

## **PHIONAH MIREMBE'S STORY.**

My name is Phionah Mirembe and am among the little people in status and stature. Am a proud beneficiary of Hands of Love foundation. I can clearly state that without the support from Hands of Love, I wouldn't be a person that I am today, I would be one of less value, a total failure like those I grew up with.

My journey in life has not been an easy one, it has not been just a bed of roses. Rather, it has been a journey full of ups and downs a life full of criticism and rejection, bullying from my fellow agemates, the normal kids and despised by all I came across to.

Many times, I thought of giving up schooling even though it was a struggle to be kept in there by my mother since she had less, just because of the continuous insults from fellow students that always re-echoed in my ears and I thought of them daily. I was convinced deep down that I was of no use and I would never measure up in life. I blamed God, asking Him as to why I had to be different from the rest. I envied those who take longer steps than I could, just because they had longer legs. This deprived me of all the confidence that I had and what I remained with was to walk under shadow, keeping myself behind closed doors due the fear of ridicule from people.

Besides that, home also demanded a lot. Being only two girls from a broken family where my own father never regarded me as a child. He always thought of me as a curse due to my stature. I had to struggle with all chores at home, working so hard with my mother who is a little person, too. Many times, we got food at home by chance, we lacked all the basic needs of life, I was routinely sent from to go back home for school fees yet we had to walk a crazy distance something that really challenged my stature.

It was as if the whole world was against me, I felt suffocated by the worries and cares I faced. Life became so heavy for me and I wasn't sure I would make it the following day. I had no single hope left in me, only pangs of sorrow surrounded me and no one seemed to care.

GOD is forever alive! The year 2015 was my miracle year, yes God came through for me!! He heard all my childhood prayers, my endless cries! He calmed the storms, that raging – life-threatening storm. God has so many instruments to use, this time it was the Hands of Love Foundation. Picking on me amongst the so many needy children was a testament of God' faithfulness that I will never forget in life, yes – God remembered me! For the very first time I got the true of what love feels like, I met true destine helpers, I saw a new dawn! I was offered a sponsorship opportunity which has given me a sense of stability and the assurance of a bright future that I desperately needed. I was enrolled into sponsorship, taken to a beautiful school, I made new friends and guess what: life completely changed to the positive. I was introduced to a community that cherished every single life. That was new to me! Their love was so evident that it revived my broken spirit.

It has been now ten full years with the Hands of Love Foundation taking care of me as their own child. I feel so much peaceful and loved. I am secure now and I know my identity in Christ. I

believe the Lord the is just starting up with me and there is a powerful and great woman in me. I am studying to become a nurse; I want to be a hope to others.

I greatly thank our sponsors who do all it takes to see that our lives change for the better. May God bless you most abundantly. Many thanks too, to the Hands of Love staff who accepted me unconditionally and have every child equally and with passion.

I take this opportunity to reach out to everyone that reads this article/ story, challenging you that you can be a vessel used by God to transform lives through the Hands of Love Foundation. You can put a smile on a child's face especially those with a stature like mine. With the little you give, you can change someone's life forever. The Lord will surely bless and reward you for your generosity and kindness.

And to the little people: I know you are out there with stories like mine or worse than mine and perhaps you are even scared to shared your experiences, however, I stand up to assure you that there is still hope for a better future. Don't be discouraged, there is a lot of hidden potential with in you, so rise up and shine today for God loves you dearly.

God bless you all.

Phionah Mirembe