



PEACE HOUSE AFRICA

EDUCATE - NURTURE - INNOVATE

## STUDENT PROFILES

### Zainabu Kasim



Until recently, Zainabu spent her days watching everything she loved slowly die. Her mother and father both died of HIV/AIDS. Zainabu then lived with extended family that became abusive, both physically and emotionally. She was often denied food and regarded as little better than slave labor.

Far removed now from the forces meant to stifle her hopes and smother her growth, Zainabu is now one of the most promising students at Peace House Secondary School (PHS). As a member of the school's Young Farmers Club, she is entrusted with the care of the school's gardens and is

surrounded by new life. Zainabu hopes one day to become a business woman - perhaps an accountant - because she considers this the best chance she has to one day help other orphans like herself.

### Eric & Elias Mbaga



In 2005, Eric and Elias' father died of AIDS. Their mother would die just a short time later. The twins shared the grief that comes with profound loss and the fear of a very uncertain future. In 2008, the boys learned that they had been selected to join PHS. Elias is in the Construction Club. Eric joined the Cooking Club and is planning to campaign for student government next year. Both boys are very well liked and are good participants in class and after school activities.

Ask them what the future now holds, and each boy will paint a much different picture than they would have just a short time ago. Eric wishes to become an HIV/AIDS educator to help others avoid the fate of his mother and father. Elias would like to be a doctor in order to offer people relief from their suffering.

Eric and Elias Mbaga share everything. And while the pain and fear they experienced together will forever be a part of who they are, at PHS they have found a home where the loneliness they shared has been replaced by the love and support of a caring staff and friendly classmates. At Peace House, the twins now share something they never permitted themselves to feel — Eric and Elias Mbaga now share hope.