

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Anthony

16-year-old Anthony loves football and athletics, but dreams of becoming an engineer in the future. Six months ago, this would have been just a dream, but thanks to sponsors, New Life Nyambene were able to lift him out of destitution and bring him to Maua and now he attends boarding school. He studies hard – especially in English, Science, Kiswahili and CRE and he will hopefully one day now be able to attend university and make his dream a reality. When asked about school, he even exclaimed, “Yes, I enjoy school so much!” Maybe his schoolteacher was in earshot of our conversation... but he seems genuinely grateful for his education.



*Patrick with Anthony on his arrival in Maua*

Anthony came to Maua from Kirinyanga in the East of Kenya, where he was moving from place to place around his village. His mother left him and his siblings and his father was in and out of prison until he died when Anthony was 13. He speaks of this time with sadness: “I suffered a lot, because even school fees I had not, clothes I had not. I had not hope.” Bernard reported: ‘Antony used to go to school empty stomach, miss several classes and finally started doing manual jobs at night and attend school during day time.’ It was not just Anthony who suffered. Of his sisters, he states – “Their life is so miserable; they are some even employed as house girls”.

But in December he came to Maua and quickly made friends with Charles, Bro Marc, Mwenda and Benson. He was able to join the Christmas celebrations, of which he speaks fondly: “I celebrated and enjoyed well – because other Christmas times I don’t enjoy and don’t wear new clothes”. He settled in well and he is looking forward to returning for the holidays.

Anthony is a charismatic young adult, much like other Kenyan boys his age he likes football more than music, his favourite food is ugali and stew. But, even from only half an hour’s conversation, it is clear he has a special focus and drive to do well - to make the most of his opportunities and to make something of himself. When I asked him whether he was glad he ended up in Maua he said he was ‘so happy’ he came because he ‘needs enough time to study and assistance in my education’. Watch this space, engineering world.

Thank you to everyone who helped bring Anthony to Maua and to Bernard and Faith for quickly making him feel at home.