned how to record the sales in the sales book, how to write a receipt, how to make an invoice. I also learnt some tips on the computer and excel and what is involved in accounting.

When I finished work experience, I discovered a many things including the importance of the work and a lot about myself—my skills, talents, and likes and dislikes. I discovered ideas relating to the working world. I was able to determine how to develop my skills and talents through future training. I began to gain an understanding of the necessary adjustments to move from life as a student to life as a working citizen.

Mercy Chisala is a Grade 11 student at Leopards Hill Secondary School. She hopes to become an accountant.

MENTORING UPDATE

Visiting My Mentor's Community School

By **Jeffrey Kanyama**

My mentor's name is Miss Kutemba, and she came into my life in December 2009 so that she can encourage me in my school work, help me choose a good career, and to help if I have a problem. The essence of this article is to talk about what I did with my mentor.

It was on the 9th of January 2010 when she called me to meet her. She told me that she has a community school which she runs in New Kasama and that was where we were going. Ms. Kutemba helps children who are orphans by providing shelter for them, taking them to her community school and buying them all they need. Some of the children are boarders. When we reached the place, Ms. Kutemba introduced me to the workers at this community school who were all friendly. She then took me to the dormitories and introduced me to the children. I spoke with the children and my conclusion was that the children are literate in English and very intelligent. They also have respect because, when I told them my name, they started calling me Uncle Jeff. *(story continued on following page)*

Mentor Update (continued)

Visit with My Mentor

After some time Ms. Kutemba told me she was going for work so we decided to go back to her home. After she left for work I remained with her worker, her son, and the other children who came for a holiday at her place. I played with the children and we had lunch. I am so grateful to have a mentor who is caring, kind, and who is willing to sacrifice for me.

Jeffrey Kanyama is a Grade 11 student at Leopards Hill Secondary School.



KF students at the mentor luncheon 2010

Princeton-in-Africa Program

Thank you to Libby Denniston!

In July, our wonderful Princeton-in-Africa Fellow, Libby Denniston, will be leaving Lusaka to return to the U.S. Libby has been working at KF through a Princeton-in-Africa (PiAf) graduate fellowship since October 2009.

Libby has been a welcomed and valuable addition to the KF team. As our first ever PiAf Fellow, Libby courageously dealt with issues at the beginning of her experience, adapted successfully and settled into her new life in Lusaka. She has worked tirelessly with the KF students, particularly in many tutoring activities and exam preparations, raising the academic standards for KF students even higher. The development of the new mentor newsletter is also a credit to Libby's hard work and one of her many impacts on our program. Additionally,

Libby has thoroughly researched college and university strategies for KF students which we will eagerly implement in the coming year!

All the staff at KF had a fantastic experience working with Libby and thank her for her commitment, dedication and hard work. Her work will influence our program and our students for a long time to come. We wish Libby the very best in her next endeavors and hope that she will come back to visit us in Lusaka!



Libby with two KF students

Donate!

We strive to increase the number of KF scholarships offered and we need your help!

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



GET INVOLVED

Please consider making a donation or getting involved as a volunteer

2010 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:
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**Make checks payable to
Kucetekela Foundation**

**Send to:
Kucetekela Foundation
1220 Park Avenue, Apt 1B
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Thanks for your support!

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

**Please contact:
oliver_barry@kucetekelafoundation.org**