

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

High Five Club Gifted Pupil Sponsorship, Zambia

As school fees are payable for attending schools and colleges in Zambia, many children living in poor, rural communities leave education after primary school. This is especially true for girls. There are also few secondary schools in rural areas (and no colleges), and even fewer that deliver a quality education. Those families that are willing and able have to therefore struggle to raise the funds to send their most gifted children to a government boarding school, many miles away from home.

Since 2013, we have together been privileged to sponsor the secondary education of the very gifted and kind hearted, **Felistus Chikumba**, who lives in Zambia's Luangwa Valley and who won a place at the best state boarding school in Zambia - **Katete Girls Boarding School**. Without High Five Club's support Felistus would not have been able to take up this opportunity, as her family live in extreme poverty.



Felistus sat her final Grade 12 exams last December and we were thrilled to support her in 2018 in travelling to Katete to collect her results. As expected she passed with flying colours achieving excellent grades! Since leaving secondary school Felistus has returned to her home in the Luangwa Valley and after spending time volunteering as a Health Assistant at Kakumbi Rural Health Clinic she is now working part-time as a self-employed **Edulution** coach to local schoolchildren. Edulution is focused on improving numeracy, literacy and ICT skills in Zambia using its innovative technology, world class analytics and local resources. The really exciting news is, however, that Felistus so impressed some visiting American doctors whilst volunteering at Kakumbi Rural Health Clinic, that they have come together to sponsor her through medical school for 6 years to realise her dream of becoming a doctor herself! Felistus will apply to study for a medicine degree at UNZA (University of Zambia) next April and if she gets accepted she will start in September 2019. Keep your fingers and toes crossed that from very humble beginnings Felistus will go on to fulfil her calling!

Thank you so much for your support of Felistus throughout her secondary education. You have made a real difference to her life. And it looks like she is set to do the same for others very soon.

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In 2018, we also continued our support of the very humble and talented young Zambian artist from the Luangwa Valley **Malafian Chimungu**.

Because of poverty Malafian could not go on to college after finishing secondary school, but thanks to your support Malafian has just completed his second year at Evelyn Hone College in Lusaka where he is studying for a Diploma in Art and English. His ambition is to become an art teacher and to also display his art widely. Manny and I met up with him in July when he was doing his teaching practice at Mfuwe secondary school in the Luangwa and he is turning into a fine, young man. He has, as part of his course, been exhibiting his art at various exhibitions around Zambia this year to high acclaim.



As High Five Club we have joined hands with an American man called Henry and one of our own High Fivers, Pam Lawrence, who has met Malafian, is a teacher herself, and sees great potential in him, to come together again to sponsor his studies throughout 2018. This support covers his course and exam fees, his accommodation and groceries whilst at college, along with his text books and art supplies, etc. Malafian is also contributing to his own studies and those of his siblings from the income he earns from selling his snare wire art and metalwork wildlife sculptures.



This year we have also extended a High Five Club helping hand to **Paul Ngoma** to enable him to undertake a Diploma in Bible Studies at Chipata Bible School by part-time study starting in August 2018. Paul is a very committed, young, village pastor in the Luangwa Valley, and is married with one child (his young son recently died). Paul really serves the community where he lives, both practically and spiritually, and since setting up a rural church in Mnkhanya Chiefdom 3 years ago has seen the congregation there grow from 30 members to now just over 300. These Christians support many people in the community who are living with HIV/AIDS, visiting and caring for them and their families in practical ways as well as pastorally. There are no NGOs in the area that does this and if the community don't look after their own there is no-one. High Five Club have joined hands with some of our members that met Paul on a visit to Zambia with Manny and Cheryl back in 2016, to together fund Paul's college fees, his transport and accommodation when he is required to attend college in Chipata, along with his text

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books and stationary etc. As Paul is a subsistence farmer living in poverty he would not be able to further his education if it was not for our support. It was illuminating when sitting down with Chief Mnkanya and his elders (*Indunas*) and revisiting development priorities for the area, that they put “our people knowing God more” as number one, ahead of water and education. Supporting this young village pastor is helping to provide for the community’s spiritual and pastoral needs in a community where hope is the only thing they have in finding their next meal or caring for the sick.

H5C Support: Our support of Felistus to enable her to travel to collect her exam results, our contribution towards Malafian’s studies and our support of Paul Ngoma’s bible studies totalled £736.89 this year.

Felistus and Malafian’s sponsorship were efficiently managed on our behalf by the **Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust** www.chipembele.org, a charitable organisation that focuses on conservation education for local school children in the area of South Luangwa National Park. Our support of Paul Ngoma’s studies was managed for us by our long-term community-based partner in Zambia, **Mnkanya Community Resources Board**.

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