

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Mailess Phiri**

Gender: Female
Date of Birth: 18th January 1996
Place of Birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Mother: Silvia Daka
Profession: Unemployed
Guardian: Lilian Daka (Grandma)
Profession: Typist at Central Police

Primary School: Ngwelele Basic School

Secondary School: **Leopards Hill
Secondary School**

2010 Level: **Grade 9**



Family Background:

Silvia Daka is Mailess Phiri's mother. She got pregnant when she was in grade seven and then dropped out of school. Currently she has returned to school and has completed Grade 11. As Mailess's father has passed away and her mother is in school, Mailess has been raised by her grandmother Lilian Nzima Daka who works as a typist at the Lusaka Central Police Station. Mailess has three other siblings, Lillian who is 17, Loveness, 12, and Natasha 6 who live with other family members.

Lilian Daka was married in 1973 and had nine children. Five of her children and five grandchildren are living with Mrs. Daka and her unemployed husband. With all these dependants, it is fairly difficult to afford to pay for the education of all the children. Two of Lilian's children are employed and assist with expenditures amounting up to K980, 000.00, but even this is not enough to cover all the expenses. Mailess shed tears as she recalled just how difficult it has been for her to watch her grandmother struggle to provide for the family.

Mrs. Daka says that she has seen an enormous difference since Mailess began attending Leopards Hill School. Glowing with pride, she remarked that Mailess's marks were great and her manners have improved—she always volunteers to do the housework, cleaning the kitchen, cooking nshima and relish for the family. She told us, “the difference for your organization, your organization, you take that child to be your child in everything, you sponsor clothes, this, shoes, this, medical you do on your own. You don't go back to your parents...I am appreciating very much!

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Who is the one who is the director, I wish him the best so that his life is long to help others.” “At school, they all look the same, you are the same.”

Mailess' Education:

Primary- Ngwelele Basic School

Mailess attended Ngwelele Basic School from Grade 1 through Grade 7. Throughout her primary school experience, she was consistently first in her class. She placed second only three times which created a greater determination to work harder. She was also elected to be a class monitor in Grade 6, which gave her a leadership experience. During that time she had to make sure that the class maintained good behavior.

Mailess understood that an education was her ticket out of the poverty in which her family lives. With an educated grandmother who encourages both her and her mother, Mailess hopes to finish her primary and secondary education. She also hopes to one day go to a tertiary institution. Her grandmother, however, worried that there would not be enough funding for Mailess to make it through secondary school.

Her favorite subjects at Ngwelele were Science and English.

At Leopards Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

Mailess proved to be an outstanding student at Leopards Hill. At the 2009 prize ceremony, Mailess was awarded first place in Religious Education and Environmental Science. In addition, she placed second in Mathematics, History, Geography, and Civics. Her hand is always the first to pop-up in response to her teacher's questions, and she is a committed and hard-working student. She said, “I have learned a lot of things since at school we have access to the Internet. I am able to research more about the things I learn in class.” She says that while her classmates come from more privileged background, at school they are all on the same level—“when we come to school, we eat the same food, drink the same water, wear the same clothes—like we are one.”

Grade 8 Academic Achievements:

- 1st position in Religious and Environmental Science
- 2nd position in Mathematics, History, Geography, and Civics

Extracurricular Interests:

Mailess is a member of JETS club (advanced science club) and participates in Scripture Reading. She enjoys the competitions in JETS, and says it helps her excel in math and science. During scripture reading, she enjoys studying the

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gospel and singing hymns-it brings her closer to god and her classmates. When at home on holiday, she plans to visit an orphanage in order to give back to her community.

Mailess' Career Interests:

Mailess would like to become a journalist or an engineer.

What teachers think of Mailess:

She is a very good and hardworking girl. She is very serious with her work. She can control and lead fellow pupils.

Mailess's Thoughts:

"My name is Mailess Phiri and I am twelve years old. I live in Garden compound with my mother, grandmother and grandfather. My father died in 2006 on the 28th of December, and my mother doesn't work. She herself went back to school and now she is in Grade 10 at Munali Girls High School.

My grandmother, my aunties, my uncles are the people who help me and my family. My other two uncles are in university. It is not easy for my relatives to pay money so my uncles are only helped by the government and the rest of the money is paid by my grandmother, and my aunties and my uncle. I am grateful to be sponsored by the Kucetekela Foundation.

If I were successful in my career choice, I would want to build a market place for the marketers. I was the marketers to be in a much safer and clean place where everyone would not have problems when they want to buy something at the market in the rain season.

Kucetekela Foundation has taught me how to be brave and courageous. Something that I have really learnt is to be myself. Some of my favourite events are the time we went to Pestalozzi and Arcades for World AIDS Day. I enjoyed Pestalozzi the most because I learnt how people can sacrifice to keep children they don't really know.

Kucetekela has really changed lives of people who are sponsored. Personally, it has made me feel like I have a reason for my existence.

Their was once a bird that was always enclosed. One day I think my bird wants freedom and so he did just that, he gave the bird freedom. When the bird flew away it did not know the tactics of the other birds of escaping the gun shots and so it was shot and dies.

Kucetekela Foundation has given us that cage and so it is up to us to live in it or to be like the bird."