

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Edson Tembo**

Gender: Male
Date of Birth: 16th January 1994
Place of Birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Guardian: Liness Phiri
Relationship: Aunt
Profession: None

Primary School: Ngwelele Basic School

Secondary School: **Chalo Trust School**

2010 Level: **Grade 9**



Family Background:

Edson lives with his aunt Liness Phiri, in Chipata compound. He used to live with his mother in Petauke until she passed away. He then moved in with his father who had remarried. After a while of feeling mistreated by his stepmother, Edson informed his father that he would much rather move in with his mother's sisters. Liness Phiri also looks after Edson's other three brothers and her late sister's two daughters in a non-electrified house that was given to her by her brother. She rents it out for K70, 000.00 a month. From the rent money she buys and sells groundnuts. Edson's father does not see Edson on a regular basis and provides minimal financial support.

Keeping all these people is a challenge for Liness Phiri. The family often doesn't have enough food and not having electricity makes life a little more difficult. It would be practically impossible for her to afford Edson's education in secondary school. She feels that Edson is a good boy who is very obedient and very clever. Edson says of his aunt that "she has always been very supportive and always there for me because she believes education is the best thing to do if someone wants to have a good future."

Edson's Educational Background:

Primary- Ngwelele Basic School

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Edson began his education at Ngwelele Basic School, but moved to Petauke in grade three where he attended Ukwimi Middle Basic School. After his mother died he moved back to Lusaka and returned to Ngwelele to begin his grade five.

Edson was a young man who enjoyed education and understood its value in his life. He usually placed first in his class because studying was something he was more than willing to do. When he was not first in his class, he was among the top three. He lived in a house with no electricity, but that did not stop him from studying in the night. Just after supper if you happen to stop by his home, you would find Edson studying by candlelight.

Edson was selected as a class monitor in grade four, and was been selected in grade 7 again. He didn't find it difficult to control the class when necessary because the students respected him.

At Chalo Trust School

Grade 8

Edson had no problem transitioning to Chalo Trust School — he placed first in his class in all three terms and was therefore awarded the prize for the most consistent student. Despite the achievements, Edson believes he can do even better: “My goals for this year are to put more effort in my academics. I know I can do better than last year.” His teachers describe his work ethic as “impressive.” His best subjects were Environmental Science, History and Civics. He and another KF scholar, Ngosa, maintain a tight academic competition that, while pushing each other to work harder, does not prevent them from working together and helping one another with their studies. Edson exudes a confidence that is rare at his age, but this is combined with a kindness and willingness to help others that is even more special.

Grade 8 Academic Achievements:

- Term 1: Best overall results in Grade 8
- Best student in Information and Computing Technology for the year 2009
- Best student in Environmental Science for year 2009
- Most consistent student in Grade 8

Edson's Interests:

He plays football and volleyball. He loves listening to music and loves to read novels and school textbooks. He is so good at volleyball that his trainers would entrust him to referee the games at times. He is also a very responsible and determined player who can be counted upon to be a team leader. He is also an eloquent and vibrant speaker and greatly contributes to all discussions without

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being prompted. His makes intelligent contributions to all topics on which he is assigned to speak.

At Chalo Trust, Edson is an active participant in both sport and extra-curricular activities. He continued to play soccer, receiving three major awards throughout the year including a gold medal from the Independent School Association of Zambia Tournament held at the Baobab School. Edson's athletic prowess is complemented by his love for the performing arts—he loves music, drama, poetry, and debate. He excels in these activities because of his public speaking skills and ability to persuade. He is a leader both on the field and the stage.

Career Interest:

Edson wants to be an accountant once he has completed his studies.

What teachers think of Edson;

Edson is the most outstanding pupil in class. He has been doing very well in the weekend tests as well as the end of term tests. He has the ability to guide others, is hardworking and very cooperative.

Edson's Thoughts:

“My name is Edson and I am the second born of the family. I have three brothers. My brothers and I are really trying hard to finish our education and be good citizens in the future.

I love to sing although I am not planning on being a musician. I love singing gospel songs when we are praying with my auntie who lives in Chipata compound.

The greatest challenge I have ever faced was when my mother died in 2004. It was difficult because I was very sad for my youngest brother who was only four years old. I overcame it because time has healed my brothers and I.

The Kucetekela Foundation can help me with my education because my father's company closed down in 2000 so from that year on he has been unable to support me and my brothers. One of my brothers is in grade ten. I would like to finish my education so that I can help my father and brothers.

If I were successful in my career choice I would encourage the government to do something about the road network because there are a lot of bumps. I would also like them to do something about the sewerage pond because many lives have been lost and I would not like it if many more lives were lost.

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KF came at just the right time and chose the right person (me) to be their student. KF has made me believe in myself that no matter what happens there is always something for you. They do things for me that not even my family can manage and are very supportive and encouraging.

Being a KF member is not just about learning or going to a private school and so forth, it is about getting educated so that you can also reach other when you have finished school. My favorite event was the mentor's luncheon when I became part of the big KF family, and it was really nice becoming part of it. I think they are also doing a great job because it is not easy to choose KF students and I urge them to continue doing the great job they are doing to help us achieve more in their lives.

It has helped my family because they were not going to manage to send me to school. It is like KF has become part of our family because they were not going to support all of us at school. May God surely bless you.”