



## Schooling for Life

Newsletter December 2018

Edition 9

### New students

This year's application process opened on the 26th of February and ended on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2018. Over 80 youths applied and 14 were accepted into Schooling for Life.

We would like to congratulate and welcome the new students into the organisation and wish them an amazing journey through the Skills for a Successful Future programme.

*"Throughout the Schooling for Life application process, I have learned among other things how to be patient and committed as I paid many visits to the office to submit one document after another."* Abibatu Conteh - one of the successful applicants.



### Inauguration of new students

On the 31st of August 2018, we celebrated the inauguration of our 14 new students into the organisation. In attendance of the inauguration ceremony were; the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, all staff of Schooling for Life, our new students and their guardians. By way of inaugurating them into the organisation, the students and their guardians signed their MOUs with us and all the new students received a brand new Schooling for Life T-shirt and ID card. The joy felt was all we can ask for when new futures are being started by our new students.

### Introduction Week

Before the start of the academic year, we organised an introduction week for our new students. During this week, they met their fellow SfL students, were introduced to role model Sierra Leoneans, who went through vocational education as well, and they received master classes on Hunger for Success and building self-confidence, from two different trainers, and so much more...

We want to thank Africell for facilitating the location and all those who supported with their time and effort, especially Mdm. Victoria Pratt, Mr. Joe Abass Bangura and Mdm. Christine Sesay.



"The presentation on the importance of vocational education that was done by Madam Victoria Pratt, serves as a motivation to me." – Samuel S. Koroma 1<sup>st</sup> year Student

"The presentation on the positive use of social media has taught me to be careful with the things I post on my Facebook page" – Kadiatu A. Bangura 1<sup>st</sup> year student

### ***Our student leaders are stepping up!***

We are working tirelessly to give our students the right training to make them stand out in everything they do. By doing that, we have not only succeeded in helping our students get jobs and internships, but two of our Government Technical Institute (G.T.I) students have stepped it up as well. John N. Sesay is now the student union president of G.T.I and Amara Bangura is the secretary General of the union. They are making big strides towards their successful future.

*"As the prefect of Schooling for Life, I had a lot of leadership trainings and that has helped in many ways today and that is the step I am following."* John N. Sesay – Third year student

### ***Academic year 2018/2019 has started***

As the academic year started, so did our employability skills classes. The first year students have attended their English Language, Mathematics and Soft Skills classes and all passed their first exams. We wish all our new students a successful year!

Next to the workbooks for English Language and Maths, we have now also developed a customised curriculum and workbook for Soft Skills. Thank you to our longstanding partner Africell SL, for sponsoring the printing and binding of all our workbooks.

### ***Progress of Our Students***

#### *Our second group of students*

Our students at the Government Technical Institute (G.T.I) have passed their exams and are now in their final year.

We are extremely happy for our students at the College of Business and Information Technology (COBIT) as they have received their Diploma in CompTIA N+ (Networking). Schooling for Life would like to congratulate you for a job well done.

Students of the Institute of Advanced Management and Technology (IAMTECH) are awaiting their final year examination results and are on their way to the job market.

And last but not least, the students of the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology (MMCET) Polytechnic have taken both their final internal and National Council for Technical Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA) exams and are presently awaiting results.

### *Our first group of students*

With our two Web Development students from BlueCrest College officially graduating with a Professional degree, our first students have officially completed the Skills for a Successful Future programme. Congratulations to Patrick J. Mambu and Sylvester Mansaray! Patrick is now working as the Office Admin Assistant of Schooling for Life and Sylvester is due to start his internship. Well done!

Our Network Engineering students at BlueCrest College are also in line to follow, as they are completing their final module. Finally, our Secretarial students have taken their NCTVA examination and are awaiting their results.

### ***New Internship opportunities for our students***

We are very proud of our Social work students who have started their internships. Two of the students are working with Don Bosco Fambul, a local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that supports street children and youth in need. We are already receiving word from Don Bosco Fambul that our students are proving themselves to be hard workers and proactive thinkers. Our third Social work student is attached to the Family Support Unit (FSU) at the Sierra Leone Criminal Investigation Department, Freetown (CID). FSUs are part of the CID of the Sierra Leone Police and are tasked to deal primarily with physical and sexual assault and cruelty to children. Also this student is generating positive feedback from her supervisors. We are very proud of their achievements already.

### ***A visit to National Museum and the Peace Museum***

As a way to help students acquire knowledge outside the classroom and broaden their horizons, Schooling for Life organises field visits. This year, our students visited two major museums in Freetown. The museums visited were the National Museum and the Peace Museum.



Many questions were asked and the students were impressed with all the new information they encountered.

### ***Schooling for Life Fundraiser***



On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, Schooling for Life Foundation hosted the *Support for a Successful Future Fundraising Dinner* in the Netherlands, on behalf of Schooling for Life in Sierra Leone.

During the evening, guests were introduced to Schooling for Life, her work and the students, by founder and country director, Sjerly Pereira.

After the delicious (sponsored) dinner, guests showed their tremendous support during the art auction. All items were sold and together with the additional

contributions, over €30.000 was raised for our work! We want to wholeheartedly thank all the sponsors of the evening and all our guests, who overwhelmed us with their support. It was a bigger success than we could have ever dreamed.

## *Partnership with Africell Sierra Leone*

Africell Sierra Leone, the biggest telecommunications company in the market of Sierra Leone, has supported Schooling for Life from the start. We thank them for their continuous support to our work by providing us with the facility for our employability skills training, by sponsoring the printing and binding of our skills training workbooks and all the extra support they give us.

Together we are working on a stronger workforce for Sierra Leone and a better future for our youth.



## *Partnerships in the Netherlands*

To all our other partners; Latour Foundation, MWH4impact and Stichting Autonomia, thank you for supporting us financially and otherwise, and thank you for believing in us as we build towards more skilful youth in Sierra Leone! Our work would not be possible without you.

## *Vacancies (Voluntary) in the Netherlands*



The volunteers in the Netherlands are the behind the scenes support system of Schooling for Life Sierra Leone. Do you want to help us and be part of this driving force, do you know somebody or do you want to receive more information? Send an e-mail to [info@schoolingforlife.net](mailto:info@schoolingforlife.net) or visit our website [www.schoolingforlife.net](http://www.schoolingforlife.net) for more information.

## *Support for a Successful Future!*

Do you want to help the youth in Sierra Leone create a better and independent life for themselves and their families? Please help Schooling for Life accomplish this with your donation.

### **Donations done in/to the Netherlands**

Send your donation to:

Rabobank

Schooling for Life,

Account number (IBAN):

NL49 RABO 0171749022

BIC Code: RABONL2U

Rabobank, The Hague

### **Donations done in/to Sierra Leone**

Send your donation to:

United Bank for Africa

Schooling for Life

Leones account number:

540110030005931

(Charlotte Street branch)

If you want to subscribe to this newsletter, please go to [www.schoolingforlife.net](http://www.schoolingforlife.net).

## *As we come to the end of 2018...*

***We wish all our partners, sponsors, volunteers, staff and all supporters of Schooling for Life and their families, a safe and happy Christmas and all the very best for a healthy and prosperous 2019.***