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**MWANGAZA**  
JITEGEMEE  
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Vision for Self-Reliance

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## JOSEPH ERNEST NGONYANI

### MY STORY

My name is Joseph Ernest Ngonyani. I was born September 3, 1998 in Songea, Tanzania.

I am the fourth born child in my family. I am the only boy and I have three sisters. Our father was a truck driver before he died in 2002. My mother died in 2008. I knew my parents before they died. In 2002, I started having livid burns in my feet and legs. They looked like I was scorched by fire. In the hospital, they diagnosed it as a hereditary disease from my parents. Those wounds never get better despite different medicines. I tried to wear shoes (only sandals). I cannot walk properly.

After our mother died, our paternal uncle distributed us. My sister Magdalena was relocated to our uncle's friend. My two remaining sisters and I refused to go because we saw the way Magdalena was being treated. It scared us. I decided to continue living in the house our mother left us by myself. My sisters moved away. Life was really hard. I didn't have any money for food, soap, school fees and other necessities. What little money that our parents had left us was taken by our uncle. I was alone and by myself. I had to try to find food from people or in garbage. I did not want to steal.

Fortunately, I now live under the SWACCO program. They provide me with a safe place to stay, good food, clothes and school fees. I like school very much and am trying to learn English. I want to grow up to help people and kids like me who do not have a good home life.

From Joseph Ernest Ngonyani

*Above is from an interview with Joseph done in August, 2012.*

SWACCO, the Women and Children's Care Organization, in partnership with the Mwangaza Jitegemee Foundation provides Joseph with food, clothes, medical and clinical services and all of his schooling needs including tuition, school uniform, books and school supplies. Currently he is in form one at Maposeni Secondary School. Joseph is doing well in school and has adjusted very well. He is very popular with the other kids. He is polite and always looking for a way to help anyone. He is a very hard worker and will not leave a

job undone. After school he likes playing football, reading his books and practicing English. Joseph is very compassionate with his friends and others. He has two very best friends, John and Edgar, they spend a lot of time together and are very protective of each other and of the other orphans. Often when he has free time to play, he will try and find someone who needs help before he will play.

