

29th MAY 2023

Dear, **SPJ COMMITTEE**

SUBJECT: **KYOSHABIRE MARY GLORIA'S STORY AS A SCHOLARSHIP BENEFICIARY (2010-2015)**

As a little girl raised in a poor family, from Ruhira, Isingiro district, in Uganda I had many dreams and among them was having a Quality Education. Back then after completing my primary leaving examinations (PLE) in 2009, I never saw this coming true until the SPJ came to my aid.

Since my childhood, I had been proactive in school and because of my passion for academics, I managed to excel with a first grade of 10 aggregates (division 1) from a rural school called Ntungu mixed primary school as this was among the prerequisites to become the beneficiary.

I still remember how excited I was the day the SPJ team led by Madam Suzuki Rieko came to visit my family for an assessment to qualify for the scholarship. It's like as if it was yesterday.

I thank the SPJ team for the prestigious scholarship that enabled me to access first-quality education from Maryhill high school by providing me with full tuition, an allowance as pocket money (one hundred thousand Ugandan shillings), scholastic materials, and many others. Studying at Maryhill high school for 6 years both for my Ordinary and Advanced levels exposed me to various productive activities that impacted my life positively among them:

1. Quality and holistic education
2. Extra co-curricular activities (sports, volleyball)
3. An environment where I shared knowledge with students from urban schools and highly experienced teachers.
4. I learned Religious Values, Integrity, and self-discipline that have carried me all through my life.

I thank the Ugandan coordinators Mr. Lawrence Ssenkubuge, Madam Furaha, Madam Peninah, and other staff in the academics department who mentored us all through our academic journey. The several career guidance they provided to us every holiday break off from school, enabled us to concentrate and excel in school. Not forgetting the computer lessons that enabled us to learn how to use computers for learning purposes.

The student exchange visits from Japan also enabled us to interact with students like Naome, who inspired us to work hard and excel in school.

The SPJ scholarship and the holistic education I obtained at Maryhill high school enabled me to work hard and win another scholarship at Makerere University for my bachelor's degree in Biomedical Laboratory Technology. (Government sponsorship). I graduated in 2020 and I am currently working as a medical laboratory technologist at a private laboratory in Kampala called Tenna and Pharma Laboratories, where I have managed to provide excellent diagnostic skills, especially during the coronavirus pandemic (covid-19). I have also worked with the Infectious Disease Institute in surveillance for coronavirus in Kampala and this enabled the Ministry of Health of Uganda to assess the burden of coronavirus disease in Kampala.

I hope to carry out an outreach, especially to the young girls back in the villages to inspire them to unleash their potential, that it is possible for them to come from poor families and still be able to achieve their dreams as I was motivated by Professor Sachs' words, "Extreme poverty can be eliminated in our generation." I am an example to many now because I never gave up on what I believed in and thanks to the SPJ scholarship that made it easy for me.

I am so grateful to Madam Suzuki Rieko, Professor Shinichi Kitaoka, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, and other members of the SPJ committee, that brought light to many young girls from Ruhira by giving us quality education.

My long-term career ambition is to become a global Biomedical Researcher. I hope to acquire a master's scholarship in case there are opportunities in Japan and carry out research on infectious diseases and vaccine development. I believe vaccine development and discovery are a sustainable cornerstone for preventing and controlling Infectious Diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases, and Communicable Diseases.

Thank you so much for your support...

Yours,

KYOSHABIRE MARY GLORIA

SPJ BENEFICIARY (2010-2015)