I vividly remember the kind of life we had been living, I and my family. You can imagine a kind of life when one meal a day is a problem. The only thing my mother has kept is to hard work so as to meet our daily needs. She’s a casual laborer. When I was in primary school she kept telling us to work hard in school. I have kept faith that one day life will give us a favor. When I was in standard 8 is when dreams of life were starting to flow inside me but the future was still not very promising. Hope kept me moving. Each tear made me wiser and stronger. I knew that nothing could hold me down.

I did my national exams in 2007 (K.C.P.E) and I performed well. Nobody was there to support me. The situation in our home had become worse. Giving up was the last thing I could think of. My teachers were the source of my joy. They kept telling me that education is the key to success. So I could not quit. Despite the humiliation from my classmates who had already joined secondary school, I still believed that I had potential which could become a waste if I continued to stay in the village. I just saw a clearer future. All I wanted is to become a doctor and find cure for incurable diseases like HIV/AIDS. No heartbreak could take away what I am meant to be.

I went back to school and repeated standard 8. There is something I used to do, I still do and will always do; bow my head and pray for my life. I kept hope alive. When I was almost giving up, there was a whisper from my inner self telling to hold just a little longer. I finally did my national exams for the second time. This time around I had hope than before; hope to join high school and fulfill the dreams of my life, change my family’s lifestyle, make my mother proud, be a good example to girls like me who are giving up in life because each tear brought me closer and closer to my dreams. And the last dream I held and still hold is to the change the society I come from.

This is the time when I got a scholarship from Nuru Center. I knew about it from my teacher who I was very much close to. I was grateful and took is as golden chance to get my dreams come true. I now saw myself more than a winner. Nuru Center has given support; especially Jane Mukami who offered to pay my school for four years. I can never repay her. I can just do it by making a bright life for me and others behind me. Books, uniforms, and all required school supplies were also provided. I could attend school like any other child. I thank God that the uniforms in school made us to be equal. Some of us come from very poor background. This was motivation to work extra hard so that we can break the cycle of poverty. I passed high school and now at Chuka University taking Bachelor of Education. Nuru Center has also helped me join university.

This has made my dreams to become sharper. My future now seems clearer. I can’t change the past, but I can plan the future. Nuru Center is a bridge to my clearer and bright future. I am not defeated. It has brought me closer to my dreams. I am still working hard because the future I am hoping for is within reach. I can’t avoid challenges; the best thing is to use them as stepping stones to greater heights. I know there are many girls out in the villages that do not have means to have their dreams come true. It takes hope, discipline, will power and hard work to unlock the potential within us. I will not mind disappointments because I can see a better future for my life, for my family, a better society and a little heaven here on earth for those who have dreams like me and for those heartbroken by their current situation. No matter how difficult life becomes, I say no, I can’t be held down. I will emerge a winner.

Thank you to mum, Nuru, Jane and all who love and wish me the best.