



Where are they now?

Keeping track of nearly 200 graduates is really important to us, here is a glimpse into some of their lives and the impact that graduating from the Academy in Nairobi has had on them and the people they love.



Killen Dhanji Academy Tutor

Killen Dhanji is the Academy Administrator and a qualified VTCT tutor, so you can imagine that she never has a quiet moment. What is often missed, is that part of Killen's role is to provide continued support to the graduates. Killen tracks each and every graduate to ensure the training they have received is put into practice and kept up to date. She is continually building relationships with salons as each year she requires to have sufficient salons to take the new students for work experience and she is constantly on the lookout for good quality salons to employ past graduates.

Killen writes....



Petronilla Njoi Makumbo Class of 2008

Petronilla lost her father when she was a young girl, no sooner than later her mother passed on too. Left with an uncle to support her whenever he could, because he too had his family to care for, her life came to a stand still. Her uncle could not assist with funds to join college so she would visit a local salon where she would help to get a little cash to cater for their food for her siblings and herself.

Life got tougher for the family but help knocked in through an organization, Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund, which assisted them and later introduced Petronilla to the Revlon P. E. A. Academy. She turned out to be one of the best students in the year 2008. Life got better as soon as she completed her final exams, she got an offer in a salon in Westlands Nairobi, but the true breakthrough came when a job interview gave her an opportunity to work near Home and in a prestigious salon in Mombasa.



Noleen Wambui Gitonga Class of 2005

Noleen's parents separated when she was young. Her Mommy had little to provide for the family since she did not have a job. She only managed to complete her primary education however she wasn't lucky with her secondary education due to lack of registration fee. The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund came to her rescue; it assisted her family with basic needs. The organization introduced her to the Academy; the organization ensured that she was provided with fare to the academy and any other support necessary... She successfully completed the one year course in the year 2005 and advanced further for level 3. She's now married and working in one of the few Caucasian Salons located in the Nairobi Karen area. She's also educating her sibling.



Simon Peter Mbuvi Class of 2004

Simon Peter Mbuvi had great dreams of becoming one of the best hairdressers in Kenya; however he had basic training from a local training centre where the training standard couldn't enable him get a job. He offered his services for free at a prestigious salon, just to be around a salon.

A job wasn't forthcoming but luckily he heard about the Academy's

sponsorship program where he applied and got a chance to be professionally trained. He got a job offer at the Tuscany's Salon & Barber shop at Riverside office park as a top hair stylist where he was placed for internship after final exams. He also furthered his training with the Academy to level 3 which gave him more confidence to venture in areas like freelance hairdressing. In addition to his salon work he is the Hairstylist for The Patricia Show a very popular chat show screened on Mnet Television.

Margaret Wairimu Muthoni Class of 2004

Margaret came from an organization called the Good Samaritans located at the Slums of Mathere. This organization caters for needy orphan children. She lost her father at a tender age; her Mom wasn't able to support the family so the organization offered a home for her and provided primary education. She also managed to get a sponsor within the organization that took her to secondary school. After attaining the year of 18, the organization would release them to the real world to care for themselves. Luckily Margaret got a sponsor who introduced her to the Academy, Flora Svensson, in the year 2004. Margaret managed to complete the one year training. She immediately got a job with one chain of successful salons called Queens Beauty Centre & Barber Shop where she did her salon internship. She's now one of the top hair stylist and giving competition to other hairdressers. Margaret has moved to an up graded house in the neighborhood. She also supports her young siblings.



Grace Wambui Njeri Class of 2007

Grace's parents separated when she was young, her mother brought her and her sister up through casual work in the South B estate. Living in the Slums of Mukuru Kayaba proved very tough for the single mother of two; providing food and school fees for the children became a big challenge however Grace got sponsored at St. Bakhita's a catholic mission centre that assists the Slum dwellers. St. Bakhita runs both a technical centre, a primary school, besides housing orphans. Grace got enrolled for the primary school, where she managed to complete her basic education and heading right to the technical centre where she undertook training for 6 months in hairdressing. She successfully completed as one of the top students, luck not only stroke twice, but again, she was selected with others to join the Academy for a one year training in hairdressing.



To our surprise, she became student of the year 2007. Getting a job proved tough for Grace but her passion for hair proved unstoppable, she would freelance from salon to salon, estate to the heart of Mukuru slums, her efforts were rewarded handsomely when an interview turned out successfully, she was offered a job in one of the newest Professional salons in Mombasa. Grace is looking forward to joining the 2010 class, for level 3 at the Academy.

Moses Maina Wambui Class of 2007

Moses comes from a single parent family in the Slums of Kiambui located in the Uhuru estate, after completing primary education with good grades his mother was not able to take him to secondary school, bored, idle and peer pressure, he joined a gang of street boys, for four years he lived, fed and engaged himself to all manner of street activities including drug abuse.



Life got worse in the streets and Moses took a tough change in his life when he met Mr. Mike Osir who runs Uzima Rehabilitation Centre, he took him in and introduced him to Goal Kenya where he trained for four months in hairdressing, later the centre helped Moses and a friend open a small salon which only ran for two years due to the challenges they faced including unprofessional training and lack of experience. Luckily Moses got to hear about the Academy from a former street boy who had successfully joined the academy a year before. Through the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund, Moses was offered a chance to train professionally, a chance he had to wait for 3 years.

He managed to complete the training in the year 2007; he immediately got a job offer in the same salon where he did his salon internship at the Queens Beauty Centre & Barber Shop Nairobi. Moses has successfully managed to move to better neighborhood, two bed roomed house, he's also assisting his sibling get educated and have a roof over their heads. We wish Moses success as he sits for his level 3 exams in December at the academy.



Cornelius Muema Musyoka Class of 2006

Cornelius story is one of passion for hairdressing, after completing both primary and secondary education he did casual jobs from different companies, where he saved cash to enable him to enroll in a hair and beauty school since his parents were not able to take him to a college. However the training did not land him a good position in the salon industry, he began as a shampoo person. He left his wife and young family back in Mombasa to seek his dream in Nairobi. He lived in one of the largest slums in Nairobi named Kabira. His desire to work in a modern salon saw him take a chance many will not venture into, to work as a cleaner in one of the popular salons in Kenya, so as to be able to learn from big names in the hair industry. The salon's owner couldn't help notice the talent, keenness and passion of Cornelius, he personally recommended him to the academy for professional training.

After successfully completing the training in the year 2006 he worked in two salons which offered less than he was looking for to help him grow into a renowned hair Guru. This opportunity came through an interview with the proprietor of the 2 Escape Salons where he was offered a job as a hairdresser. He completed his level 3 training and worked his way up to become employee of the year and assistant Manager in the salon. In the 2008 election riots he witnessed his best friends murder and his house with all he owned burned to the ground. Despite this trauma, his dedication to the industry saw him promoted to a more prestigious position as a manager for the 2 Escape 2 Mombasa, where he's currently running the salon successfully and of course happily reunited with his family.

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