

In Haiti, attending school can be difficult and expensive. The Starfish Kids Progam is a student sponsorship project that is helping Haitian families and their children by providing tuition assistance and books for sponsored students. The program provides great financial relief for many families and thus helps the children to stay in school with greater success and ease than without the assistance.

Even with the sponsorship, there are circumstances when students must leave their current school, even mid-year. Often, reasons involve the family moving due to illness or for job related opportunities. However, this makes graduation stories even more inspiring. Here is an incredible story of perseverance and success from a former sponsored student.

June 2017, Luvenson Lorvince graduated from secondary school after 11 years of sponsorship through the Starfish Kids Program. Luvenson grew up in a single-parent home, where his mother was responsible for raising him, five siblings and two of his sister's children. His mother worked hard, selling bread and roasted peanuts to provide food for her household, however, it just wasn't enough to send her children to school. Through his local church, Luvenson was accepted into the Starfish Kids Program and was matched with a Canadian sponsor. Luvenson says that, after God, his Starfish Kids sponsorship has been the most important relationship in his life as it provided him with an education he would not otherwise have had.



Thank you ...

Samantha Cineus, a Starfish Kids alumna, graduated in June 2017. She sent her sponsor the following letter:

For: My sponsor in Starfish Kids Bethesda, Letiro Bas-Limbe, Haiti

Today, I am very happy to write these lines to my supporter in Starfish Kids. I am taking this opportunity to greet all Starfish Kids supporters and my sponsor who accepted to pay for my schooling for me from first grade until I arrived in the last grade. Today, God helps me finish my classic studies. I ask God to bless this family and continue the program to help other children who are in the same situation as me. It is true, I am finished. The things I like are agriculture/farming. My family doesn't have the possibility to help me go to university. Always pray for God to help me in this plan. My supporter, may God bless you.

Thank you very, very, very much, Samantha Cineus.

Starfish Kids is a ministry of ONEMISSION OMS: ONE MISSION SOCIETY One Lord. One Life, One Calling.

Luvenson was in the 9th grade when he started getting migraines that prevented him from getting a part-time job to help provide for his family. Sometimes, the migraines even prevented him from attending school. Luvenson's family did not have enough money to take him to a doctor and at times he became frustrated, however, he was determined to do well in school.

In the third trimester of 9th grade his migraines were so intense, they prevented him from attending class. He feared he would lose his sponsorship and be forced to drop out of school. Thankfully, during this time, his teachers and pastor visited him to encourage him and they assured him he had done well enough in the first two trimesters to pass the entire year. He was able to continue his schooling!

A friend had invited him to a music class, but Luvenson said his schooling was too important to focus on anything else. His pastor encouraged him to find a hobby outside of school to help distract him from his headaches. He decided to try the class and found that he enjoyed learning to play the bass guitar. However, he was only able to attend a few classes because he didn't have enough money to continue. His pastor recognized his talent and gifted him with a second-hand bass guitar so he could continue to learn on his own. After finishing his school work and when he wasn't having a migraine, Luvenson worked hard to learn the bass guitar. He quickly became a dedicated member of his church, serving with the welcome team, on the worship team, and singing in the choir.

Luvenson continued to suffer from migraines for the rest of secondary school but his determination to finish well came to fruition and he graduated with the highest grades in his community. His dream is to attend university to become a civil engineer and help improve his country. He wants to give back and help provide opportunities in the same way they were provided for him. Luvenson believes that without education, there can be no progress for his country. He is thankful for his sponsor and the Starfish Kids Program and prays that God will continue to bless all sponsors abundantly so more children in Haiti can be helped.

Our prayer is for God to reach students like Luvenson and their families through the Starfish Kids ministry. The gift of sponsorship truly is changing lives in Haiti one child at a time. For more information on the Starfish Kids ministry and sponsorship, please call one of the numbers below or email:

mail@omscanada.org

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