

Progress Report

Hello!

We would like to introduce you to Ruth...



The image and the name have been changed to protect the identities of our beneficiaries.

Ruth Kamanga is a parent living in Kitwe, Copperbelt. She has 5 children and one of them is called Nancy. Nancy is 9 years old and was born deaf. Ruth admits she struggled to raise Nancy and had several misconceptions about disabled children even as a parent raising a disabled child. Ruth attributes the main cause of her difficulties to a lack of knowledge and awareness regarding disabilities.

All this changed when Ruth attended a Cecily's Fund training [Impossible: I'm Possible] programme aimed at reducing discrimination and stigma associated with people who may be living with a disability. The training brought together parents of hearing and deaf children. The parents and guardians underwent training in disability awareness, equipping them with insights into the experience of disability, whilst emphasising that it does not render anyone less valuable than others. Parents and guardians living with children who are impaired in any form,

also showed a willingness to be open and share their experiences. This altered Ruth's Perspective on deafness and other disabilities leading to a shift in attitudes and perceptions towards children and adults with disabilities within the local community.

Ruth feels she still has a lot to learn about disabilities, but she has more than enough knowledge to better care for Nancy, and champion disability awareness in her community so that no-one is left behind. She has learned to advocate for Nancy and is determined to support her in everything she does. Ruth has been able to do so through the opportunities provided by the Impossible: I'm Possible Programme; Parents of deaf and hearing work together on a social enterprise making reusable menstrual hygiene pads and clothes. The social enterprise has been able to improve her financial situation and has brought about positive change for parents who, like her, confront unemployment or limited business opportunities, primarily because of insufficient capital and a lack of expertise in business development.

Nancy is currently attending Year 4 at Jennifer Memorial School for the Deaf. This transformation would not have been possible without the support of donors like you. Your contributions have had a significant impact on Ruth and Nancy's life. They are grateful for the kindness and want us to inform you of how your donations are bringing about meaningful change in the lives of parents and children with disabilities in urban and rural communities in Zambia.

Thank you!! (Bemba:Twatotela)

Lwiza

Lwiza Mulenga - Supporter Relations Officer