

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Bwalya Kasanda**

Gender: Female
Date of birth: 16th April, 1995
Place of birth: Kapiri, Zambia

Mother's name: Josephine Kasanda
Profession: Unemployed

Primary School: Northmead Basic School

Secondary School: **Leopards Hill Secondary School**

2010 Level: **Grade 10**



Family Background:

Bwalya comes from a female-headed household. Her parents are divorced and she stays with a mother. The mother took over the cement selling business to take care of Bwalya and her three siblings—Kasanda, Chilufwe, and Sampa. However, the business failed in 2009, and she is now unemployed. After a number of evictions, she moved into a home with her brother who sells building sand and his family. Despite of this hard environment, Bwalya is a loyal member of her family and when not at school, she is always at home helping her mother with household chores.

Bwalya's mother expressed that KF has made an enormous difference in her life and that of her family's. She is able to send her other three children without the added cost of Bwalya's education. Bwalya's mother also said that she has seen enormous improvements in Bwalya's self-confidence and behavior since she started attending Leopards Hill — she sweeps the house, cooks, and travels to collect water for the family (which alone takes a half an hour to an hour for Bwalya). Bwalya's siblings also excel in school, following Bwalya's example. Bwalya says she helps them with their reading during her time at home. Her aunt told us that Bwalya has "grown up," has "a lot of respect," and is a leader amongst her siblings, helping them with their studies and improving their English.

Bwalya's Education:

Primary - Northmead Basic School

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Bwalya was such a dedicated student in primary school that she went for extra lessons on every Monday afternoon for an hour and a half. Throughout primary school, she borrowed and shared books from her friends because she could only afford an English textbook. Because of her dedication and hard work, Bwalya was always above average in class. In the grade seven examinations, Bwalya earned herself the highest scores of all ten students on the KF scholarship. Social studies was her favorite subject in primary school.

Leopards Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

In grade 8, Bwalya's favorite subjects were environmental science and mathematics. She earned seven ones in her first examinations which means that in at least seven subjects she earned a distinction. This isn't surprising seeing that she spent more time studying than in the dorms with the other girls. She was always at the top of her class, fluctuating between first and second. For Bwalya, improving means getting 90's instead of 80's in some of her subjects like history and civics. We can continue to expect great results from her.

Her mother noted that ever since Bwalya enrolled at Leopards Hill through the KF program, she has begun to study more frequently when she is at home during the holidays.

Grade 9

Bwalya has continued to work hard in her courses and excel academically. She earned first position in almost all of her subjects. She not only received the award for the best overall student in grade 9, but was also awarded the best academic award for the junior section of the school. Finally, she also received accolades for her discipline, receiving an award for being the best-behaved girl in the junior school. She is incredibly well-spoken and confident, always willing to participate in her classes. Bwalya is an outstanding student and leader in her class!

Academic Achievements in Grade 9:

- First position and best overall student in Grade 9
- Best Junior Academic Award for the Junior Sector of Leopards Hill Secondary School
- Most well behaved girl in Junior School
- 1st position in English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Environmental Science, Civics, and Office Practice
- 2nd position in History and Geography

Bwalya's Interests:

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Bwalya loves singing in the school church choir. She is also involved in running, earning fourth position in the Girls Interclass Cross Country competition. In the inter-house competition, a track and field competition within the school, Bwalya did the long jump, high jump, three-legged race, late for work, needle race and relay. She was among the best at the high jump, long jump, and three-legged race. She is also on the school's football and basketball teams.

At Leopards Hill, Bwalya is in JETS club (science), Debate, and Scripture Union. In JETS, they worked on projects in teams, preparing experiments like making soap and making magnets. She also participated in quiz competitions including the ISAZ quiz competition in which Leopard's Hill competed against a number of local secondary schools. While the Leopards Hill School team did not have as much success as Bwalya would have liked, this year she knows their performance will be better. "This year I plan to remain in JETS, and I think I can improve it by participating in all activities, searching for information, and giving my ideas and views." In Scripture Union, her favorite part is being able to sing gospel songs.

Bwalya's Role Model:

Bwalya looks up to her mother because of her resilience—she never gives up. "When she wants something she is determined to go get it."

Career Interests:

Bwalya wants to be an accountant like her father. Also, she loves working with numbers and excels in mathematics.

Bwalya's Thoughts:

"First and foremost, I would like to thank KF for granting me this scholarship. I am gaining a lot of benefits by being a KF member. I am experiencing a lot and I love the teaching they give here. The people around are so generous and kind, and the environment here is good.

I have changed a lot since going to Leopards Hill School—the way I look at myself, I did not think I could do well before. Now, being at school has made me work harder and believe in myself.

I have learnt a lot of things through being a member of KF. I have learnt how to relate with people in a better way and to have good morals. I have also learnt that I should always work hard in life. I consider my fellow KF scholars as brother and sisters and they have all been good and helpful to me.

My favorite events include our luncheon at Dolphin Restaurant and the visits to Fountain of Hope and Pestalozzi. I enjoyed the visits not only because we had

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fun but also because I learnt a lot about other people who are also being helped like me. These kind of visits have changed me because I feel really touched and this helps me change my behavior for the better.

Being part of KF has helped my family because all the young ones want to work really hard so that they can be like me. KF has helped me and my family more than words can even explain.”

Bwalya said of her family that, “they show more care and concern when I’m at school and make sure I have everything I need.”