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**MWANGAZA**  
JITEGEMEE  
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Vision for Self-Reliance

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### **BENSON NDUNGURU**

Benson was born March 12, 1998 in Songea, Tanzania. Five months after his birth Benson was abandoned by both parents leaving his already exhausted, but loving, grandmother to take care of him. In 2003 his father walked back home, but he was very sick and after a short time he passed away. In April 2005 Benson's mother returned extremely ill and looking for help from the grandmother. Benson cared for his mother until she too passed away. The entire time Benson was living with his grandmother, life was very difficult. They had no money and no source of income with Benson being so young. Though having so little, he knew he was loved by his grandma. In June 2008 his grandmother peacefully passed away.

Benson then had to go to his next of kin, his aunt. She was very angry about this and he suffered terribly by her unsympathetic and hateful treatment of him. He was deemed unworthy of any food they could come by and was forced to scavenge and beg for food. He was not given a bed or blankets or extra clothes. He was in constant fear from this new living situation as well as being a child alone on the streets with danger looming from every corner. Being a child he couldn't get a job anywhere and having no one to care for him he was never entered into any school.

One day a local government official saw Benson desperate, filthy and scavenging for food. The official approached SWACCO, the Songea Women and Children's Care Organization, which is supported by the Mwangaza Jitegemee Foundation located in Kirkland, Wa. They were asked to help the poor child. SWACCO made room and immediately accepted Benson. His needs are now provided for and he is a happy boy. The Mwangaza Jitegemee Foundation provides Benson with food, clothes, medical and clinical services and everything needed for school, including tuition fees, uniform, books and school supplies.

He enjoys a normal life which other children take for granted. Benson can now breathe a sigh of relief from the past experience and look forward for his success in the future. Currently he is in Standard V at Miembeni Primary School. He is doing well in school. He enjoys sports and music after school and likes to study.

