

## Belinda's Story

Belinda Akinyi benefitted from our Porridge Programme at Innis Education Centre as a young child and was one of the first to appreciate and take advantage of the library we set up at the school. Mr Awiti credits both programmes for greatly improving attendance and academic achievement. This is Belinda's own account of her journey - we are very proud of her for the hard work and dedication she has put into her studies throughout. Her story illustrates the difference our sponsors make:

*My name is Belinda Akinyi. I was born in Nyakach, a rural area of Kenya, in 1998. I'm the fifth born in a family of seven. As a young girl, I started my primary School education at Innis Educational Center, a school where Zest for Life had begun supporting by then. Though a young village girl, I started up my primary education with greater ambitions, not only to bring a change to my family with a humble background, but also to be a role model to my society as a whole.*

*When I reached my STD 6, my mom passed away and everything changed from that time. I can justify that being raised by a single parent, a father who was also a drunkard, was the most trying moments of my life. At STD 8, I lost my dad but then I had excellently passed my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and emerged among the best in my school.*

*As a total and helpless orphan, I was at a verge of dropping out of school since there was no means of getting my secondary school fees. I was about to lose hope when my headteacher Mr. Awiti, who nicknamed me a 'dream girl' referred me to Zest for Life, a charity organization that facilitated the payment of my secondary education fees at Kisumu Girls High School.*

*After four years I succeeded on my Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) and proceeded to Moi University where I'm pursuing a degree course in Linguistics, Media and Communication. Zest for Life still supports my University education and I'm proud of it every bit.*

*I'm a living testimony of this charity organisation. I'm the lady I am today because of the support this organization founded on my life. I would like to appeal to the founders to continue funding Zest for Life since it really helps the needy Children who later gives back to the society*

*Special regards to: Keith Edwards and Karen Jones not forgetting the Zest for Life Foundation as a whole.*

*Photos: Belinda (on left) in the library at Innis; and today at Moi University*

