



From the Chairman:

In January I had the enormous privilege of going to Kenya to visit some of the beneficiaries of the Rafiki Thabo Foundation. It was an amazing ten days; days that challenged, inspired and humbled me in equal measure. The tangible sense of what the Rafiki Thabo Foundation can do for individuals, transforming opportunities and realising potential was so apparent. Together we really can make a difference - the kind of difference Nicholas Ayiesa talks of in his letter below. To all our supporters, thank you.

A letter from one of our beneficiaries in Kenya:

Nicholas is a student at KCA University, where he is studying Commerce.

... Chairman ... I lack enough words to express my gratefulness. I did not know that one time I will get to where the foundation is taking me... I am the only person in our entire extended family that has had education to this level. This therefore means that you have not only put a smile on my face, but also on my family's face. When I broke the news to my mother, she literally cried joyously because she knows what education can do in one's life, especially a person like me who has had to struggle in a community where there is a belief that a child who is born and the father cannot be traced is a curse.

Thank you so much and may God be a blessing to Rafiki Thabo Foundation and all the trustees.

Ayiesa Nicholas Ohese

News from Lesotho:

Nthatuoa left primary school three years ago with one of the top ten marks in the country for her leaving certificate. She was unable to afford to travel to secondary school until Fusi school became an option for her and she was awarded a full-fee scholarship, sponsored by the Rafiki Thabo Foundation. She has fulfilled all our expectations, achieving a merit in her Junior Certificate, a very rare achievement in the rural areas. Rafiki Thabo is now supporting Nthatuoa by paying her fees to attend a reputable high school.



Nthatuoa with Trustee Elizabeth Dunford.

In the same exams, another student, Morake, achieved a first class in his certificate despite acting as the head of the household and taking responsibility for his younger brother. Again, we are pleased to help Morake by paying his fees to attend High School. Progress is monitored by a Committee chaired by the Principal of Ha Fusi Secondary School.

Science at Ha Fusi:

Following a major donation from the Japanese Government, Ha Fusi School has more than doubled in size over the past year. This expansion included the building of a specialist Science laboratory. However, a laboratory is only useful if it is equipped – and we are extremely grateful to the Southern African Churches Development Trust, who donated £1,500 to stock the shelves.



The Science Lab at Ha Fusi

Computers?

The Principal at Ha Fusi has secured funding from the Government for just that – and a fully qualified teacher as well. The outstanding issue, though, is that of an electricity supply – at present, Ha Fusi is not connected. Estimates from the Lesotho Electricity Board suggest that it would cost £30,000 to make this happen; perhaps Rafiki Thabo's next fundraising drive?

Can you help?

Donations of any size are critically important as we try to keep up with the demand of applications for support. **For more information, please visit our website:**

www.rafiki-foundation.org