

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Japhet Phiri**

Gender: Male
Date of birth: 24th May 1992
Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Mother: Mary Phiri
Profession: House wife

Father: Aliyele Phiri
Profession: Local businessman

Primary School: Chibelo Basic School

Secondary School: **Leopards Hill Secondary School**

2010 Level: **Grade 11**



Family Background:

Japhet's father moved from Chadiza in Eastern Province to Lusaka in 1980 in search of a better life. He had no skills and looked for a job as a house servant. He was hired as a servant and worked mostly in the Rhodes Park area of Lusaka. In 1981, Japhet's parents married.

Japhet has six siblings. The first born is a girl who is now 21 years old and is married to a brick layer. The second born is a boy and currently goes to school at Munali High School in Grade 10. Japhet is the fourth born.

Mr. Phiri now runs a small, but successful, grocery shop in the Kalikiliki compound of Lusaka. He obtained the funds to open the shop from his previous job, working for United Link, which closed the business and left Mr. Phiri with some profit. Mr. Phiri invested his money into the shop.

Mr. Phiri wrote in Japhet's application, that he needs financial support for Japhet's education because he only works in an informal fashion and that it is very difficult for him to meet the family's requirements. Mr. Phiri is financially responsible for five children and his wife.

Japhet's Educational Background:

Primary – Chibelo Basic School

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Japhet started school at Chibelo in Grade 1 and has continued there through Grade 7. He has been an extremely high achieving student throughout his career. Since Grade 5, Japhet has achieved no lower than the fifth position, and as high as the third best in his class. However, he achieved even higher in Grade 7, where he finished as the second ranked student in his class.

Japhet's best subject is English, and his favorite subjects are English, Mathematics, and Science. He wrote on his application that the best part of Chibelo School is that the school is close to home and that he learns a lot.

Outside of class, Japhet enjoys the HIV/AIDS Resource Center at Chibelo School, where he learns more about HIV/AIDS. He also is an active and committed member to his church group.

At Leopards Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

Japhet adapted very well to the new learning environment at Leopards Hill Secondary School, and applied great effort to achieve good results. At the end of the year he won an award in Geography and Religious Education. He also received an award for the student 'Eager to Acquire Knowledge'. He managed to stay at the top of his class throughout the year, always being among the top three students. Japhet feels the subject he wishes to improve in the most is English, and he is confident that he will as he continues to work and study hard.

Grade 9

Grade nine had its challenges for Japhet as the work became more difficult. However, he did not neglect his studies and continued to aim high. He has shown improvement in Environmental Science, Mathematics, English and Geography. This year his favorite subjects are Environmental Science, Mathematics, History, Civics' and Religious Education. That goes to show that he is enjoying just about every subject he is taking.

At the 2008 Awards ceremony held at Leopards Hill Secondary School, Japhet received an award for 2nd position in Civics.

Grade 10

Japhet continued to be challenged and motivated by the added responsibility of Grade 10. His favorite subjects are the sciences because he can see how it relates to medicine, his career of choice. It is therefore no surprise that he excelled in Biology and Chemistry, receiving top marks. He also stood out in Information Technology, receiving the second place award at the annual awards giving ceremony. He was excited to have been recognized for the award, remarking, "I

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was very happy. I try my best but still continue to work hard.” He was also an usher at the ceremony. While excelling academically, he says this year he has also developed socially. Before Leopards Hill, “I did not know about much. The school brings people together from different backgrounds.”

Japhet's Interests:

Extracurricular Interests

While still in primary, Japhet loved to play soccer and to study. His other interest was going to church every Sunday. Now at Ibex Hill, Japhet is showing what he is made of as he participates in various sports and clubs.

Japhet has participated in javelin, discus, and cross country. He was given certificates for winning a cross-country event, a javelin event, and a discus event, as well as two medals for winning in some sports activities. He excelled particularly in cross-country, placing first in the school! He also plays football both in and out of school. He participated in the Tournament of Lusaka where his team made it to the semi-finals. Japhet also takes charge on his school team—he will lead practices when the coach is not present, setting up drills and games and motivating his classmates to participate.

Japhet is part of the JETS club—a math and science club—which he describes as very competitive. He took part in a Quiz competition that included a number of local schools where his group was voted the winner.

Community Service

Japhet along with two of the other Kucetekela students, Jeffrey and Abram, started a project to teach children in their community who cannot afford to go to school—providing lessons in math, reading and writing. They organized a small classroom in their homes and made use of any reading material they could come by. This, however, is just the beginning of Japhet’s ambitions. He hopes in the future to build schools in rural areas that do not have access to education. “I want to make people realize how important education is so that they believe the proverb ‘education is the key to success.’”

Japhet’s Role Model:

Japhet looks up to Lapken Banda, a former grade twelve teacher at Leopards Hill Secondary School. “He used to inspire me with the way he was able to address the crowd of people and the way he used to speak to the people and even academically he used to be very good. I admired him very much.” Japhet hopes to someday have the same presence, being able to inspire a crowd with his words and act as a role model to others.

Career Interest and Work Experience

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Japhet's dream is to become a doctor, specifically a surgeon, or an engineer. He favors these career paths because he understands the sciences. He is also inspired by the example of Ben Carson, the first African doctor who operated on the brain of a baby.

Japhet was placed the motor-vehicle company Scannia to further explore his interest in engineering. Japhet assisted in servicing vehicle, including engine and tyre repair. "When I started working it was a bit challenging but after some days my relationships with the workers was developed. I worked with the sales advisor, the workshop, and in the accounts department. We removed the engine of a Marcopolo and then we were told to break down the engine. After that we washed the engine parts with paraffin. In my work experience I learned that you need to have interest, love what you are doing and never give up. I would like this job to be my career."

What the teachers think of Japhet:

The teachers say that he is a good boy who is intelligent. Japhet understands concepts quickly and is very obedient. He could use extra help in science and social studies, but overall, his performance is excellent. He obtained 713 marks out of 900 in the Grade Seven Zambia National Examinations which is equivalent to 79%.

Japhet's Thoughts:

"I have learnt as a KF member how to be a very hard working person in academics, sports and even in everything I do. Concerning education I have learnt how to cooperate and how to socialise with other members of KF and also other people. I have also learnt how to appreciate every single thing I receive as help and also to try and help other people.

KF has changed my life in many ways such as the way I study, pay attention in class and the way I socialise with people and has made me realise the importance of education. It has helped my family financially and also showing us what the world is like.

My favourite event is when we went to Fountain of Hope because we shared with each other the little knowledge that we had. This was my favourite event I had because these children at the Foundation do not have parents and some of them were just street kids but they still had strength and hope.

I enjoy socializing with the people here. I enjoy competing with my friends both in academics and in sports. I enjoy studying when all my friends are busy with academic work. I enjoy the food that we eat at this school and I enjoy the way we celebrate people's birthdays. I also enjoy all the functions this school hosts."