



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Special invitation to celebrate & support Wilson

Dear friends, partners and supporters;

I'm writing you today to share some great news. It's about Wilson... a young man who was the inspiration for Mkombozi's founding 10 years ago, and who has become an example of all that this organisation aspires to achieve.

When I encountered Wilson back in 1997, I had just been instructed by the Tanzanian Social Welfare department to assist in relocating children back to their homes (due to the closing of a local centre). Most of the children had families and homes to return to, but Wilson was a different case. He had witnessed his stepfather murder his mother (stabbing) when he was just five years old. In fact, he was one of 10 children - all of whom had different fathers. Whilst the siblings' fathers all came to take their children upon the death of the mother, Wilson had no idea who his father was. He literally had no one in the world to turn to, and so, he turned to the streets. What could I do, but respond to this wonderfully centred and soft child by starting an organisation to support children such as him...?

But here's the best part... My offer of hope to Wilson in those early days has now been more than repaid. This year, Wilson graduated from Secondary school with the highest grades possible! When he heard about his exam success, Wilson wrote me a letter. His words, which I'm sharing here, say so much more than mine about why he and so many other Mkombozi youth just need to be given a chance - just one opportunity to find themselves and to build a better world for us all.

"Thank you mama Kate, I had to do that because I know there are many children who are like me and even some have passed through worse life than me and never got help. So I'm lucky to meet you, because through you, people can develop his/her talent. I believe the fruits of your work take long to be seen, but at least you are saving the life of millions who would have otherwise come to street. From the street to university is quite a long journey... People say that you are among the fanatics of the 20th century but, kumbe, you have a true African soul. I will not forget you. Your love is a wonder!!" -- Wilson

Indeed, Wilson is the essence of what we try to do at Mkombozi - to enable children and youth to transcend the trauma and circumstances of their early years, and become young adults that want to give back to their community.

Can you help Wilson to continue transforming his life...?

As Wilson moves out of Mkombozi's care and transitions to an independent, adult life, the fact is that he now needs USD \$ 5000 each year to make the most of his academic success and to accept the university placement he has been awarded. If there is any way that you would like to play a role in Wilson's support, please contact me directly: katemcalpine@mkombozi.org

Your support of Wilson's university career is an act of celebration - of his life, and of Mkombozi's work. From the bottom of my heart... thank you.

Kate

