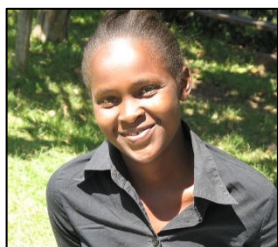


The Butterfly Project's College Bound Women, 2009



Kitpek Nadupoi Beatrice
Teachers Training College, Kericho

Twenty-year-old Beatrice is a young Maasai woman who received a Butterfly Scholarship. Below is her story in her words:

I want to be a teacher because teaching is a career that will enable me to serve my community. As a teacher, I will be able to improve the lives of all people through young people. I want to make as many members of my community as fruitful as possible to sustain bright futures and to nurture their talents. Teaching is a career that will have a great impact on many of our community members. I also want to establish a foundation for my own bright future through a teaching career. Through teaching, I will be able to influence people of future professions, lawyers, doctors, engineers and even presidents.

The Maasai community will benefit from my Butterfly Scholarship because there is a big shortage of teachers in our area. I will also be a role model to many of our young girls who are not seen in college level education. I will especially strive to assist the girl child and other needy members of our community.



Hilda Akinyi Ogweny
Haydom School of Nursing

I am so excited to have this opportunity to share the roots of my interest to be a nurse. When I was a child, I had a few health problems and most often my mother took me to the hospital because she was not sure of what was ailing me and I was her first child. The few times we went there, I just wanted to stay with the nurses because they were so nice. When I was twelve, I had a very serious measles attack and was forced to stop going to school for awhile. Because of its contagiousness, almost everybody alienated me. However, I had one good nurse who would come in the evening and check on me. She would buy me sweets, say sorry to my mother and reassure her that I would be fine. When she came in and after she left, I felt so much better. I felt healthier and happier with her around. By meeting my nurse, I realized how much impact I could have on people's lives if I was in the medicine or nursing field. I also loved her hospitality and humility. She was so gentle to everyone including the strangers whom she met so often.

I want to have the same impact on people's lives. I want to restore their happiness and health. I want to reassure people that no matter how bad our health may seem, somehow, the power is within us to heal and become better. I want to live in a society where children and parents are healthy and assured of a better tomorrow.

I want to become a nurse because I am interested in the profession and believe I can work well with sick, crying and helpless patients. Even the sight of blood does not bother me. I am also ready to work with the community health workers in alleviating malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, malaria and cholera.

I feel this training is a calling from God, and that by pursuing it, I will be answering a very important call. A calling that will see me happy throughout my life because with happy people and healthy patients, I would get so much satisfaction.

Personally, I believe in the larger community belonging anywhere you go. I can only become helpful to a community when I have specific skills. From anywhere, I plan to give the community the best that has been instilled in me by my teachers, lecturers, parents, siblings and society.

From childhood, I lived in very unhygienic places, and I feel that almost half of the diseases we suffer from in Kenya are from the germs around us. Unfortunately, my family could not afford a better living place. With this past experience, I dream of starting a group, or better still, an organization on sanitation. For example, cholera is killing far too many people in my country and this is just an example of the many diseases that are preventable. From my plan, I hope people will get cleaner water, food, clean schools, churches, playgrounds and towns.

I also intend to help girls in puberty who are having their monthly periods to have easier access to sanitary towels and pads. I feel the lack of pads at the start of my menstruation and for other girls affects self esteem and their performance in school through not attending during this time.

Through my further education, my nuclear family especially my siblings, will be a priority since I am the first born. I intend to see them through their schooling and realizing their dreams. My parent will need my help which I will be most willing to give. I also hope my skills will help my society in other bigger and better ways. I intend to prove girl child education discriminators wrong and show them that education is good for every African child by being a good role model to my fellow girls and boys.



Nancy Atieno Olambo
Haydom School of Nursing

My name is Nancy Olambo and I am 22 years old. I completed my secondary education at St. Joseph's Secondary School in Oyugis in the Karachuonyo District. I did my secondary school with an aim of being a nurse. I wanted to pursue the course because it is based on one's attitude.

I have always admired the nursing profession since I was young. For encouragement, I have been doing first aid for people with small injuries for many years as I feel that the little pains could cost people their lives. I have done this work whole heartedly and with a lot of sympathy. I usually admire how the nurses and the doctors work and I am convinced that one day I will be like them.

Back in my village, there are several health centers but there is a great shortage of nurses. In the biggest health center, there are only two nurses who do all the work so the patients have to wait the whole day since there are insufficient services available. I wish to train so that I can voluntarily work together with the nurses and bring the needed changes. There are instances where children die back in the village because their parents are not willing to take them to the hospitals claiming that they would not get treated in time. So I believe that when I am through with my course, I can help reduce the death rates.

Unfortunately, there are some ignorant mothers who still give birth in their homes. I believe it is a serious risk both to the mother and the baby. After I finish my course, I will convince mothers to attend the PMTCT services offered in the hospitals. These young children whose lives are risked during birth are the ones that will make our future and their families must ensure their safety.

Nursing is such an interesting, amazing and professional course as it involves a lot of self giving, voluntary work, self dedication, and positive attitude which yields so much to the community. I sincerely thank The Butterfly Project for offering such opportunities.

It is still a great problem for a girl to be educated in the village. Most parents believe that it is a waste to educate a girl because they feel that girls never aspire to higher levels. When I stand out as a qualified professional lady through my school, no parent will still be willing to keep their daughters at home. They will make sure girls are taken to school.

Personally, this will make me happy as I feel that all girls have a right to education. There is also the case of HIV and AIDS awareness. As the boys are given the priority everywhere, they are the ones who take part in the counseling training and girls become discouraged as they shy away being counseled by boys. I will make sure that after my course, the village girls get proper counseling and they will have the opportunity to train other people along with the boys.

There are some few girls who are willing to go to school but are not capable of paying to pay for it. Once I have a salary, I will make sure I make good use of the money so that part of it goes to such precious assistance. I would like to offer and help one deserving girl with her school fees all through higher education. I feel good when I assist others because I know how it feels when I have received assistance. As my family is not very well off, I will also be able to help them with financial support. I look forward to serving my community with self dedication, a positive attitude and overall commitment as I receive further training.

The list keeps growing!

These additional young women have been added to our list of College Bound women. They range in age from 19-22 years old and have chosen fields of nursing or teaching;

Beatrice Kitpek Nadupoi - Teaching
Karen Kaitano - Nursing
Jacalyne Mutoka - Teaching
Cherlene Atieno Odok - Teaching

To learn more about the work of The Butterfly Project please contact:

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