



Effryne – a study in persistence!

Effryne came to our Nairobi workshop in November 2014 when she had just finished Form Three. She told us that she hoped to become an architect in the future. In particular, she wanted ‘to become a good person, someone that other people could aspire to be like, someone that people could enjoy staying with and having around.’



She also said of the Red Rubber Ball Foundation and her sponsor ‘You have made me a star and I promise to shine bright’.

When she finished school, she applied to university to be an architect, but didn’t quite get the grade so was allocated a place to do marine science instead (the system in Kenya is that they place students in degree courses according to the national need, not according to the student’s interests).

Whilst this was her only option if she wanted to go to university that year, she had her heart set on architecture. So she declined her university place and put her mind to ways of achieving her dream. We put her in touch with a manufacturing company that worked closely with several architects, and she managed to persuade them to give her some work experience which was a huge success both for her and for the company.



She joined a foundation course at college which enabled her to move on to a degree.

Effryne came back to speak at our 2018 workshop – she spoke with no notes to an audience of almost 200 people to encourage the students by telling her story. ‘I’m just a simple girl from Kibera. I had to work SO hard, but always there was that hope that eventually you’d get your dream. I heard my mother say ‘oh, but there’s no money’ so I just had to work hard and hope. After primary school, something magical happened. I was noticed by the Red Rubber Ball Foundation and I went to one of the best schools. Now I’m all grown up and chasing my dreams doing a diploma in Architecture. Keep dreaming everyone.’

Effryne is now working as part of an internship with Mutiso Menezes International, a renowned firm of architects, before returning to complete her degree.

We were so impressed with Effryne’s attitude and achievements that she was invited to become a member of our Kenya Board, representing those students receiving our scholarships.