



Kucetekela Foundation Student Newsletter



Term II, September 2016



Dear Readers,

As the editor, it is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to the Term II 2016 KF student newsletter. We KF students, as well as a few special contributors, have worked hard on stories and articles based on our school and extracurricular activities. We hope you will enjoy and the stories will also educate you!



We have articles that outline activities that took place at Chalo and Pestalozzi during term two, which include the careers day and talent show! We also highlight important KF activities that happened outside of the schools, such as the BUILD workshop, the KF annual reunion, the student exchange with two American schools, Hotchkiss and Hathaway Brown, and Yale Young African/Global Scholars programs.

Sincerely,
Christian Chavula, Grade 11 Pestalozzi Education Centre

Careers Day

By Mutinta Mubita, Grade 11 Pestalozzi



On the 17th of June, 2016, Pestalozzi Education Centre had its Careers Day. Pupils wore the professional outfit of personnel in the career they would like to pursue in future. We had performances by students that related to the theme. Several professionals from different career paths came to this event to give us an insight on careers.

I learnt that one of the most important things in life is what one can do for people or nation at large and not expecting things to be done for us.

And we should always pray to God for guidance in our career choices. Another lesson that stood out for me from what was said is to not pursue a career because of money involved or peer pressure. Plus, self-confidence and positivity is necessary in all life endeavors.

In conclusion, I believe that young people should think about what career they would like to pursue in the future and talk to professionals about them to attain more knowledge.



(from left to right) Cecilia, Mercy,
and Cararise

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2016 Talent Show

by Cecilia Banda, Grade 10 Chalo

The 2016 Chalo talent show was held on the 16th of July. This event not only showcases talents but improves them and some even discover them due to this event. Performances this year were dancing, singing, reciting poems and playing music instruments.

Many people were invited, including students' parents. I took part in four performances-dancing, singing and acting. My group, Fortress, with ,KF students Mercy and Cararise, and another Chalo student, Grace, sang an original arrangement, combining two popular gospel songs. The event was a success and people seemed to have enjoyed although I wish it could have been longer, with more acts.

The KF, Hotchkiss and Hathaway Brown Exchange



The American Visitors at Chalo

Intercultural Dialogues at Eureka Camp

Lots of Fun with Americans

By Lydia Njobvu, Grade 11 Chalo

July 2016 came with lots of fun as I got the opportunity to spend a week with students from Hathaway Brown and Hotchkiss. This was a group of girls who had made a collaboration to visit Africa as a school trip and to know Zambia better. They were active, efficient, inspiring, talented, and hardworking and even more.

Thirteen of the current KF girls and alumni went to Eureka Camp for 3 days with the 13 American girls, KF staff, and staff from Hotchkiss and Hathaway Brown. We had games, intercultural discussions and even prepared lunch together. The girls then moved to Chalo after the weekend retreat. During study time, the Hotchkiss and Hathaway Brown students tutored us in a few subjects. Plus, we learnt to make bracelets from them. After classes we'd chat and play card games.

Their inevitable departure made some people emotional because it was sad to see them go, although we always knew they would leave. We are grateful for their visit and donations of clothes, books and games. I loved that they were all friendly, open, kind, open-minded and willing to learn from us. We made strong bonds and I would like to have such an experience again.



Nyanja Language Tutoring



Bonding as a Human Knot

Meeting My Sponsor at the Retreat

By Simangele Magodi, Grade 11 Pestalozzi

On the 2nd of July, 2016 all senior KF scholars went for a retreat with Hathaway Brown and Hotchkiss at Eureka Camp. When we met the Hotchkiss and Hathaway Brown students, I was surprised that one of them knew and recognized me because we were meeting for the first time.

We introduced ourselves and the person that recognized me is Kayla, my sponsor. When she mentioned this, I was shocked in a good way and didn't know how to react. She looked too young to be able to sponsor anyone. I was awed and inspired. Now I know that age is not what qualifies one to be eligible for rendering help but passion, love and kindness like I saw in Kayla.

After introductions and games, we were toured around the camp. There were different animal and plant species such as giraffes, horses and Mukwa tree (known for making the best timber in Zambia). I took photos with Kayla and animals. In the evening, we had a movie around a bonfire. I enjoyed this and learnt how to make s'mores.

They visited my school 3 days after the end of the camp and participated in sports. Bidding farewell was very sad for me because I don't know when I will see my sponsor next. However, I feel fortunate to have had the chance to meet her. I am grateful to Kayla and her mum for granting me the funds for my education because education is shaping me positively every day.



Simangele & Kayla



The American Students Visiting Pestalozzi Education Center

A KF Trustee and Her Daughter Come to Zambia

This past July, my daughter, Kayla, and I had the privilege of joining a group of American students and teachers from Hotchkiss and Hathaway Brown Schools on a two-week trip to participate in a collaborative KF program in Zambia. When we arrived in Zambia with our new friends, we visited Victoria Falls, rode elephants and went on land and water safaris. Although these “touristy” experiences were fun and amazing, they were not the best part of the trip. By far, the best part of our adventure was meeting and getting to know the KF students; first at the Eureka Camp, and then at the Chalo and Pestalozzi Schools. We were so impressed with the maturity, kindness and generosity of the KF students who made us feel so welcome and so special. To us, that is the definition of a perfect host! We are grateful to them for sharing their beautiful poetry, songs and traditional dances with us. We thank them for welcoming us into their classrooms, their dorm rooms, and their homes. We made so many wonderful friends and we think of them often.

Although I have been a Trustee of KF since its founding, I feel that I learned many things on this trip about the organization that I either did not know before, or did not fully understand. Being on the ground in Lusaka, meeting the KF Staff, the KF students and visiting the schools made a huge difference in my understanding of the goals, challenges and achievements of KF. My only regret is not having visited sooner. The visit further reinforced how honored I feel to be associated with KF, its founders, its staff and its students. Many thanks to Florence Nkowane, Simasiku Mukena, Jessica Clarkson, and Elsie Stapf for all of their hard work for KF and for making this trip an enjoyable, informative, and truly unforgettable experience.

--Tina Keriazes



Kayla with KF Students Kellyson and Jackson in New York

My Time in Zambia

By Kayla Keriazes, KF Sponsor and Daughter of Trustee Tina Keriazes

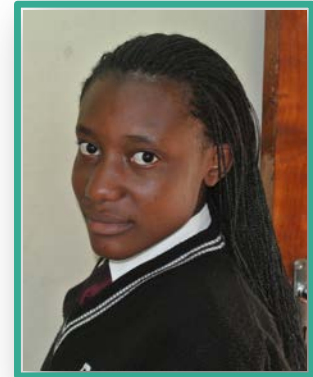
It has been over two months since I left Zambia and yet it feels like it was yesterday. I am so grateful for the opportunity to visit such a beautiful country and to meet such a great group of people. Thank you for making me feel so welcome and for making my trip such a memorable and fun experience. I am so happy to have made so many new friends.

Shortly after returning home, I got to spend the day in New York City and do some sightseeing with two of those new friends, Kellyson and Jackson, who would be attending Yale University for a summer program. We had a great time.

I hope to see everyone again soon!

Believe Understand Invent Listen & Deliver (BUILD) in a Box ALA Workshop
by Grace Jere, KF Alumnus

The BUILD in a box workshop is an African Leadership Academy entrepreneurship program that is done during a course of two years but summarized into a two-day program, hence the term “in a box.” This July, the event was organized by Mrs. Nkowane, the Executive Director of KF, Mr. Mukena, the Finance Manager of KF, Jessica Clarkson, the KF Fellow and myself, the KF intern. It was hosted by ALA Students, Luyando, Tinashe and Paiva. About 47 students, teachers, and other personnel attended and participated in the workshop.



We had several discussions and activities pertaining to the acronyms of BUILD, as well as icebreakers. We first had a Marshmallow Challenge which is building a tower with spaghetti, seal tape and a marshmallow on the highest point of the tower. The team with the highest tower standing wins. My team lost. We made it so long that it couldn't stand unsupported. The whole idea was to work as a team and incorporate ideas to accomplish something. Below are summaries of the acronyms.

B Believe. Everyone has something that they believe that they will achieve. A piece of advice one can take is ‘aim for the moon so that if you miss, you will end up among the stars.’ However, circumstances can make that difficult to achieve. Therefore we also had examples of successful people that had challenges and downfalls, but still made it. So one can draw inspiration from that if things do not go as planned or expected.

U Understand. We identified some of the problems faced in our communities and discussed why things are the way they are. In order for one to know how to solve any issue very well, one must understand issues relating to that- what, why, what has been/is being done. Consult people or media. We had groups of about 10 people and discussed one challenge faced by our community. The topics we discussed in detail were poverty, corruption, substance abuse and land pollution.

I Invent. After understanding a challenge (land pollution in my group), one can invent a solution to solve that challenge. However, it is advised to come up with solutions that are feasible and within reach. One ALA teacher likes to say “don't try to be Superman because you don't wear your pants outside”. Therefore, one should come up with a solution that is within limits yet effective.

L Listen. Listening to views and opinions is vital when a solution has been formed for a challenge that is being faced so that one can examine the extent to which the solution can be effective. When informing others of the solution, it is important to be captivating and effective. Due to this, we had an activity on Elevator Pitch, or communicating an idea effectively in a short period of time.

D Deliver. After an idea for solving a problem has been identified and planned for, it is delivered. There was an activity about how we would deliver a solution to our community for a problem that we have identified and ensure that it is effective. We decided that Land Pollution can be solved by involving our community in recycling and reusing materials so that we have a cleaner and more sustainable environment and also, to a large extent, as a way of earning income.

In conclusion, the BUILD workshop was very informative, interactive and enjoyable. We decided that the end of the workshop is not the end of the learning experience. Therefore, we will use what we learned to start to engage in a community service project on reusing and recycling. Because we want to see a positive change, we will make it happen.

KF Reunion: Celebrating 10 Years of Building a Strong Foundation for the Future

By Vincent Mwafulirwa, Grade 10 Chalo

The KF reunion was an awesome day to show partnership, support and share experiences among members of KF. It is held mainly to motivate and educate about life experiences and universities; and history and growth of the organization.

This year's reunion was very different and unique. We set up the computer and had snacks. We began with a prayer and remarks by Mrs. Nkowane who talked about what people in KF are doing-in high school, universities and even community service. Chalo and Pestalozzi students had some performances which created a fun atmosphere. Then we had games and discussions in small groups which comprised alumni, gap year students and university students. Afterwards was lunch which was awesome because the food was delicious and we interacted across intakes (cohorts). We had a Ted Talk about Africa, followed by a dialogue facilitated by alumnus Mailess Phiri. Later, we went outdoors for further interactions and to learn about universities, international baccalaureate, and other post-secondary pathways from the alumni. We ended the day with photos.

I was fascinated by how I became more open to people because the event was very interactive. I learnt that interacting with people will help me grow and be more responsible.

Mama Nkowane helping Nathan with some last-minute paperwork



KF Girls from both schools doing a photo shoot



Andrew, Grade 12, listening to the advice of alumni



Mr. Mukena taking some photos during clean-up

Yale Young African and Global Scholars Conferences

In July and August 2016, KF supported seven Grade 10s and 11s to attend three conferences around the world: Ased Chipangano, Cararise Lubamba, and Nelly Kalukango attended YYAS in Harare, Zimbabwe; Vincent Mwafulirwa and Martin Milanzi attended YYAS in Accra, Ghana; Kellyson Siamunjo and Jackson Kakwenya attended YYGS at Yale University, USA. These conferences are an academic and leadership program for African high school students who have the talent and drive to make meaningful impact in their communities.

Yale Young African Scholars (YYAS) Zimbabwe

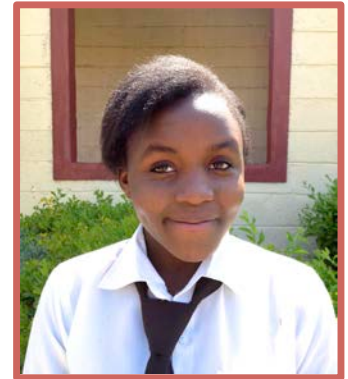
By Nelly Kalukango, Grade 10 Pestalozzi

Excitement and curiosity are all I felt after David, the former fellow, told me I had been accepted as a Yale Young African Scholar. All I wanted to know was where I would spend that beautiful week and who I would meet.

I left for the workshop held in Zimbabwe on the 20th of August with two other KF scholars. The daily schedule for the workshop was breakfast, lecture and group discussions, discussions on how to apply to the US, lunch, seminars, snack time, family time, and lastly dinner. In the evenings we learnt how to sit SAT and ACT exams.

What I loved the most was the fact that we were given a platform to think critically and learn from one another. The division of individuals into smaller discussion groups enabled the shy and reserved to have the opportunity to contribute and express ideas without feeling too timid.

One thing I learnt about leadership is that it is not always easy but requires more than just guiding or imposing ideas and rules but also having knowledge on what one does. This is very applicable to me because I am a natural leader and having knowledge on leadership will help me in the long run.



Yale Young African Scholars (YYAS) Ghana

By Martin Thulani Milanzi Jr., Grade 11 Pestalozzi

The journey to Ghana seemed like a dream until I boarded the plane. This dream started when Oliver Barry decided to sponsor financially disadvantaged children to school. The concord between Oliver Barry, Mrs. Nkowane and Mr. Mukena has proven to the world that small things can end big. I refer to such people as 'noble hearted men and women.'

The email of acceptance seemed like a prank because I did not make it to Rwanda last year. I was selected this year by the grace of God. My mother at first thought I was joking when I told her that I would be going to Ghana. Mrs. Nkowane and Mr. Mukena made it possible for me to acquire everything for the departure, from immigration documents to clothes. The airports we passed through were bigger than the airport in Zambia, the journey smooth and nice.



The experience in Ghana has affected my life and perception of many things. I was surprised that one can earn a sports scholarship because I have always thought it is either sports or school, never both. I 'dougied' during the talent shown while Vincent, my friend and fellow KF mate, 'jerked'. I learned a certain Ethiopian dance where one only moves the shoulders. We had intercultural discussions which were very informative, as well as discussions on climate.

This workshop enabled me to come out of my shell and comfort zone in order to socialize with people from different social, cultural and economic backgrounds. In addition, I have grown socially, mentally and intellectually because I think critically, while accepting and embracing other people's opinions however different from mine.

In conclusion, I believe that we need to 'walk the talk' in order to tackle challenges. I thank KF for this opportunity and Yale University for making this tremendous event happen. I will put into action what I learnt.

Other Thoughts from YYAS & YYGS



While visiting the US, I had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with Mr. Tom Barry. Talking to someone like him, someone who is successful in life, learned, and full of wisdom, was something I have always dreamed of. It is an achievement for me because it is rare for people like him, who can share their knowledge and be compassionate, have an interest in the world, and are willing to make a difference in it, to talk to people like me. He talked from personal experience, not just formal knowledge. Not that Mr. Tom Barry is the only person I talked to there who has such prestige, but he is special because, being KF, he somehow knows me. He is also one of the rare people who will listen to what you have to say first. He is understanding and a good friend, someone you can tell anything. The talk I had with him was life changing because he helped me think critically about my careers. I am in a dilemma now to choose between accounts and medicine.

-Jackson Kakwenya, Grade 11 Pestalozzi

'Art in Africa' was my favorite seminar because it taught me not to judge things without first trying them. Before this seminar, I didn't like anything to do with art. Outside the classroom, I learned a very important interpersonal skill of how to make good friends with people whom you have little or nothing in common.

-Ased Chipangano, Grade 10 Pestalozzi



There are so many things I picked there that made me change my perspective. One of them is a lecture that we had about history. I really changed my way of thinking because our lecturer was explaining the importance of history, why certain things were made. It opened my mind.

-Vincent Mwafulirwa, Grade 10 Chalo

My favorite seminar was 'The Dark World of White Gold.' I like the fact that everyone was free and expressed themselves freely. I learnt a lot from the seminar on how we are supposed to protect environmental resources. In addition, after learning about liberal arts, I thought that not having a career now is not important and that I have to take time and choose a career that I am passionate about.

-Cararise Lubamba, Grade 10 Chalo



THE AMERICAN BREAKTHROUGH

By Kellyson Siamunjo, Grade 11 Chalo



From time to time I've been on a great quest for an answer to a question I did not know at all. But little did I know that both the question and answer were hidden in the great and extraordinary experience I had in the United States of America. From the time I was selected to participate in the Yale Young Global Scholars program, everything that was happening felt like a dream which ended as soon as I arrived at JFK International airport in the U.S.A. This was due to the excitement and joy for being selected to participate in the program and travelling to the U.S.A. for the first time in my life. Adding on top of that, I also became the first one in my family to travel abroad. With all of this running in my head, I went through all immigration procedures without much trouble. As soon as everything was done, together with Jackson, we immediately went to the exit gate to meet up with Kayla who was going to show us what was next. It was then Kayla who took us to New York City where we had a wonderful time at the Barry family's place and other parts of the city. Our stay in New York was wonderfully made awesome by the Barry family, who gave us a warm welcome, and the various activities we had such as great meals, boat ride and touring of the city. We even went to the rock view where we had a view of the whole city on top of a building. After all this amazing time at the Barry family's place, we had to leave for Yale the next morning. Tom Barry drove us about two hours to Connecticut, and we arrived around eleven am on the 26 of July. Upon arrival, we were greatly welcomed by the Yale staff who took us to our rooms. We also took time to tour the university with Tom who showed us some amazing parts of the University.

At Yale I had no idea of what the experience was going to be like except for learning. This was because of the readings we were given on the seminars and lectures. Owing to this, I was also very sure that the experience was going to be highly challenging and involving. As for the other segments of the program, I literally had no idea. However I was very wrong, seeing that the program was beyond what I expected it to be. It was beyond the description of words as it left me in amazement for the great impact it made in my life. Firstly, the most prominent experience I had was the exposure to the world by being in the company of 250 highly outstanding students from about 194 countries, including all the 50 states. This was a great opportunity, as I was able to learn about various problems people face in the other parts of the world, their cultures and beliefs, their view of things and life in general. This environment also enabled me to make friends and connections from various parts of the world which has always been my wish. Another reason why this experience was a blast is that I got to learn deeper on many global issues regarding sustainability, energy and environment. This further gave me a gist of what studying abroad specifically the U.S is like which is the experience that came in a nick of time seeing that I'm preparing for university currently. In this program we had lectures and seminars on topics regarding climate change, energy, politics, natural environment, new technologies and the global economy in which we discussed solutions to the problems regarding these topics.

Taking part in the program also helped me grow as a person as it made me learn how to interact with different people with different backgrounds. I learnt good time management, good communication skills and personal responsibility, thus preparing me for the future. Though I had a bit of challenges regarding computer skills and getting used to people's accents, it was a great experience as I enjoyed the food, beautiful lodging, great environment at Yale and the people around. With all this, 2 weeks in America felt like it was just 2 days. How I hope to go back and continue what I started thus it was indeed an American breakthrough. All in all, the story is not complete without thanking KF for all its support in this great success. Indeed, without it I would not even be writing this. For this I say thanks to KF.



The Power of Networks: KF Joins HALI Access Network

By Jessica Clarkson, Programs Coordinator and Princeton in Africa Fellow '16-'17

This past August, Kucetekela Foundation became the newest member organization of the HALI Access Network, an association of organizations in Africa that work with high-achieving, low-income (HALI) students to access higher education opportunities. Membership includes funding for a representative from each organization to attend an annual Indaba, where ideas and opportunities will be shared. Organizations like ours face many challenges and barriers, as do the students we serve. I strongly believe that nothing is gained from working in isolation, and there is so much potential when passionate, hard-working individuals rally together.



Spearheaded last year by the Zimbabwean organization Education Matters, HALI has already grown to include 23 partners. I came to know of this network when discussing my decision to move to Zambia and work with KF as the newest fellow. The director of Education Matters, Rebecca Zeigler Mano, served on the advisory board for the last program I coordinated, the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of California, Berkeley. When discussing the pros and cons (there were none) of making this move professionally, she told me more about HALI and we realized what a great addition KF would make to the network. I explain this backstory because I think it exemplifies the power of partnership and networks.

In reference to this new partnership, co-founder and president Oliver Barry expressed, “I greatly admire the vision of HALI and the cooperative nature of their program. As KF continues to focus on our program whose main focus and core is secondary school students, we need to both learn from other organizations and develop stronger networks that will allow our alumni to succeed at the tertiary education level and professionally.”

Indeed, KF students have excelled in their academic performance at secondary school and been accepted to colleges and universities both locally and abroad with full scholarships. Over 80% of alumni have gone on to tertiary education, many outside of Zambia. We are proud to have alumni pursuing opportunities on five continents, including with two HALI partners, African Leadership Academy and Pestalozzi UK.

In addition to providing a platform for organizations doing similar work to support one another, this network also has advocacy in mind. Many members are already well-known in the world of international education, and by banding together, we aim to educate college admissions officers, the College Board, and international educators more generally on issues that affect high-achieving low-income students, particularly from the African continent. Harnessing the power of this network could have a long-term, systemic impact on students from similar circumstances to those we serve through KF, easing their pathway to tertiary education and further opportunities.

For more information on HALI and KF's involvement, visit haliaccess.org



Founded in 2006, the Kucetekela Foundation (KF) is a non-profit organization that provides scholarships to Zambian boys and girls who are academically promising, but financially disadvantaged to attend excellent secondary schools. This holistic scholarship, combined with KF's mentorship, work experience, and community service programs equip KF scholars with the skills to be leaders in their schools and communities and contribute positively towards Zambia's future.

Our Team

Oliver Barry
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Florence Nkowane Lutale
Co-Founder and Executive Director

Simasiku Mukena
Co-Founder and Finance
and Programs Manager

Jessica Clarkson
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If you were encouraged by our KF students and would like to contribute towards their education, please contact Mrs. Florence Nkowane at +260 971594959 or kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com to make a donation.

**“Education is the
most powerful weapon we
can use to change the world”**

—Nelson Mandela