

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Dennis Kayebeta**

Gender: Male
Date of birth: 28th December 1991
Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Guardian: Clifford Mukuka
Relationship: Uncle
Profession: Programs Assistant
HIV/AIDS Technical
Support Foundation

Primary School: Vera Chiluba Primary
School / Chibelo Basic
School

Secondary School: **Ibex Hill Secondary
School**

2010 Level: **Grade 11**



Family Background:

Dennis was born and raised in Lusaka. He is a “double orphan,” meaning both his parents are deceased. His father died in 1992, when Dennis was just an infant. His mother raised him but sadly, she also passed away in 2005.

Since his mother’s death, Dennis has been living with his uncle, Mr. Clifford Mukuka, who is Dennis’ guardian and cares for him. Clifford has held various jobs, but none has been permanent. Most recently, he has worked as a Programs Assistant at the HIV/AIDS Technical Support Foundation. He has also worked part-time as a shopkeeper in order to supplement his income and meet the needs of the household. Previously, Clifford had been a farmer in the Northwestern Province of Zambia.

At times, there are as many as six other children living with Dennis. Dennis has one older brother named Matalia, The other five are cousins to Dennis and Matalia. The group lives with Clifford in the Mtendere compound of Lusaka.

Dennis' Educational Background:

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Primary- Vera Chiluba Primary School / Chibelo Basic School

Dennis started attending primary school at Vera Chiluba Primary School in Helen Kaunda, Mtendere. He then transferred to Chibelo Basic School in Grade 5, after moving in with his guardian. The guardian felt that Chibelo was a better school.

Dennis' performance at school is outstanding. He was ranked fourth in Grade 5, improved to the top spot in Grade 6, and finished second in Grade 7.

Dennis' favorite subjects were Mathematics, English, and Science. He noted on his application that Chibelo is a nice school and is helping him to achieve his dreams in life.

Outside of class, Dennis was an active member of the HIV/AIDS Resource Center, where he learned more about HIV/AIDS and also volunteered as a peer counselor and educator.

At Ibex Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

When Dennis first started off he felt he wasn't doing too well in class, but as time went on everything started to change. In the beginning of the year he would place thirteenth in the overall class position. With more hard work he earned sixth place. He has noted that there has been a tremendous improvement in his reading and speaking skills, especially when he has speak in front of people.

Grade 9

In Grade 9, Dennis continued to strive for excellence as he improved in the areas in which he was struggling. This year he placed fourth in his overall academic standing. Dennis made a greater effort to manage his time wisely and has therefore improved his study habit. This contributed to his progress in Maths, science, history, religious education, English and geography. He says, "I am still working hard so that I can go to the next stage. I improved my concentration in class and I understand everything the teacher says in class."

At the 2008 awards ceremony, Dennis received an award for the most improved student in his class (Grade 9A).

Grade 10

Dennis enjoys Math, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Religious Education, and Biology. While he struggles in English, he makes an effort to get extra help from his teacher and hopes to improve in the future. He also studies in his free time, teaching himself topics in Biology that his teacher has not covered. He says he

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has been able to excel at Ibex Hill because his teachers are committed to his learning. Also, setbacks in his academics only push him to work harder: “I am balancing all the subjects so that I can contain all of them. The subjects I work the hardest in are those I am not good in. I make sure that they appear more frequently on my timetable. I can see my grades are improving, and they are promising.” He was also elected as a prefect this year, and remarked, “I was chosen as a prefect because of my good behaviour and hard work.”

Dennis’ Interests:

Extracurricular Interests

Before Dennis enrolled at Ibex Hill he loved to play football and loved reading books. Now he has the opportunity to develop a love for other things as well. Dennis continues to play soccer at Ibex Hill, featured as a defender on the Ibex team. During the games this season, he has helped shut out all their opponents, using both zone and man to man defense strategies. He also plays volleyball and is vice-captain of the school team. He says, “I do these sports because they open my mind.”

Dennis is also part of the JETS club which teaches him how to solve some maths problems using simple ways. Finally Dennis enjoys attending church and participating in his congregation.

Community Service

“I saw that there were a lot of children in my community who did not go to school because their parents couldn’t afford to pay school fees. A small number of them went to school but didn’t have their hearts in it. I decided to help these kids by teaching them how to read and write. I also help them in subjects like Math, Science, and Religious Education. Apart from that, I also coach the children in soccer and volleyball. Although I know that my efforts alone are not enough, I hope some people who are better equipped can help me in these tasks. I am happy with the feedback from the children and their parents. Most of the children are now fairly good in English and Math. Their parents are also happy about the work I am doing. Some of the kids now have hopes of becoming doctors or great footballers. I feel good that I am able to contribute positively to their lives and give them hope.”

Career Interest and Work Experience:

His dream in life is to become a doctor specifically a surgeon because he said, “I want to save lives” and because he wants to relieve the suffering of children he has seen in Zambia who do not have access to medical care. In his application, Dennis wrote that he wanted a scholarship in order to achieve that dream in his life.

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Dennis did his work experience in the pediatric wing of University Teaching Hospital. “I learnt a lot of things and some of them are how to take a temperature reading of babies and how to admit a patient. I learnt what to give children who have malnutrition. I met doctors who encouraged me with my career.” It was however a sobering experience as malnutrition took the lives of three children under his care in the first day. Nevertheless, while difficult, it further confirmed to Dennis that he wanted to be a doctor and make a difference in such children’s lives.

Dennis’ Role Model:

Dennis is inspired by the example of Ben Carson, the first African American doctor to complete a separation of Siamese Twins. His own accomplishments gave Dennis the confidence to pursue a career in medicine. “He inspires me a lot and encourages me to work hard and become what he is and maybe even more than him some day.”

Dennis’ Relationship with His Mentor:

“My relationship with my mentor is great and encouraging. My mentor is Mr. Bwalya Mwewa. He is good and encouraging, he helps me in all aspects of my life. He also teaches me how to be responsible.”

Dennis’ Thoughts:

“KF has helped me a lot. Let me say in all aspects of my life even more than in education. I thank you very much. They have exposed me to people and places. Each and every occasion is good and remarkable. It has been going well from Grade 8 to Grade 11. I have learnt things like how to be self-giving, willing to help out people who are in need and pass on my skills of learning.

I am happy to be a part of the Kucetekela Foundation because I have achieved some things that will really help me in life, to be a better person. The education I am being provided with will help me be a very helpful person in society. I have learnt to associate with people I have never met in society. I have learnt how to be responsible and determined in whatever actions I take. I have learnt to deal with tougher situations that I have come across and how to face them.

As a KF member I will always encourage my friends and family to achieve good things in life. I have enjoyed spending time with my fellow KF students and other helpful people who can teach me something. I have enjoyed a lot because KF has taken me to some places where I have never been before in my life. It has taken me to the type of school my guardian could not afford to pay for. I hope to make the KF family and my new school proud of who I am as I reach my potential.”