

Story of Nkasimulu Mhlophe, KwaNyswa, Aged 23 years



Nkasimulu is studying Taxation at Durban University of Technology. He is in his 3rd year of 4 and has finally, with much effort from HABandBF and support from Student Finance, got his NSFAS loan.

Nkasimulu averages 70% so far this year. HABandBF have supported him financially through the payment of fees, books and transport to DUT. Previously we have also supplied him with food parcels. Now he has his NSFAS loan he is able to stay in university residence and also receives R400 (±\$60) a month food allowance.

The quality of teaching in rural schools can be extremely poor as demonstrated by the fact that Nkasimulu did not pass Grade 11 two years in a row in his first High School but came in the top 10 and achieved entrance to University in his second High School. He wrote as follows:

"I am Nkasimulu Mhlophe. I was born in a village called KwaNysuswa near Hillcrest [in the Valley of 1000 Hills, KwaZulu Natal outside Durban]. My family was just living a poor life then I was raised in that environment. I went to a primary school called uMphumela. After Primary I went into High School where I did my Grade 8-11 then I decided to change that school because it was not working out for me since I failed twice and the environment was freaking me out.

I went to Mazhutshana High School where I did my Grade 11 and 12. I found it too good for me because I was doing very well at school. I was always in the top 10 but the situation at home was very difficult because my mother and father were two domestic workers.

And on that issue my father passed away in 2006 which made my life more challenging because we are three in my family: me, my sister and my brother. I am the oldest and sometimes I have to be responsible to put an effort to support at home.

This has made me be strong in life. It didn't distress me because I know I have to change the life at home because they are counting on me since I managed to get into the Tertiary Institution even though no one in my family has ever graduated so I need to be the first.

The situation at home has made me want to be something in life and contribute to change the KwaNysuwa community to be a better one. "

Other students wrote:

FAITH BUSISWE MKHIZE

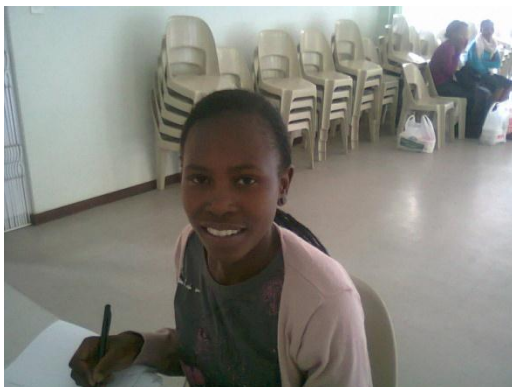
My name is Faith Busiswe Mkhize, I am twenty two years old; I am from the place called KwaNyuswa in the rural areas of Kwa Zulu Natal. I completed my Matric at Thabela High School in 2008 I was accepted at The Institution of Higher Learning at the University of South Africa (UNISA) to study for a Diploma in Youth Development. When I have completed the Diploma I will continue my studies in Social Work. I am doing this course because I am skilful and creative, honest and educated to hard work. I know I can be successful especially if I am working with young people.



I applied for a Bursary because I had no money to further my studies, I am the child of a single parent and my mother is an unemployed pensioner who does not have the money to pay my further education and all that it involves like Registration, Text Books Accommodation, Transport etc. I come from a poor family they are many of us, all the adults are unemployed – and we all depend on the R1000.00 monthly pension which my mother receives. I don't know the whereabouts of my father.

The Bursary Fund is helping me a lot – the Fund supports me in everything to do with my studies covering the cost of books transport accommodation etc and even enabling my attendance at a Life Skills Course. If Tanya Harvey and her group did not help and support me I would not have been able to further my studies and I want to say thanks to all of them. “Thanks for your support, stay healthy and happy!”

BONGEKILE BRIDGET MABASO



I am a lady who was born at KwaNyuswa – both of my parents died when I was still little, at Primary School and I was brought up by my grandmother on my father's side. My grandmother's pension took care of me and my education until I completed my Matric in 2004 at Myeka High School. After leaving school I got a job with CELL C a mobile telephone company and I decided to save and invested my money in my education. To this end I registered at Swinton Coastal College for a course in Electrical Engineering. With help from my granny and my salary I managed then my

granny passed away and I was in trouble. It was then that I approached the Hillcrest Bursary Fund and told them my story. They were very helpful and supportive and really encourage me with financial help and good advice. I was able to progress until I reached Level N4 – and began looking for work

experience. I am now busy with my N5 and at the same time I am a Volunteer at one of the companies where I am helping with house wiring, maintaining street lighting and changing and fixing appliances.

So now I am on the way to success and I would like to thank God and all my sponsors.

SIDUDENZO VICTRESS SIMELANE



I am Sidudenzo Victress Simelane, I am twenty two years. I was born in a place called Nangana which is in the rural area of Kwa Zulu Natal. I moved to Molweni near Durban with my mother and my father lives in Johannesburg. My mother is a domestic worker and she has been there for us since we were born, she has worked hard to ensure our survival and I can say that I am proud of my mother .

I went to High School at Empangeni where I stayed with my uncle, unfortunately things did not always go well as my uncle did not understand why I had to meet with a Study Group – he worried that I might get into trouble. I did not understand that it was only because he cared about me and loved me so much. When I finished my Matric I returned to Durban and was at home doing nothing for a whole year but during that year my mother saved the money for my registration at The University of South Africa where I am now (2012) in the second year of a Bachelor of Education degree. With the help of God and The Hillcrest Bursary Fund. I believe that I will make it and finish my qualification.

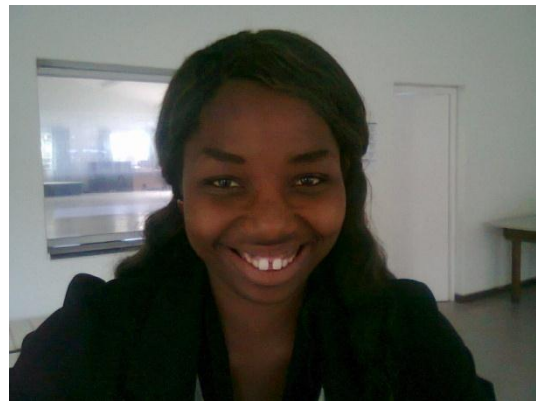
When I have completed my degree I want to help my two brothers and my sister they have finished their Matric but are not working or studying. I would also love to help others in the community as I did get help from people who care for other people (Hillcrest Bursary Fund) so I have to do that in return.

PRECIOUS SKHULILE MASIKANE

Nothing can take my dreams away as long as I want to make them come true.

I am a student aged twenty; I am in my second year at UNISA doing Public Relations Management. I was born at Inchanga, unfortunately my father passed away when I was twelve years old, leaving my mother to raise four children, including me on her own.

My mother supported us by using her talent for sewing – but earnings from sewing are unpredictable as she never knows how many people will place orders, the money she gets goes on paying schools fees for my brother and sister. I went to Siphesihle High School where in my year 52% achieved Matric and I was



among them. Five years from now I see myself as a graduate working at this huge company as a Public Relations Officer and making my mother proud that she raised a responsible daughter who will be able to help her and my siblings.

I am willing to be a role model for my community mostly for young girls from disadvantaged homes who fall into wrong ways and end up getting pregnant or using drugs. I want to help them as I was helped by The Anglican Church and their Support System especially The Hillcrest Bursary Fund.

DOMINIC MKHIZE

Education is the key to success. The problem is where there are insufficient resources to enable students to get on the education ladder – those without the means can only stay on the bottom rung and watch others climb the ladder to success.

I would like to thank private organisations especially the Hillcrest Bursary Fund for helping me and other students to receive quality Tertiary Education. They are the good Samaritans who help those of us who without them would never have the chance of acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills for a better life through education. I salute the whole team patience, especially Tanya, Heather Connie and other members of the Church congregation.



The Hillcrest Bursary Fund supported me in achieving a Crime Scene Investigation Certificate and with their support I am currently studying for a Criminal Justice Certificate.

I would appeal to any person or organisation with the means – however small – to open their hands by sponsoring students like me through The Hillcrest Bursary Funds. By supporting the Fund they will be playing a role in developing and uplifting the local community and the nation of South Africa as a whole.

“PLEASE CAN YOU HELP ME?”

A sample of the appeals for help we constantly receive.

EXAMPLE ONE: FEMALE STUDENT

I am a person who has goals; innovative ideas; a risk taker with high levels of energy. I like working with people and socialising that is why I have started a course in Retail Business Management. When I am not working I read or chat to people because I like to hear their different ideas and thoughts.

I am applying for financial aid because I want to bring about change. My plans after I qualify is to one day become one of those who Assist future students.

EXAMPLE TWO: MALE STUDENT

I would like you to help me because I can't afford to pay for my studies due to the fact that I am from a really poor background, my Mom works as a domestic worker and she is not earning that much to help me further my studies.

I am loyal, punctual, optimistic, hard-working and well behaved. I want to be a teacher because I will be able to help other learners. Teaching has been my first love since I was at Primary School, and here in South Africa there is a shortage of teachers. I can finish my four years with good results as I will put all my time into my studies. My teachers and lecturers will motivate by through their example. I want to help and support my community by making sure that children get the education they deserve.

EXAMPLE THREE: FEMALE STUDENT

As a college student with as strong desire to excel in my subject "Civil Engineering" it would be really great if my application for financial assistance could be successful.

HILLCREST BURSARY FUND has helped me for the past two years; I am hoping that they will continue to help me so that I can continue my studies. I am from a very poor family, with a single parent. Since coming to the Bursary and receiving help I have started to believe that I can be successful in life. I know that I have made some mistakes and I promise to work harder than last year.

EXAMPLE FOUR: FEMALE STUDENT

I live with my family in a household of eight children and a single parent mother. My hobby and interest is to study for Financial Management at Thekwini College. I selected this college and this degree because I enjoy studying Finance, Economics and Business Management.

I need financial help because I want to finish my course and my mother can't afford to help me.

My plan once I complete my course and qualify is to work in the South African economy and to increase the number of women who own their business.

EXAMPLE FIVE: MALE STUDENT

I am a dedicated person. I do believe that in order to succeed you have to stick to things and not give up at the first hurdle. Since I am that kind of person - one who does not give up easily I think I should be helped to further my studies. This will not only help me but will be a key to helping my siblings for they also want to further their studies.

I have chosen Computer Studies because I have seen the need and the scarcity of graduates in this field. Once I have completed my studies I plan to teach in a Computer School.

EXAMPLE SIX: FEMALE STUDENT

I completed my Matric in 2009 and I became a student at UNISA in 2011 studying for a degree in Public Relations Management. So far I am doing well in my studies having passed six modules in my first year. But I am now facing having to give up my studies because I come from a disadvantaged background, my mother is a widow and her pension has to support me and my disabled sister. If I don't get help from the Hillcrest Bursary Fund I will not be able to continue and I am clueless as to where else I can get help.

I will be glad if my application succeeds.