

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION



UPDATE FROM THE KF FOUNDERS

Second Term Success!

Dear Friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. The second academic term in Zambia has recently finished, and we write to share the highlights and updates of yet another outstanding school term for our hardworking students.

The second school term finished in late August, and we are delighted to tell you that our students remain in high academic positions, earning both academic and extracurricular distinctions through their determination and effort. Our program is now proud to sponsor 26 students, who will conclude this academic year in December. Now in our third year of operation, Kucetekela Foundation (KF) has students in three grades (8 through 10) at three different partner schools.



KF students at Ibex Hill Secondary School

In the second term, the new KF students have truly started to flourish. Supported by older KF students as guides and mentors, the new Grade 8 students have come into their own. Several of them hold the top academic position at their new schools, and all are well integrated into the new environments. The older students have been key elements to this early success, as their role modeling holds great influence. The older students have demonstrated the path to success through their own continued achievements in the classrooms, leadership in the dormitories, attitudes on the athletic fields, participation in drama performances, and many other activities.

At this time of year, the role modeling done by the older students has particular importance. The Grade 9 students have started their intensive study and preparation for the national examination which will be administered in November. Last year, the current Grade 10 students earned outstanding scores, and are now working as tutors and practice exam administrators for the Grade 9 students. As a program, we are particularly proud of these relationships fostered and remain impressed by the achievements of our students.

We are grateful for your support of our program and we hope you will consider supporting our students for the 2010 school year. Donations received at this time of year will determine how many students KF will sponsor in 2010. We have received a record high number of applications and strive to increase the number of KF scholarships offered. We can only do so with your help.

Yours gratefully,
Florence, Simasiku & Oliver

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LAKEVILLE COMES TO LUSAKA, AGAIN!

Hotchkiss students and faculty members visit Zambia

In July 2008, a group of Hotchkiss students and faculty members visited the KF program in Lusaka and left a lasting impact on our program and students. This July, the Hotchkiss group came back again, much to the delight of the KF students!

This year, 9 students and 2 faculty members came to Lusaka to meet our students, help teach classes at our partner schools, and work together with the KF students on a community service project. The community service project involved building a garden for one of our partner schools, used both to sustain the school as well as generate income.

Below is a story written by a KF volunteer, Sam Nkowane, about the experience of the Hotchkiss and KF students this July.

Pictures and more details will be available on the KF website.

Story of the Hotchkiss visit

KF Visitors get a hands-on experience

In a small space behind a little house in a compound called Kalikiliki, a number of small children, some who haven't even begun school, are seated with nothing but a used bag of millie meal between them and a hard ground. The children are divided into two groups, both sitting facing each other with a double sided chalk board standing in between. In their laps they each hold a little exercise book and pencil, while they listen attentively to their teachers. Their teachers- Jeffrey Kanyama, Japhet Phiri, and Abram Chima: three grade ten students who share a common background of poverty, but who have been fortunate enough to obtain a KF scholarship. This small class is part of a program KF has designed for its students to learn how to give back to the community. Each student in grade ten must identify a service project that they can do in their community during their school breaks. These three young men decided to teach the children in their community who like them, do not have the financial means to go to schools with adequate resources.

On one side of the chalk board Jeffrey uses the vernacular to help explain some principles of mathematics to his pupils. English lessons will have to come another day. The bigger children ask him questions which he answers easily. He then writes down some notes for the students to jot down.

Hands-on experience (cont.)

On the other side of the board, Abram is going over the alphabet with the younger children. There is no segregation here at this temporary and informal class setting. All who wish to learn are welcome, even little infants who just want to be part of the group.

This is the sight that met 11 visitors from the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut on the June 27th. Their eyes chase the surroundings, and although they acknowledge the level of poverty these children are exposed to, in their faces you can see amazement. They are impressed and touched by the scene that they have come to be a part of.

"I couldn't believe how calm and attentive the little kids were, how willing and desirous they were to be here," said Diana Flemma, one of the two chaperone's of the 9 Hotchkiss students. She later said about the three boys, "In my perspective this is exactly what should come from a scholarship." The visitors proceeded to observe the class, and then conducted a few games including the hokey pokey, which brought many smiles and giggles to the children.

While in Lusaka, the group lodged at Chalo Trust Secondary School where they had the opportunity of living the kind of life that a KF student was being exposed to. The three schools, Chalo Trust, Leopards Hill, and Ibex Hill, were very welcoming and allowed the visitors the opportunity to teach some of the classes.



Hotchkiss students teaching class at Ibex Hill School

The Hotchkiss School came, saw, and learned just how the KF program is opening doors for vulnerable children to realize their dreams. Their hands-on experience has brought them an understanding of how this program is affecting the lives of the Zambian youth. One of the beliefs KF holds, is that vulnerable children who are given the opportunity to receive an education of high quality, will not forget their background, especially when poverty is still a part of their lives. Three young men giving free lessons to children in an obscure outdoor classroom, is but one example of a giant step in that direction.

Sam Nkowane helped as a volunteer during the Hotchkiss visit and is currently a journalism student in South Africa.

STUDENT UPDATES

HIGHLIGHTS AND EXCERPTS FROM STUDENT LETTERS

I have improved in my results and I have not done badly. I have managed to interact in school activities like plays and singing. And I have been rated as one of the most disciplined student in school and more to come for me.

- Merilyn, Grade 9, Chalo Trust School

I have improved in most subjects and I have developed interest in French so much that I even practice speaking and writing it.

- Edna, Grade 9, Leopards Hill School

Thank you because if I wasn't part of KF sponsorship programme, I wouldn't have been able to attend my secondary school at a good school like Ibex Hill school were they offer quality education and the place is very conducive for studying. I also want to say thank you for bringing me to a boarding school, at least it reduces the number of people at home to be taken care of by my grand-parents and at least I have met a lot of different people, people who encourage me to work hard in school to have a bright future, as we all know a person has to sweat to get sweets.

- Mary, Grade 9, Ibex Hill School

Being part of KF has been the most wonderful thing in my life. This sponsorship has changed my life, I never thought I would be in such a good school, because of you I'm who I am today and who I will be in future. My family and friends never appreciated me even when I did something good they never saw anything in me. But when I won this scholarship they were very proud of me, it the first time my family ever appreciated me.

- Sonia, Grade 10, Ibex Hill School

I can say that I am one of the lucky people in life because without the KF support and care, I cannot even imagine what I would have been doing right now. This sponsorship is a very big challenge to my life, because I did not know that I can be found at such an expensive school like Ibex Hill where I have met encouraging teachers, friends and I have also experienced a lot.

- Phales, Grade 10, Ibex Hill School

I have worked hard and achieved things I never thought I would. First time I came to Chalo I thought that I would be coming out one of the lowest in our class but due to my dedication and commitment am on the top three list in our class.

- Elijah, Grade 9, Chalo Trust School

In my academic work, last term, I passed number 1. The work that we are doing now in class is becoming harder because there is a lot to read and write. In the co-curricular activities, I scooped the fourth position in the girl's inter-class cross country competition last term.

- Bwalya, Grade 9, Leopards Hill School



Building relationships in Lusaka

KF Founders go to Zambian State House

In June, the KF Founders - Florence, Oliver, and Simasiku - were cordially invited to the Zambian State House to meet the Zambian First Lady, Mrs. Thandiwe Banda, wife of the Zambian President, Mr. Rupiah Banda. Mrs. Banda expressed great support for our program and has become a strong advocate of our vision. Since our meeting with the First Lady, she has already donated many exam preparation books to our students and has agreed to attend a KF student event in December as our Guest of Honor. We look forward to telling you more about that event at the end of the year.

New Zambia staff member Princeton-in-Africa fellow

Our organization is proud to announce that Libby Denniston, a 2009-10 Princeton-in-Africa (PiAf) Fellow, will be joining our staff in Lusaka starting October 2009.

Libby is a 2009 graduate of Princeton and has been awarded a PiAf graduate fellowship for 12 months of work at KF in Zambia. We know that Libby is going to be a terrific addition to our team in Zambia.

Some of her responsibilities will include researching and strategizing opportunities for KF students after secondary school graduation, improving local fundraising efforts as well as ways to market our program and students. Additionally, Libby will work as a tutor at our partner schools, directly helping the KF students in academic areas of need.

We hope that Libby will enjoy life in Lusaka and have an excellent experience.

Student Selection Progress Record high number of applications received!

The application and selection process for the 2010 class of KF scholars started in earnest during August. We have, again, expanded both the number of primary schools from which we draw students as well as the number of applications. This year, we have received **140 applications** from **8 different public primary schools, including 1 community school**. In 2006, our first group of scholarships, we received only 15 applications from 2 schools. Each year, the number of primary school and

applications has increased. This substantial expansion over the past three years has produced an increasingly competitive applicant pool, and we expect to select another outstanding class of deserving scholarship recipients sometime in November.

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

2009 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:
www.kucetekelafoundation.org/donate.html**

**Make checks payable to
Kucetekela Foundation**

**Send to:
Kucetekela Foundation
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Thanks for your support!

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

**Please contact:
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