

Dear iStepUp Scholarship Selection Committee and Generous Sponsors,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Mary Tamvekenji and I am one of the incredibly grateful nursing students you are supporting through the iStepUp Scholarship. As I have just completed the third semester of my studies, I wanted to share an update on my journey and express my sincere gratitude for your investment in my future.

The past semester was both challenging and immensely rewarding. The primary focus of my studies was 5 key courses, Medical-Surgical Nursing , Clinical Medical Surgical nursing, Community health nursing, Clinical Community health nursing and Principal and practice of education, This curriculum pushed me to deepen my understanding of complex disease processes and the critical role of medication management in patient care. Alongside the demanding coursework, I completed my clinical rotations at [Name of Hospital or Clinical Site] at zomba central hospital on the Male medical ward and Out patient department.

This hands-on experience was truly transformative. It was here that the theory from my textbooks came to life. I had the privilege of assisting in the care of patients with a variety of conditions, honing my skills in patient assessments, medication administration, and wound care. More importantly, I learned the profound value of compassionate communication. One particular moment that will stay with me was when I was able to sit with an anxious patient before their surgery, simply listening to their concerns. It was a powerful reminder that nursing is not just a science, but a deeply human art.

Balancing the rigorous academic load with clinical hours was a test of my time management and resilience, but it has prepared me in ways I never imagined. There were long nights of studying and early mornings on the unit, but each challenge solidified my passion for this profession. I am proud to share that I end of semester results in the attached photo and I feel more confident and prepared than ever to transition into the role of a professional nurse.

None of this would be possible without your belief in me. The iStepUp Scholarship did more than just alleviate financial pressure; it empowered me to fully immerse myself in my studies and clinical practice without the constant worry of educational expenses. You have not only invested in my education but also in the future patients whose lives I will touch.

As I look ahead to my next semester and eventual graduation, I am filled with excitement and purpose. I am committed to upholding the values of the iStepUp program—excellence, compassion, and service—throughout my nursing career.

Thank you again for your generous support and for being a vital part of my journey to become a competent and caring nurse.

With deepest gratitude,

Mary Tamvekenji
Malawi Adventist university-Malamulo campus