

## INTRODUCTION

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and dream of a brighter future. Yet for many children from disadvantaged backgrounds; poverty, family hardships, and difficult living conditions create barriers that threaten their education and well-being. This document shares the stories of some of the remarkable children enrolled at our school. Behind every name is a unique journey marked by resilience, courage, and hope despite overwhelming challenges. While their circumstances may differ, they all share a common desire: the chance to receive an education and build a better future for themselves and their communities.

By reading these stories, we invite you to look beyond the statistics and see the individual lives, dreams, and potential of each child. Your support can make a life-changing difference by providing access to education, school supplies, meals, uniforms, healthcare, and other essential needs that enable these children to thrive. We hope these stories inspire compassion and partnership as we work together to transform lives, one child at a time.

### ALEX MULI: A DREAM THAT REFUSES TO BE DEFEATED

At first glance, Alex Muli appears like any other young boy pursuing his education. He smiles easily, works hard in class, and carries himself with quiet determination. Yet behind that smile lies a story of hardship, sacrifice, and resilience that few children his age should ever have to endure.



Alex is a Grade 8 pupil who comes from a highly vulnerable family. Several years ago, his father abandoned the family, leaving behind a mother and her four children to face life's challenges alone. Since then, the burden of providing for the family has rested entirely on his mother's shoulders. Every morning, Alex's mother leaves home in search of casual work—any opportunity that might earn enough to put food on the table for her children. Some days she finds work; many days she does not. Even on her best days, her earnings rarely exceed one dollar. From this small and uncertain income, she must somehow provide food, clothing, shelter, and school necessities for her family.

For Alex, poverty is not a distant concept; it is a daily reality. It is the uncertainty of whether there will be enough food at home. It is watching his mother struggle tirelessly to meet the family's most basic needs. It is learning to persevere even when circumstances seem overwhelming. Despite these challenges, Alex has not given up on his education. He understands that education represents more than books and

examinations—it is his pathway to a better future. He attends school with determination and remains focused on his studies, knowing that every lesson learned brings him one step closer to breaking the cycle of poverty that has affected his family.

Those who know Alex describe him as hardworking, respectful, and eager to learn. He carries within him a quiet strength that continues to shine despite the difficulties he faces at home. While many children might lose hope under such circumstances, Alex continues to dream of a future where he can succeed, support his family, and build a better life.

Today, Alex stands at a critical stage of his educational journey. As a Grade 8 learner preparing for important national examinations, he needs stability, encouragement, and support more than ever before. Yet the financial challenges facing his family threaten to become barriers to his academic progress.

### ABBY HAWI: A SMALL VOICE WITH QUIET STRENGTH

In the early mornings at school, before the noise of learning fully fills the classrooms, there is a gentle presence that often goes unnoticed at first. Abby Hawi, only four years old, walks into her pre-primary class with the kind of calm innocence that masks a much deeper story.



Abby lost her mother when she was just one year old. Her mother passed away due to complications related to HIV, leaving behind a child who would grow up knowing life only through the care of others. With no parental figure to hold onto, Abby's early years have been shaped by transition, dependency, and fragile beginnings.

In a difficult turn of fate, Abby is also living with HIV. It is a condition she did not choose and cannot understand at her age, yet it has already become part of her daily routine. Her childhood includes regular medical appointments and consistent medication, carefully managed to ensure her health remains stable. These moments are part of her life, woven quietly into the rhythm of her growing years.

Despite these medical challenges, Abby is still a child in the purest sense. She is teaching her first letters, discovering colours, and slowly opening up to the world around her. In the classroom, she is often observed as observant and gentle, taking her time to understand new things, but showing steady progress in her early learning journey.

Her story is one of vulnerability, but also of remarkable early resilience. Even at such a young age, Abby is already navigating circumstances that require strength far beyond her years. Yet within her remains the simple innocence of childhood—the desire to play,

to learn, and to be cared for. Abby's journey is still at its very beginning. It is a journey that will depend greatly on consistent care, emotional support, and a stable environment where she can grow safely and confidently despite her health condition. In her small way, Abby reminds us that even the youngest lives can carry stories of both fragility and quiet courage, unfolding one day at a time.

### **ANN MUTHEU: GROWING UP BETWEEN SILENCE AND SURVIVAL**

In the same class as Abby Hawi, Ann Mutheu sits quietly among her classmates. She is also a young child, still discovering the world through colours, songs, and simple lessons. Yet behind her calm presence lies a home story marked by instability and emotional



struggle. Ann comes from a family deeply affected by violence and breakdown. Her early childhood was overshadowed by a difficult and abusive home environment, where safety and peace were often absent. The situation became so overwhelming that her mother reached a breaking point and considered seeking legal protection. In response, Ann's father left home, abandoning both his responsibilities and the family itself. From that moment, life changed completely for Ann and her mother. The absence of a father figure did not bring relief in the form of stability, but instead left a heavy burden on her mother, who suddenly became the sole provider and protector. Without stable employment, she relies on occasional casual work to meet the family's basic needs, often struggling to secure even the essentials of daily living.

For Ann, childhood is unfolding in the midst of uncertainty. Some days are easier than others, but many are shaped by financial hardship and emotional strain at home. Despite this, she continues to attend school, where she finds a sense of structure, care, and safety that is often missing elsewhere in her life. In the classroom, Ann is still a young learner finding her place in the world. She engages in activities appropriate for her age—learning letters, participating in group play, and gradually building social confidence. Teachers observe a child who, while quiet, is attentive and responsive when given encouragement and patience. Her early experiences have not defined her spirit, but they have shaped her reality. Ann is growing up in circumstances that demand resilience far beyond her years, yet she continues to move forward one small step at a time.

Her story reflects a childhood interrupted by hardship, but still unfolding with the possibility of stability, healing, and hope through consistent care and support.

## BRUCE EMMANUEL: A CHILDHOOD BUILT ON WHAT WAS TAKEN AWAY

Bruce Emmanuel's earliest days carry a silence he has never been able to understand. He entered the world only to lose his father when he was just two months old. At an age when most babies are still forming their first bonds of recognition, Bruce's life was already marked by absence and loss.



Following the passing of his father, the family's stability quickly began to unravel. What should have been a time of mourning and support turned into a period of displacement. Family property that once belonged to his late father was taken over by relatives, leaving Bruce's mother stripped not only of a partner, but also of the security they had begun to build together. In the midst of grief and vulnerability, Bruce's mother was eventually pushed out, forced to start life again without the support system she once depended on. With no stable resources or inheritance to fall back on, she was left to raise Bruce on her own, carrying the weight of both survival and motherhood without assistance.

Bruce is now growing up in a single-parent household shaped by resilience rather than comfort. His mother works tirelessly to provide for him, but life remains a daily struggle defined by uncertainty and limited means. Every day requires careful balancing of basic needs—food, shelter, and the hope of keeping Bruce in school. Despite these challenges, Bruce is a child who continues to grow, learn, and adapt to the world around him. His early childhood has been shaped by circumstances he did not choose, yet he moves forward with the natural curiosity and innocence of a young boy discovering life step by step.

In Bruce's story, there is both loss and endurance—a reminder that even in the face of deep disruption, life continues to find a way forward through determination and care.

## EDGAR SMITH: HELD TOGETHER BY MEMORY AND LOVE

Edgar Smith is learning what it means to grow up too soon in a world that has already taken much from him. Edgar is a Grade Three learner whose childhood has been shaped by profound loss. Both of his parents passed away after battling HIV, leaving him without the most fundamental foundation a child depends on: the care and protection of a mother and father. Their absence is not just a memory; it is a reality that follows him into every stage of his early life.

After their passing, Edgar was taken in by his grandmother, an elderly woman whose strength is now carried more in her love than in her physical ability. Age has slowed her down, and she is no longer able to work or provide for herself. Despite this, she has taken

on the responsibility of raising Edgar, holding together what remains of the family through sheer endurance and devotion. Their home is sustained not by income or stability, but by the kindness of well-wishers who occasionally step in to provide basic support. Each day is uncertain, shaped by the question of what will be available for their next meal and how Edgar's schooling needs will be met.



Yet within this fragile environment, Edgar continues to grow as a child. He attends school with determination, learning to read, write, and understand the world beyond his circumstances. In the classroom, he is part of a generation of learners, but his journey is marked by a deeper emotional weight that few of his peers may fully comprehend. Still, there is something quietly resilient about Edgar. Even in the absence of his parents and the limitations of his current home situation, he continues to hold onto the structure that school provides—a place where he can learn, interact, and

briefly step into a world that feels more stable.

### **PRUDENCE SAVIOUR: FROM ABANDONMENT TO BELONGING**

When Prudence Saviour was just two months old, her life was nearly lost to despair. Her father, overwhelmed and hopeless, was on his way to abandon her at Mama Lucy Hospital when fate—and compassion—intervened.



That was the moment we stepped in.

We didn't just stop an act of desperation—We gave Prudence a life. The father, broken and confused, confessed that the mother had already abandoned the child and vanished without a trace. The case was handed over to the police, but little Prudence was left in need of something no institution could provide: love, stability, and a parent's care.

And that's exactly what we gave her.

We took Prudence into our home and heart, raising her as our own. Today, she is in Grade Seven—healthy, growing, and full of promise. She is no longer a child the world tried to throw away. She is a living testimony of what love can do.

## JULIET MWENDE AND MAUREEN KALEKYE: WHEN CHILDHOOD WAS INTERRUPTED

Life can change in an instant. For sisters Juliet Mwende and Maureen Kalekye, what began as the grief of losing a beloved father soon became a chain of events that would test their strength, resilience, and hope in ways few children should ever experience.

The two sisters once lived under the care and provision of their father, the family's sole breadwinner. His death left not only an emotional void but also a financial crisis that dramatically altered the course of their lives. Suddenly, their mother was left alone to care for her daughters, carrying the heavy responsibility of ensuring they had food to eat, a place to call home, and the opportunity to continue their education.

Determined not to let her children suffer, she worked tirelessly to provide for them. For a few months, despite the difficulties, the family managed to get by. There was hope that through hard work and perseverance, they would eventually find stability again. But that hope was shattered when she unexpectedly lost her job.

Without a reliable source of income, survival became an everyday struggle. Faced with impossible choices and desperate to secure a future for her daughters, she eventually remarried. Like many mothers in vulnerable circumstances, she hoped the marriage would offer protection, stability, and a fresh start for her family.

At first, the man appeared kind and supportive. He welcomed them into his life and gave every impression of being a caring husband and father figure. For a brief period, it seemed as though the family had finally found the security they had been searching for.

Tragically, that sense of safety would not last.

Over time, the man's true character emerged. The home that was supposed to provide refuge became a place of fear and pain. The situation reached a devastating point when Maureen became a victim of sexual abuse at his hands. The case was reported and remains before the courts as justice continues to be sought.

The trauma did not end there. Instead of accepting responsibility for his actions, the man forced both girls out of the home. Once again, Juliet and Maureen found themselves uprooted, uncertain of where they would sleep, how they would survive, or whether they would ever return to school.

Their mother, overwhelmed by circumstances and lacking the resources to care for them adequately, was faced with one of the most painful decisions a parent can make. With no viable alternatives, she entrusted her daughters to a stranger who had shown genuine concern for their welfare.

What could have been another chapter of uncertainty became an unexpected act of compassion. The stranger opened his heart and home to the girls, providing them with a

safe environment and encouraging them to continue their education. Recognizing the importance of giving them a chance to rebuild their lives, he eventually brought them to our school and shared their story.

It was through his intervention that we came to know Juliet and Maureen. Beneath the painful experiences they had endured were two young girls who still carried dreams for the future. We welcomed them into our school community, determined to provide them with the support, care, and educational opportunity they so desperately needed.

Today, Juliet is in *Grade Six*, while Maureen, who should have been in *Grade Eight*, was forced to repeat a year after spending an entire academic year out of school due to the instability and trauma she experienced. Though they continue to bear the emotional scars of their past, both girls have shown remarkable courage in returning to the classroom and pursuing their education.

Their story is one of loss, displacement, and hardship. Yet it is equally a story of survival, sisterly love, and the extraordinary resilience that can emerge even in the darkest circumstances. Through every setback, Juliet and Maureen have continued moving forward, refusing to allow the tragedies of their past to define the possibilities of their future.

### VICTORIA KIMBERLY: *LEARNING TO HEAL*

Some wounds cannot be seen. They leave no visible scars, no bandages, and no casts. Yet they can shape the way a child sees the world, trusts others, and understands themselves. For Victoria Kimberly, a *Grade Seven* pupil, those invisible wounds have been among the greatest challenges of her young life.

Growing up, Kimberly was exposed to a home environment marked by violence and conflict. Instead of experiencing the security and peace that every child deserves, she witnessed her mother endure repeated abuse at the hands of her father. These were experiences no child should ever have to see, yet they became part of Kimberly's reality during some of her most formative years.

For a young girl, watching a parent suffer can be deeply confusing and painful. The fear, helplessness, and emotional distress that accompany such experiences often leave lasting impressions. Over time, the memories of what she witnessed began to affect Kimberly's emotional well-being, leaving her with feelings of hurt, anger, and bitterness that were difficult to process.

As if the emotional burden were not enough, Kimberly also lives with asthma, a condition that requires careful management and attention to her health. Balancing physical health challenges alongside emotional struggles has not always been easy, particularly during periods of stress and uncertainty.

Despite everything she has endured, Kimberly has shown remarkable courage in confronting her experiences. Rather than allowing her pain to define her future, she has begun the difficult journey toward healing. She is currently participating in counselling sessions, where she is learning healthy ways to process her emotions, build confidence, and regain a sense of peace.

The progress has been encouraging. Those who work closely with her have observed positive changes as she gradually opens up, develops healthier coping mechanisms, and learns to view her future with renewed hope. While healing is not a journey that happens overnight, Kimberly continues to take meaningful steps forward.

In school, she remains determined to pursue her education despite the challenges she has faced. Beneath the emotional weight of her past is a young girl with potential, intelligence, and the capacity to grow beyond her circumstances. Each day presents a new opportunity for her to learn, not only from her studies but also from the resilience she continues to develop within herself.

Kimberly's story is a powerful reminder that the effects of violence often extend far beyond those directly involved. Yet it is also a testament to the human capacity for recovery. Through support, guidance, and perseverance, she is gradually transforming painful memories into a foundation for strength, proving that healing is possible even after the most difficult experiences.

Today, Victoria Kimberly continues her journey—one marked not only by the hardships she has endured, but by the courage she demonstrates as she learns, grows, and slowly reclaims her childhood.

### NICOLE ORORA: FINDING SAFETY AFTER THE STORM

For most children, home is meant to be a place of comfort—a refuge where they feel protected, valued, and loved. For Nicole Orora, however, home became a place of uncertainty, fear, and emotional turmoil.

Nicole, a Grade Seven pupil, spent much of her childhood living under the care of a mother whose life had become dominated by alcohol abuse. What should have been a nurturing relationship between mother and daughter gradually deteriorated into an environment that exposed Nicole to situations no child should ever have to experience. As her mother's addiction deepened, the stability of their home disappeared. Nicole was subjected to mistreatment and neglect, often finding herself caught in circumstances far beyond her control. The home was frequently visited by different men brought in by her mother, creating an environment that was both unsafe and emotionally distressing for a growing child. Instead of enjoying the innocence of childhood, Nicole was forced to witness behaviours and situations that left her feeling vulnerable and deeply unsettled.

The emotional burden became heavier with each passing year. Living in an unpredictable environment meant that Nicole rarely experienced the sense of security that many children take for granted. The constant instability affected her emotional well-being, leaving her with fears, anxieties, and painful memories that continue to shape her journey.



The situation reached a critical point when her mother attempted to take her own life by ingesting poison. Thankfully, the intervention of concerned well-wishers saved her life. However, the incident further intensified the trauma Nicole had already endured, adding another layer of fear and uncertainty to an already difficult childhood.

Recognizing the urgent need to protect her, Nicole was eventually rescued from the environment and brought into our care. By the time she arrived, she was understandably traumatized by the experiences she had lived through. The effects of prolonged exposure to instability, neglect, and emotional distress had left a significant impact on her young life.

Today, Nicole is receiving ongoing counselling and emotional support as she works through the challenges of her past. Healing is a gradual process, but she continues to make encouraging progress. With each counselling session, she is learning to process her experiences, rebuild trust, and develop healthier ways of coping with the emotions she carries.

Within the school environment, Nicole is slowly rediscovering something that had been missing from her life for a long time: stability. Surrounded by caring adults, supportive peers, and a structured learning environment, she is beginning to experience the safety and consistency that every child deserves.

Though her journey has been marked by painful experiences, Nicole's story is also one of resilience. Beneath the trauma is a young girl with immense potential, quietly learning that her past does not have to determine her future. Step by step, she continues moving forward, finding strength, healing, and hope where once there was only uncertainty.

### **JAYDEN IKEERE: A CHILDHOOD WAITING FOR STABILITY**

When rain clouds gather overhead, most children watch with excitement, anticipating puddles to splash in and the soothing sound of raindrops on rooftops. For young Jayden Ikeere and his mother, however, the arrival of rain often brings anxiety rather than joy.

Jayden, a child in our Playgroup class, is growing up in circumstances marked by poverty, uncertainty, and daily struggle. Long before he was old enough to understand the meaning

of hardship, his father abandoned the family, leaving his mother to face the daunting task of raising him alone. Without the support of a partner and with no stable source of income, Jayden's mother has found herself trapped in a difficult cycle of survival. Despite her willingness to work, she remains unemployed, relying on occasional opportunities and the kindness of others whenever possible. The challenge of providing even the most basic necessities has become a constant battle.



There are days when food is scarce and the family is forced to endure hunger. Simple things that many people take for granted—regular meals, financial security, and peace of mind—remain uncertain. Each day requires difficult decisions as Jayden's mother struggles to stretch limited resources to cover the essentials of life.

Housing is another challenge that weighs heavily on the family. Paying rent is a continuous struggle, and the condition of their home reflects the harsh realities they face. The structure provides little protection from the elements, particularly during the rainy season. When heavy rains arrive, water often finds its way inside, turning what should be a safe shelter into an uncomfortable and distressing environment. Instead of feeling protected within their home, mother and son must worry about leaking roofs, damp living conditions, and the uncertainty that accompanies every storm.

Yet amid these challenges, Jayden remains a cheerful and innocent child, embracing the simple joys of early childhood. In the classroom, he is beginning the important journey of learning, exploring the world around him with curiosity and enthusiasm. Like every child his age, he deserves an environment where he can focus on growing, playing, and learning without the burdens of extreme hardship overshadowing his future.

His mother has shown remarkable determination despite the circumstances. Faced with overwhelming challenges, she continues searching for opportunities that could change the trajectory of their lives. Rather than seeking temporary relief alone, efforts are currently being made to identify a sustainable solution for the family—whether through meaningful employment or the establishment of a small business that would allow her to generate a reliable income and provide for her son independently.

Jayden's story is one of vulnerability, but it is also a story of perseverance. Behind the struggles is a mother who refuses to give up and a young boy whose future remains full of possibility. Though their path has been difficult, there remains hope that stability, dignity, and opportunity can one day replace the uncertainty that has defined so much of their journey thus far.

## BERNARD GITAHI: FROM THE STREETS BACK TO CHILDHOOD

The streets are no place for a child. Yet for Bernard Gitahi, they became a refuge from a reality he felt was even more frightening.



Today, Bernard is a Grade Three pupil with a warm smile and a growing love for learning. But behind his young face lies a story of fear, survival, and a journey back to safety after circumstances forced him to seek shelter far from the place, he once called home. Bernard's childhood was overshadowed by persistent conflict and violence within his family. The home environment, which should have been a place of comfort and protection, became increasingly unstable due to the violent conduct of his father. The situation eventually escalated to the point where his parents separated, leaving deep emotional scars on the family.

For Bernard, the turmoil became too much to bear. Like many vulnerable children who find themselves trapped in difficult situations, he made a decision no child should ever have to make—he fled. Seeking escape from the fear and uncertainty that had become part of his daily life, Bernard found himself on the streets of Embakasi.

Life on the streets exposed him to a different set of dangers. Every day became a struggle for survival, where safety, food, and shelter could never be guaranteed. Instead of attending school, playing with friends, and enjoying the simple freedoms of childhood, Bernard was forced to navigate an environment that demanded resilience far beyond his years.

Thankfully, his story did not end there.

Through intervention and support, Bernard was rescued from the streets and reunited with his mother. While the reunion brought relief and renewed hope, life remained challenging. His mother, now solely responsible for his care, works tirelessly collecting and selling scrap metal to earn a living. It is demanding work that provides only a modest and often unpredictable income, yet she continues to do everything within her power to provide for her son.

Despite the hardships they face, Bernard's mother remains committed to giving him an opportunity to rebuild his life through education. Every day she labors under difficult conditions with the hope that her son will have a future different from the struggles they have known.

Back in school, Bernard is gradually reclaiming the childhood that was interrupted. The classroom offers him something he lacked for a long time: stability, structure, and the opportunity to dream beyond his circumstances. As he learns alongside his peers, he continues to rebuild confidence and adjust to a life where hope is beginning to replace fear.

Bernard's journey is a powerful reminder of the challenges faced by many vulnerable children, but it is also a testament to resilience. Though his path has taken him from a troubled home to the streets and back again, he continues moving forward with courage, carrying within him the possibility of a brighter future than the one his circumstances once seemed to allow.

### LEBRON CEDIZ: A SURVIVOR'S STRENGTH.

Lebron Cedric joined Divine Hope on January 18th, 2024, already marked by a tragedy no child should endure. While in Grade Four, Lebron suffered a horrific accident—he was



electrocuted, resulting in the amputation of his left limb. He spent nearly six months in the hospital, fighting through pain and rehabilitation with extraordinary courage.

Now in Grade Eight, Lebron is back in class, determined to learn and thrive. But while his spirit is strong, his home life remains painfully fragile.

Raised by a single mother with no stable income, their household is marked by deep poverty. Though we provide breakfast and lunch at school, Lebron has quietly shared that he often sleeps without supper. There simply isn't enough at home to eat—let alone enough to meet his special physical needs.

### ABEL KIMTAI: JUSTICE DELAYED. A CHILD'S FUTURE IN LIMBO

Abel Kimtai joined Divine Hope in Grade One. Now in Grade Seven, he's grown into a bright, soft-spoken boy who dreams of a future far different from the hardship he's known. But his story, like too many others, is one of injustice and survival.

Abel is an orphan. After his father passed away, tragedy struck again—this time through betrayal. The father's relatives confiscated all family property, including the land that was meant to sustain his widow and children. With no protection or resources, Abel and his family were left destitute.

His mother has spent the last year fighting in court, trying to reclaim what is rightfully hers. She's missed months of work, burned through what little savings she had, and still, justice has not come. The court process drags on, with no clear end in sight.



Recently, worn down by endless battles and the crushing weight of poverty, Abel's mother came to us and said:

*"I think I'll go to Saudi Arabia to look for work. I don't know what else to do to feed my children."*

This is more than a case of poverty. It's a family caught between a corrupt system and survival. And Abel, like many children, risks losing the one person holding his life together.

### **RICHARD ODHIAMBO: FROM THE STREETS TO THE CLASSROOM**

Not long ago, Richard Odhiambo was just another forgotten child in the crowded slums of Tassia—wandering the streets, exposed to danger, hunger, and hopelessness. With no known biological parents, he had no one to fight for his future. That changed the day we met him.



After gaining his trust, Richard led us to a distant relative who had taken him in. But the woman herself was struggling—already caring for more than a dozen children in a small, overcrowded home with no reliable income. It was clear she couldn't provide for his education or basic needs.

That's when Divine Hope stepped in.

We enrolled Richard in Grade Three and committed to giving him a chance at a better life. He is now in Grade Six, and thriving in school—eager to learn, respectful, and full of potential. But his journey is far from over. Richard still depends on our continued support—for school supplies, meals, emotional care, and a safe place to belong.

## SHANITER ANGOSE: HELP SHANITER ANGOSE GROW BEYOND TRAGEDY

Shaniter Angose began her journey with us at Divine Hope on January 6th, 2025, entering our beginners' class with quiet determination. Her life, however, began with profound loss. She is an orphan—her father tragically died in a road accident. Instead of receiving comfort, Shaniter and her family were cast out by their own relatives soon after the burial. All that her father left behind was taken, leaving them with nothing.



Today, Shaniter's mother struggles to survive, relying on occasional casual jobs that barely bring in a dollar a day. With no stable income, her elder sister—who should be in Grade Eight—has dropped out of school entirely. Our school doesn't offer Grade Eight yet, so the burden weighs even heavier on this family.

Despite all this, Shaniter has found a second chance at life through education. We welcomed her, covering all her basic needs.

## PURITY JOHN AND PETER JOHN: TWINS LEARNING TO CATCH UP

Some journeys begin with a head start, while others begin several steps behind. For Purity John and Peter John, every day in school is an opportunity to make up for lost time and move closer to the future they deserve.



Purity and Peter are both thirteen years old and currently in Grade Five. Their age and grade level tell a story that extends beyond the classroom—a story of interrupted opportunities, delayed learning, and the challenges that often accompany growing up in a vulnerable household. While many children their age are further along in their academic journey, Purity and Peter continue working diligently to bridge the gap and reclaim the educational opportunities they missed.

The twins were enrolled in our school on 27th May 2025, bringing with them a history of hardship that began at a very young age. When they were only three years old, their father abandoned the family and walked away from his responsibilities. In an instant, their mother was left to raise both children alone, carrying the burden of providing for her family without the support of a partner.

For a single parent with limited resources, the challenge of meeting basic needs can be overwhelming. Like many families living on the margins, their mother has had to focus on survival first—finding food, shelter, and other necessities before she could fully address

educational needs. As a result, the twins' learning journey was significantly delayed, leaving them academically behind many of their peers.

Yet what stands out most about Purity and Peter is not the years they lost, but the determination they have shown since being given another chance. Despite the obstacles they have faced, both children continue to attend school with a commitment to learning and improving themselves. They understand that education represents an opportunity to break free from the limitations that have shaped much of their early lives.

Being twins has also provided them with a unique source of strength. Throughout the challenges they have encountered, they have faced them together—sharing the same struggles, encouraging one another, and navigating life's uncertainties side by side. Their bond has become a source of resilience, helping them persevere even when circumstances have been difficult.

Since joining our school, Purity and Peter have begun the important process of rebuilding their educational foundation. While catching up academically requires patience and persistence, they continue to demonstrate a willingness to learn and a determination to move forward.

Their story is one of delayed beginnings rather than diminished potential. Though life placed obstacles in their path from an early age, Purity and Peter continue to prove that progress is not defined by where a journey begins, but by the courage and commitment shown along the way. With each lesson learned and each day spent in the classroom, they are steadily writing a new chapter—one filled with possibility, growth, and hope for a brighter future.

### **MESHACK WAMBUA: RISING FROM THE ASHES**

In a matter of moments, everything can change.



What took years to build can disappear in a single afternoon, leaving behind only ashes, uncertainty, and painful memories. For Meshack Wambua and his family, this became a devastating reality during the 2025 fire tragedy that struck the community neighbouring our school.

The inferno swept through the area with frightening speed, consuming homes and livelihoods in its path. By the time the flames were extinguished, more than 250 houses had been reduced to ashes, leaving approximately 250 families displaced and struggling to comprehend the magnitude of their loss. Among those affected was Meshack's family.

At the time of the disaster, Meshack was already growing up in a single-parent household. His mother had been working tirelessly to provide for him despite the challenges of raising a child alone. Life was not easy, but they had managed to build a home and create some measure of stability for themselves.

Then the fire came.

Within hours, the little they had worked so hard to acquire was gone. Household belongings, personal possessions, and the security of having a place to call home disappeared in the flames. Like hundreds of other victims, Meshack and his mother were left with the daunting task of rebuilding their lives from nothing.

For his mother, the tragedy meant starting over completely. Every day became a struggle to find shelter, secure basic necessities, and regain a sense of stability after losing so much. The burden was immense, particularly for a parent already carrying the responsibility of raising a child alone.

Amid the uncertainty that followed the disaster, concerns about Meshack's education became increasingly pressing. With resources stretched beyond their limits, continuing his schooling could easily have become another casualty of the tragedy.

Recognizing the difficulties facing the family, our school stepped in to support Meshack during this critical period. We welcomed him under our care, ensuring that his education would continue uninterrupted while his mother focused on the difficult process of rebuilding her life. By relieving some of the pressure associated with schooling, we hoped to provide both mother and son with a measure of stability during one of the most challenging periods they had ever faced.

Today, Meshack continues his studies in *Grade Seven*, carrying with him memories of a disaster that altered the course of his family's life. Yet despite the losses they endured, he remains committed to his education and determined to move forward.

His story is a testament to the resilience that often emerges in the aftermath of tragedy. While the fire destroyed homes and possessions, it did not extinguish hope. Through perseverance, community support, and the determination of a mother striving to rebuild from the ground up, Meshack continues to pursue his education and look toward a future brighter than the ashes left behind by that devastating day.