

PEFO's EDUCATION SUPPORT WAS A TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE

My name is Edyelu Tony 23 years old. I live with my aunt who is 70 years old because I lost both my parents when I was 10 years. I live in Walukuba Division, Jinja municipality in Jinja district. In 2010 when I was in senior three (S.3), life became more difficult since I was staying with a 70 year old helpless auntie. She could not afford paying my school fees yet I needed to continue with my education. She advised me to start up a small business of selling ground nuts around town to raise money for my school fees and scholastic materials. I did this for a few months but couldn't even raise money for scholastics. I became hopeless, giving up on education.

However, this same year 2010 was my life turning point. PEFO enrolled me into its Education program and started paying my school fees and providing scholastics. This was the time when I set my targets since education support was available. One of my targets that I set was being a manager at one time in any prominent company and to achieve this I had to do a practical course.

After completing my senior four, I applied for a catering course at Nile Vocational Institute in Buikwe and I was offered a placement for a diploma course of two years. I am very proud that I completed my course in August 2014 and graduated in January 2015.



Tony at Paradise Hotel his work place

I am already employed at one of the biggest hotels in Jinja, PARADISE HOTEL in the department of foods and beverage services. Part of my earnings is saved for my upgrading to a degree level and part I use it to pay for my young siblings who are also orphans. I believe my dream of becoming a manager will be fulfilled upon completion of my degree in four years time from now. I see a bright future. I also hope to use my income to help vulnerable children in community. They need a hand. They need support because they are helpless.

I thank **PEFO** and **The Stephen Lewis Foundation** for making it a success to my education and the education of other vulnerable children in Jinja. Your support has created a turning point in my life and I also look forward to helping other vulnerable children to attain education. Thank you