

JOEL WAFULA

I am Joel Wafula, a fourth born in a family of ten children. We are seven brothers and three sisters. I was born on February 10th, 2005, in Sikalame, Bungoma County, Kenya. Both of my parents are alive but separated to frequent fights between them. My father is a drunkard and so one day he came back home and chanced away our mother. There is



no stable source of income in my family. Neither my parents nor elder siblings have any job. This has put our family in an awkward position regarding meeting our school needs because of the destitution that surrounds us. I have had to repeat several classes because my parents and elder siblings could not afford to pay for my tuition fee at the next level.

While in primary school, I used to stay with the married elder sister who dropped out of school in Form 1 (Grade 9). The experience of staying with her was no different compared to staying with my father or mother. In Grade 8, when I was preparing to sit for my final national exams (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education, KCPE), there was a dispute between her and her husband. They fought hard and my sister was got hurt badly hurt. She left her matrimonial home, leaving me in a hostile environment. The husband also left and I was left with their three kids to look after. It was tough on me, to be honest! This interfered with my learning, where I was not able to go to school for several weeks.

Since I was one of the best students, my teachers started looking for me and luckily, they got to where I was staying. After narrating to them what had happened, they got furious! They took my sister's kids to their paternal grandparents and asked me to go and stay with one of the teachers. I had a few weeks to study and catch up with the rest of my class before sitting for the final exams. After exams, my teacher told me to go to either of my parents but instead, I choose to go to my second-born elder sister (married) where I stay to date.

When the results came back, I had managed to score 350 marks, enough to take to a good school. I got my letter of admission to go to one of the best County Schools. Unfortunately, that could not happen because my sister was not going to afford to pay the required amount of money for me to get in and even sustain me there for long. Earlier, my still concerned teachers that had been impressed with my performance and were aware of Living Hope High School asked my sister to try luck by applying for me there. They told us about the work that this institution does in helping the needy and the vulnerable achieve their dreams. So I applied, did the interview, and God be thanked, I was accepted! I joined on Tuesday, 27 July to start my high school education, which I know in the end, it defines someone's future.

In primary school, I used to do well in Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, which I aim to improve on here in High School in respective disciplines. I also look forward to getting better in those that were not my favorites but never poorly done; languages, that is, English and Kiswahili, because they are core the subjects to one's successful performance.

My hobbies include the love for playing soccer with which I managed to help my school team reach the County level, just two steps away from the nationals. I also like dancing which I consider as a great gift from God and reading for pleasure.

I aspire to become a doctor so that I can treat as many people as possible given that there are few doctors in my country with countless cases of sickness everywhere. This dream cannot come true if no one gets to support me in high school. I am, therefore, humbly and respectfully appealing for help from anyone that will be touched by my story and life experiences as a young person.

Thank you and God bless!