

EDWIN CHUMA

I was born in 1996 on 10 June in Matisi. My mother was the late Agnes Nanjala and my father is the late William Chuma. We are seven children in our family and I am the



third-born. My mother gave me extra lessons from nursery school to P8. I did my KCPE national exam in 2012 but I did not score well. My mother was suffering from cervical cancer and I was the only one to take care of her. When schools came back, I knew I could do better. My head teacher and Madam Clare, another teacher, decided to let me take the test again. I did my best and scored 285 marks, an improvement of 59 points from the previous scores. This was much better but still not my best. I thought my education was over. I was all by myself and I had to figure out how to survive.

God worked miracles and I was called to Matisi Primary School to train girls and boys in traditional dance and storytelling. I took the pupils to competition in Nairobi at Kasarani Stadium. We came number five out of twenty-seven schools. People began to notice that I had talent and I was invited to Chebosi Girls High School as a trainer. My team went to the County level and we got a certificate of merit. I love performing, singing and dancing, and telling the ancient stories of Africa.

My mother got sicker and I had to weed other people's gardens to make money for food. I joined Lumonya Secondary School for two weeks. However, I was unable to pay the fees so they sent me home and I decided to drop out of school.

After burying my mum, my elder brothers turned against me. They wanted to get rid of me so that they can have the land. I was left alone with no money, no job, no family, and I had nowhere to go. I prayed hard for God to help me and He heard my

prayers. My friend, Madam Pamela told me about Living Hope High School. Her daughter had graduated from there. With my poor scores, I did not have much hope but I decided to try anyway. I had performed at that school several years before. Mum Marilyn, the Director, said that she will give me a chance. I was so happy. I thanked God and all the people that had helped me.

This past week I started Form one and I love Living Hope with my whole heart. I know I will succeed and have a good future. In college, I want to study performing arts and drama. God gave me this talent and I want to pass them on to others. The ancient ways must not be lost or forgotten.

I have no family or other means of support. I am asking you to be my sponsor and give me a chance to improve my life. I realize that this is a golden opportunity at LIVING HOPE. God has blessed me. I looking forward to getting to know you.

Wako Mpendwa, yours truly,

Edwin Chuma.