

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM REPORT

On the opening of the current academic year, we had new students come on board for the program. We have two from Kasungu, and we have about twenty students in different schools from Salima.

Second Term Budgeting

In most of the schools, there are no fees adjustments for the coming term as well as third term. However, in some schools there are minor adjustments due to deductions of other developmental fees which are paid only for the first term, and payments for school uniforms for new students.

The budget is also expected to rise to cover for students who are to sit for their JCE and/or MCSE next year. Examination fees are supposed to be paid during the second term and since they vary depending on the number of subjects each student expects to write for the certificate, the total fees cost will raise differently for the form 2s and 4s.

We expect 9 students to sit for the 2013-2014 MSCE from Kasungu and 10 students for JCE. Furthermore from Salima we have 15 students sitting for MSCE and 12 for JCE.

JCE and MSCE Results

It is really good to see that none of our students who wrote this year's JCE left the system. We still have all of them on board and they are now in form three. This is great news to their sponsors as they will be happy at the success of their sponsored child.

For the MSCE results, I am pleased to also see that out of the 17 Salima students who wrote the exam, 15 of them have passed, with the highest scholar getting as low as 10 points (low being good) – this represents an 88.24% pass rate. From Kasungu, only one has failed to attain the MSCE certificate - representing an 80% pass rate. Now we have about eight students who are eligible to write for the upcoming UNMA University Entrance Exam.

I am very sure that these pass rates are good and impressive not only to Starfish, but also to the sponsors who will get encouraged with such records.

For the next examination period, in Salima we have 15 students expecting to take their MSCE and 12 students for JCE. In Kasungu, we have 9 students for MSCE and 10 for JCE.

GOODLUCK HARROD BANDA'S SUCCESS STORY

Almost every human being dreams and strives high in life. Every person wishes and hopes positively for their undertakings. However, the level of one's inspiration, will always determine their aspiration. The effort and commitment which is applied to the work we do always affect the outcome. This again applies to students in their studies and when they prepare and write their respective examinations.

I, personally, believe that God is the best Dad who gives every child what he/she wants, anything, as long as it is good for them and one works and prays hard for it, no matter what! This success story is not only for Goodluck Banda and his family, but also for Starfish as it helps to emphasize the impact, aim and mission of Starfish and its programs in Malawi.



As per his profile, Goodluck was born on the 19th February, 1996. He is the second born child after his sister, and has a younger brother too. By then his mother was happily married to the father. Things turned around for the family when the father abandoned them and disappeared up to this time. By then Goodluck was 4 years old and managing the family became difficult as his mother relied on subsistence farming to get food for the family. At the age of 8, Goodluck started living with his uncle, a primary school teacher, at Maonga village.

When he sat for his Primary School Leaving Certificate in 2009, Goodluck got selected to Robert Blake for his Secondary education. However, things became very difficult as his uncle was unable to continue to pay the fees. But then Starfish approved his proposal into the sponsorship programme and he was over-joyed as he hoped and believed to achieve his career dream of becoming a medical doctor.

In the just released MSCE results, Goodluck has managed to get 10 points and happens to be the best scholar among Starfish MSCE students. Also he broke the Starfish record as he is the first one to get the lowest aggregate points. In addition, he is also the second highest of the whole school!

What is behind Goodluck's success?

Well, when I asked the young boy what motivated him to manage to get 10 points for the first time in the Starfish record, he said it was a hard challenge but worth working for. He shared the following areas that had been motivators:

Last best student received prize of MK5,000 plus gifts i.e. clothes and shoes.

- ⌚ Last year's top scholar got 19 points and during the Starfish Students meeting they were encouraged to perform like this fellow. However, to Goodluck, this happened to be a driving force as he would compare with his school's performance level. So, when he went back to school he pressured himself even more and sees his terminal results improving more, i.e. getting 15 points and being on position two for end of second term. He then realised the potential in him to perform better than 19 points.
- ⌚ When he hears of his fellow sponsored students working hard at their schools, he was also motivated and encouraged more.
- ⌚ He also got motivated by the advice given by his teachers at school, encouraging him that he has much potential to achieve the best.
- ⌚ He also based his hard work on some bible teaching which says that everyone reaps what he/she sows.
- ⌚ His career dream has been also a motivating tool for him. Since he really wants to be a medical doctor, Goodluck knew that he had to put in much effort to hit the goal!

- ⊙ Lastly, as the students were about to start writing their exams, Starfish sent them a personal letter of encouragement wishing them success. and this really encouraged Goodluck as to him this meant that Starfish really cares for them.

As I finished chatting with him, I could see the joy that Goodluck had and his failure to express his gratefulness to Starfish. “I am so sure that if it were not for Starfish coming in to help when I had no one to pay for my school fees at Robert Blake, definitely I wouldn’t have been here chatting with you on this success issue!” I quoted him.

To a person like Goodluck, Starfish is very real and for those who join the sponsorship programme it’s easy to realise their personal dreams. Now, Goodluck is much sure that his ambition of being a medical doctor won’t be just a mere wish but a reality, and this is would be because of the Starfish Sponsorship program. Thanks to God for Starfish in Malawi!!!

PETER CHAGWIRA

Born 1997 on the 14th of March, Peter is one of our newly enrolled sponsored students who are at Chipoka Secondary School.



Peter's father died of HIV/Aids in 2007 and now lives with his mother who is also HIV positive. He has four brothers and one sister and the family relies on subsistence farming and seasonal business of selling fruits which is done by the mother. Due to the family situation and its finance stand, two of his elder brothers failed to complete their secondary education.

When Peter got selected to Chipoka secondary school, it was great news to him and the family. However, it also became a challenge because, unless the secondary school education was as free as the government primary school education just as at Kaputu, his old primary school, it was unreachable for the family (mother) and any relative to get and pay MK22, 000.00 per term for Peter's education at Chipoka Secondary school. For Peter, this also meant the end of his dream of becoming a teacher as achieving this was no longer possible without the secondary education.

Starfish got to know Peter's situation through its schools linking program in which Kaputu primary school is a beneficiary. So, when the headteacher at Kaputu reported that some of the students who passed their Primary School Leaving Certificate exams are failing to report to their respective selected schools, Peter happened to be one of the beneficiaries. Peter and his mother also came to the office for the request, with them a letter from Kaputu headteacher. It was like a dream for Peter and the mother when he got approved of sponsorship as this reversed their helpless situation.

Starfish Malawi through its sponsorship program is relieving a lot of children who would have end up being in un-recommended situations because of failure of being in school due to lack of school fees. For a boy like Peter who would really want to do better, hindrances to education would possibly drive them to immoral behaviour. Now Peter is happily in school, on his way to becoming a teacher, and not just a hopeless man!

By accepting Peter Chagwira into the sponsorship programme, Starfish has not helped Peter individually, but also his whole family. Despite that his two brothers failed to complete their secondary education, the family situation has a chance of improving through Peter.