

Chandaria Education Scholarship Programme Newsletter

A KCDF publication highlighting students who have been supported by the Chandaria Foundation through their Secondary School Education.





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KCDF receives a cheque of Ksh. 3.8M from Chandaria Foundation towards the education scholarship programme. From left- Ms. Janet Mawiyoo - KCDF's Executive Director, Dr. Manu Chandaria - Chair of Chandaria Foundation and Catherine Kiganjo - KCDF's Education Programme Coordinator

Foreword

In the words of the late Kofi Annan; *Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.* For the last 13 years; Chandaria Foundation in partnership with KCDF has changed the lives of young boys and girls by providing them with partial education scholarship grants. The scholarship fund supports these students through their Form one to Form four education.

In line with KCDF's recently launched Strategic Plan 2019-2023, education is a key pillar and at the core of what we do. Our goal is to increase enrollment, progression and transition across different levels of learning with the community at the core of supporting improved learning outcomes. The scholarship programme comes in handy in accelerating this goal.

To date, the Chandaria Foundation has disbursed, through KCDF, a total of Kes. 38M supporting a total of 430 students. In 2019, Chandaria Foundation, provided a further Kes. 3.8M to support 152 students in various secondary schools across the country. This is a clear indication of the premium that both Chandaria Foundation and KCDF places on impacting the lives of communities by educating young people to be responsible and productive hence providing hope to their future lives.

This year, we are highlighting extraordinary stories of a few recipients from the scholarship fund who continue to show tenacity and resilience in improving their lives through education with the recipients coming from Tharaka Nithi, Malindi, Makueni and Nairobi Counties.

For more information on how you can support the education programme and seek opportunity for you to plug in to our work, kindly visit our website on www.kcdf.or.ke



“
I am very happy. I see a bright
future ahead: not the doom and
gloom of the yester-years
~ Emily Gatakaa

”

More students set to benefit from **Chandaria** scholarships

More bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds are set to continue benefiting from the scholarship as others graduated from school last year. Emily Gatakaa, a recent beneficiary, sat for her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) in 2018,

something she says would not have been possible had she not received the scholarship.

“I come from a family of six children. My parents have been unemployed, and they are in their late 50s. I am certain without the scholarship I would not have gone to secondary school,” she says.

Emily is from Tharaka, in Tharaka Nithi County. She went to Kamariro Primary School in her village.

“I had a drive to learn. I always wanted a good education. I did not want to be among girls who got married after failing in school,” Emily says.

After sitting for her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) in 2014, Emily found herself wondering what would happen next. “My parents did not have money. They have never had an income. They are peasant farmers. I was worried that I would not progress with my education,” she adds.

Emily decided to visit “a certain old man who I had seen implement some projects at our school,” she shares. Rev. Julius Mungania, a clergyman, told Emily that he could help her get a scholarship for bright students from unfortunate backgrounds.

“The scholarship required that I perform well and maintain a good performance throughout the course of the scholarship.”

When the KCPE results came out, Emily had scored 342 marks out of 500. Through Rev. Mungania, Emily successfully applied for the scholarship. Owing to steady good performance, Emily maintained the scholarship

throughout high school. The scholarship is managed by the Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) through which students can apply.

“This is a partial scholarship that supports bright needy students as well as deserving learners,” says Caesar Ngule, the Programmes Director at KCDF.

In Emily’s case the scholarship catered for Kes. 110, 000, half of Emily’s school fees, from Form one to Form four. Emily still has arrears today amounting to Kes. 71, 000, owed to her former school, Njuri High School. “I plan to pay the school as soon as I start earning after graduating,” she says.

After scoring a B+ in last year’s KCSE, Emily received an admission letter to study Nursing at Egerton University through the Joints Admissions Board (JAB). Her fees in the university will be heavily subsidized and paid with loans from Higher Education Loans Board (HELB).

“I am very happy. I see a bright future ahead: not the doom and gloom of the yester-years,” she shares.

The scholarship targets students in Form one for a maximum period of four years. “Those who qualify can go to our website for more information on the scholarship fund,” advises Caesar.

Approximately 24 students, in various parts of the country, sat for their KCSE in 2018 as recipients of the scholarship.



“

After I graduate, I want to help the sick. I want to impact other people's lives just like mine was. I want to help the needy.

~ Riziki Mohammed

”

Attending School Saved me from Early Marriage

As a pupil in primary school, Riziki Mohamed Yusuf did her bit: she performed well, managing an impressive 377 marks out of 500.

The onus then was on her parents to see her continue her quest for knowledge in secondary school.

There was a problem though: her father, the breadwinner in the family, was not physically fit to fend for the family.

“My father worked in Saudi Arabia as a driver. He was involved in a bad accident and one of his legs was badly damaged it needed to be reinforced with metal. The accident left him in bad shape,” she says.

“He could no longer work as a driver and so he lost his job and came back home.”

Riziki’s mother, an Early Childhood Education (ECD) teacher, had to assume the role of the breadwinner in the family. But with a salary of Kes. 10,000 she was struggling.

Unbeknownst to Riziki, her mother had asked a friend to help with bursary for her daughter. The Kes. 10,000 a month was barely enough to take care of their household in Malindi town.

Anisa and Riziki’s mother were buddies. Anisa also taught Riziki in nursery school. She knew the family and had a near firsthand experience of the troubles they were facing.

“My mother had shared with Anisa that I needed financial aid to proceed with my education. I already had an admission letter to Mwasere Girls High School in Taita Taveta,” Riziki says.

At the time Anisa worked with Malindi Education Development Association Foundation (MEDA-F). She told Riziki’s mother that she would inform them as soon as something materialized.

“When I joined form one Anisa called my mother. She said that MEDA-F had received scholarship offers from Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) and that she had recommended me.”

The Chandaria Foundation Education Scholarship is a partial education grant that supports secondary school education for poor and vulnerable children.

The enrolment targets students in Form one for a maximum period of four years. KCDF works with intermediary partner organiza-

tions in the grassroots to reach the scholarship’s targeted beneficiaries.

Riziki was an ideal candidate: bright in class and from a poor background.

The scholarship allowed her to attend Mwasere Girls where fee was Kes. 54,000 per year. The scholarship catered for half of the fees.

“My mother sought the rest of the money from bursaries such as the constituency development fund (CDF).”

A few times Riziki got sent home for arrears. She is glad that she received the scholarship, “because it could have been worse,” she says. And when she says worse, she means worse! In the coastal region, girls from poor families get jettisoned off to willing suitors for marriage.


“When your parents cannot fend for you and you are a girl, it makes sense for them to marry you off,” she says. “Thank God the scholarship kept me in school.”

Riziki sat for her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) in 2018 and scored a B (plain). She has been accepted to Pwani University as a regular student to study for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Public Health.

“After I graduate, I want to help the sick. I want to impact other people’s lives just like mine was. I want to help the needy,” she quips.

Riziki completed her secondary school with fee arrears amounting to Kes. 11, 000, a reminder of the difficulty she had finding fees. An aunt cleared it for her as a way of congratulating her for the good performance.

Today, the 19-year-old has a positive outlook on life. Her future, she says, looks bright.



“It would have been difficult for my father to pay my fees and also cater for the family's needs had it not been for the scholarship

~ Hillary Gikunda”

Chandaria scholarship has made me the **first** in my family to attend **university.**

Hillary Gikunda Nyamu turned 19 years old this year. He managed a B+ in last year's Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) and he is still giddy about the results.

But he is most happy about dodging the bullet that is life without an education for many young men.

Back at home in his native Ngarin village in Tharaka Nithi County, boys his age without an education are married, “with two or three children,” he says.

It is a horrible way to become an adult, he says. And once a boy has committed to marital life, it’s all downhill from there.

“Typically, because he is struggling to provide for his young family, his wife will leave him. He will marry again. On and on the cycle continues,” he says.

Without an education, the boy’s work options are restricted to menial jobs at rich people’s farms which Hillary calls ‘a form of slavery’.

Jaded by the rat race, he would seek to drown his sorrows in cheap alcohol and drugs.

“I am not speaking in jest: I have friends, my age mates, to whom this is a reality,” Hillary says.

Hillary is one of three children by his mother and father. He says: “My mother is a housewife and my father, a primary school teacher.”

His father’s earnings, he says, only went as far as buying basic necessities at home.

“It would have been difficult for my father to pay my fees and also cater for the family’s needs,” he adds.

In fact, as he was about to sit for his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), his father explicitly told him to study hard and secure good marks for him to qualify for a scholarship.

“He said that if I performed well, my chances of progressing with my education would be high as he knew of a scholarship aimed at bright needy students.”

His father was talking about the Chandaria Foundation Education Scholarship.

Hillary got 366 marks out of a possible 500; a good performance by any measure.

“My father then sent me to Rev. Julius Mungania’s office,” Hillary says.

Rev. Mungania is the founder and manager of Tunyai Children’s Center for orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children, located in Tharaka Nithi.

Tunyai is one among many organizations in Kenya that work with Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) on many projects.

KCDF partnered with Chandaria Foundation Education Scholarship Programme in 2006 and are its custodians.

“Rev. Mungania assessed me. He said I qualified and would forward my application for consideration,” Hillary says.

Less than two months later, Hillary received the good news from Rev. Mungania that he had made it through.

The scholarship was worth Kes. 27, 500 per year for four years: from Form one to Form four.

“A cheque would be sent to my school at the beginning of the year,” Hillary says. “The scholarship allowed me to attend school at Chogoria Boys High School.”

The scholarship catered for at least half of the Kes. 54,000 that the school required per student per year. His father was able to cater for the deficit through bursaries and his own money.

After performing well in the 2018 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), Hillary was accepted as a regular student at Moi University.

“I am reporting on August 26th, 2019. I will be studying Bachelor of Science degree in Technology Education at the Faculty of Engineering,” he beams.

Hillary will be the first in his family to attend university.



“

Sometimes, a scholarship opportunity is the only bridge to a promising future.

~ Caleb Mumo

”

Without the **scholarship** I would not have **performed well** in KCSE

Caleb Mumo, 18, will be joining university in September 2019. He has been accepted as regular student at Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT) for a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Chemistry.

Caleb is a recipient of the Chandaria Foundation Education Scholarship Programme which is managed by Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF). He was awarded the scholarship from 2015 to 2018.

He managed a B+ in the 2018 Kenya Certificate of secondary education (KCSE): earning himself the admission to the university.

In 2014 Caleb (and a cousin) sat for Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) in the same school. The two were kindred spirits and worked together on their academics.

Four years later, when KCSE results were announced, his cousin had not performed well. According to Caleb, the scholarship made the difference. Because while his cousin was sent home for fees every now and then, he largely stayed in school and attended all lessons.

Below, Caleb narrates his journey getting the scholarship and how it has given him hope for the future.

Which school did you go to?

The Kitondo School in Makueni County.

When did you first hear about Chandaria Foundation Education Scholarship?

I was a final year student at Mutungu Primary School [also in Makueni] when my father talked to me about it.

What exactly did your father tell you?

He was telling me that he was impressed by my performance in school and that if I performed well in my KCPE, I would qualify for the scholarship.

The scholarship is for bright and needy students. Were you needy?

Yes. My father was employed in the city (Nairobi) as a messenger. With his meagre salary he was trying his best to cater for all his children. We are five siblings. At the time I was sitting for KCPE, I had a sibling in college and two others who were in high school. It was clear that paying fees for all of us was quickly becoming burdensome on my father. So, the scholarship would have brought him much reprieve while also offering me a chance to further my education.

What about your mother: she was not working?

She is a house wife. And she lived in the family rural home.

What are you most grateful for regarding the scholarship?

The fact that I was only sent home for fees once in the four years I was a student. I was present for most lessons. Without the scholarship opportunity, I am not sure how things would have turned out.

Why do you think being sent home for a few days or weeks affects a student's performance?

I have a cousin who was sent home often. We were classmates in primary school and performed similarly: he scored 355 marks in KCPE while I had 370 marks. In high school, he would be sent home every few weeks to fetch fees. In his KCSE, he scored a C while I got a B+ (plus). I believe the days he spent going home to fetch fees cost him crucial lessons.

What next for you?

I have received my admission letter from Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT) to study Industrial Chemistry.

Why Industrial Chemistry?

Because Mathematics and Chemistry were my favourite subjects.

What would you like to tell those behind the scholarship?

I want to thank them for coming to my aide. I pray that God will bless them so that they can be of help to many other needy students out there yearning for an education.

What have you learnt from the scholarship?

That sometimes it is a student's only bridge to a promising future.



The scholarship that gave me a lifeline

Sometimes a scholarship is a student's only bridge to a promising future.

~ Stacey Ndungu

Mothers are protective. They want their children to be successful. These qualities are part of a mother's DNA.

It was not any different with Stella Kimanthi back in 2014 when her daughter Stacey Ndung'u Masila scored 414 marks in her final Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE).

“Immediately, I asked myself, ‘Will I manage to pay her fees?’” Stella shares.

Stacey had secured a placement at the prestigious and; one of Kenya’s top performing school, Precious Blood Riruta Girls Secondary School. Her school fees, upkeep, money for extra-curricular activities and uniform was running into six figures.

“We are not a rich family. I am the one who earns a living for the family,” Stella, now aged 42 years, says.

Stacey sat for KCPE at Thomas Burke Primary in Buru Buru, Nairobi. The school fees was not much of a problem at the time as both her parents were earning.

“My father lost his job when I was in class eight: my mother had to fend for us by herself,” she says.

Stella says: “I told a few people about my predicament. Then someone, through a friend of a friend, sent me some forms to apply for a scholarship on behalf of my daughter.”

Stella filled out the forms and to her surprise and much relief, Stacey was selected to receive the Chandaria Foundation Education Scholarship grant.

The scholarship targets students in Form one for a maximum period of four years. It is managed by Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) in conjunction with partner grassroots-level organizations country wide.

In 2018, Stacey sat for her final Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examinations (KCSE) and scored a mean grade of B (plain). Below, Stacey shares her story.

How did you learn of the Chandaria Education Scholarship Programme?

My mother informed me that someone was willing to pay for my school fees. Later, I discovered that it was a scholarship paid for by Chandaria Industries through Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF).

What made you qualify for the scholarship?

I had performed well during my KCPE. However, my mother was not in a position to afford my secondary school fees. The initial shopping and preparation together with fee was close to Kes. 100,000. This was a lot of money considering that my mother still had to take care of my siblings – two brothers who are younger than me. Proceeding to secondary school became a real challenge.

Speaking of KCPE, how did you perform?

I would say I performed fairly well. I got 414 marks out of 500.

Had you not received the scholarship what would have happened?

If I did go to school, staying in school would have been a real struggle. I appreciate how the scholarship took care of my school fees. I was never sent home for fees and I do not take it for granted.

How much were you receiving from the scholarship?

Kes. 27,500 per year covering half the fee needed to keep me in school.

What career did you want to pursue in high school?

Initially, I wanted to be a doctor. Then later, I wanted to be a lawyer. However, in Form four, I realized that I loved home science.

Have you been called to join a university yet?

Yes. I have an admission letter to The University of Nairobi to study Food Science and Technology. As I completed secondary school, I realized that I loved cooking and experimenting with food. I just want to try different ingredients and see what I come up with.

So, what do you see in your future?

My future has several stages. There is the four years in the university. I see myself graduating with a first class honours. After that, I see myself in a laboratory, working for a big food company. In 10 years, I will work with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). And if things go well, I will be running my own big company.



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