



**THANK YOU  
FOR WALKING  
WITH RUTH**





# RUTH HAS GRADUATED

Look back at her journey with us







## JOINING NEW ROUTES

In March 2021, New Routes Foundation embarked on a search for our first-ever beneficiaries. After months of going through applications, interviewing potential beneficiaries and home visits to potential beneficiaries (as pictured below), Ruth was selected as one of our four pioneer beneficiaries.



Ruth's home visit

## RUTH'S INITIAL STORY

"I came from a broken home. My mother left us when we were young and my father was given to alcohol. My grandmother took in my three siblings and I. I had to start working at the quarry at the early age of 10 to help provide for our needs - my job was to crush large rocks. Being selected by New Routes Foundation revived my hope, and I cannot wait to pursue my dream of being a journalist."



Ruth crushing stones



Ruth's grandmother at their home



Ruth and her grandmother on induction day





## JOINING NEW ROUTES

**In June 2021, Ruth joined us together with three other beneficiaries. They stayed with us for three months before joining university where they were taught our courses: Soft Skills, Health and Wellbeing, Computer Skills, Financial Management. The courses were very practical in nature with application days after each course. She was also disciplined and mentored by our team. The mentorship and discipleship continued throughout university with weekly mentorship meetings.**



Ruth, Dennis, Gideon and Abi on their Soft Skills Application day



Ruth receiving her new laptop



Interview Skills Application Day



Ongoing Soft Skills Lessons



Health & Wellbeing Application Day





## PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY

**Within the three months that Ruth lived at NRF before joining the university, she developed a good rapport with her fellow beneficiaries and also the New Routes staff.**

**In September 2021, Ruth joined KCA University in Nairobi to study Journalism and Digital Media. The journey with New Routes continued with weekly online mentorship sessions and mentorship and discipleship activities through the holidays.**



**Learning to use a laptop**



**Meeting one of her sponsors**



**Celebration before joining uni**



**Learning to play monopoly**



**Attending church**



**Celebration before joining uni**



**Hike with Storm and Sophie**



**Packing for university**



**First day at uni accommodation**





## UNIVERSITY LIFE

Ruth enjoyed her university life. She was part of the Christian Union community and volunteered with a children's home near her residence.

For her personal project, she went back to her village and did a series of interviews on various taboo topics and how they are affecting her community. She has published some of these videos on YouTube. One of the videos is 'Surviving Illegally' which brings to light the stories of women brewing illicit liquor in her village.



Polishing camera skills



Dressed up for internship



Mentorship with Sophie



At the children's home



Mentorship with Mercy



Visit to Ruth's home



Dinner with everyone during the holidays



Shooting a video for her personal project





## GRADUATION DAY

What an honour it has been for us to witness this part of Ruth's journey and to walk it with her to completion. She now holds a Diploma in Journalism and Digital Media from KCA University.

We are not just proud of her academic achievements but more so the woman she has become. It is a great joy to know that her life, her family's life, and society in general is impacted positively because of the holistic growth she has experienced. Above all we are grateful that she has grown in her knowledge of Jesus Christ.







## TESTIMONIALS

**“When I first heard about New Routes, I was not sure about entrusting my granddaughter to them because they were strangers. Storm, Sophie and Mercy visited me in my home and after I got to know them better, I trusted them. They took my child to university and paid everything from school fees, food, and rent. It was a great relief. She would come home from time to time and I could see how much she was growing and changing. She is now an example to many people in our village. I am very proud of her.**

**New Routes is part of my family and they have visited me many times. They care not only about Ruth’s wellbeing but us also. Because of their support, a huge burden was lifted from my shoulders. I have educated her three other siblings. I saved up and bought a Friesian cow that produces a lot of milk, which when I sell, supplements the income from my small farm. I have also been able to build a better house and I am happy that we now have a graduate in the house who sets an example for not only my other grand children but also other people in our community. Asante sana New Routes.”**

**- Ruth’s Grandmother**



From left: Ruth’s siblings Eugene and Faith, and her Grandmother Esther

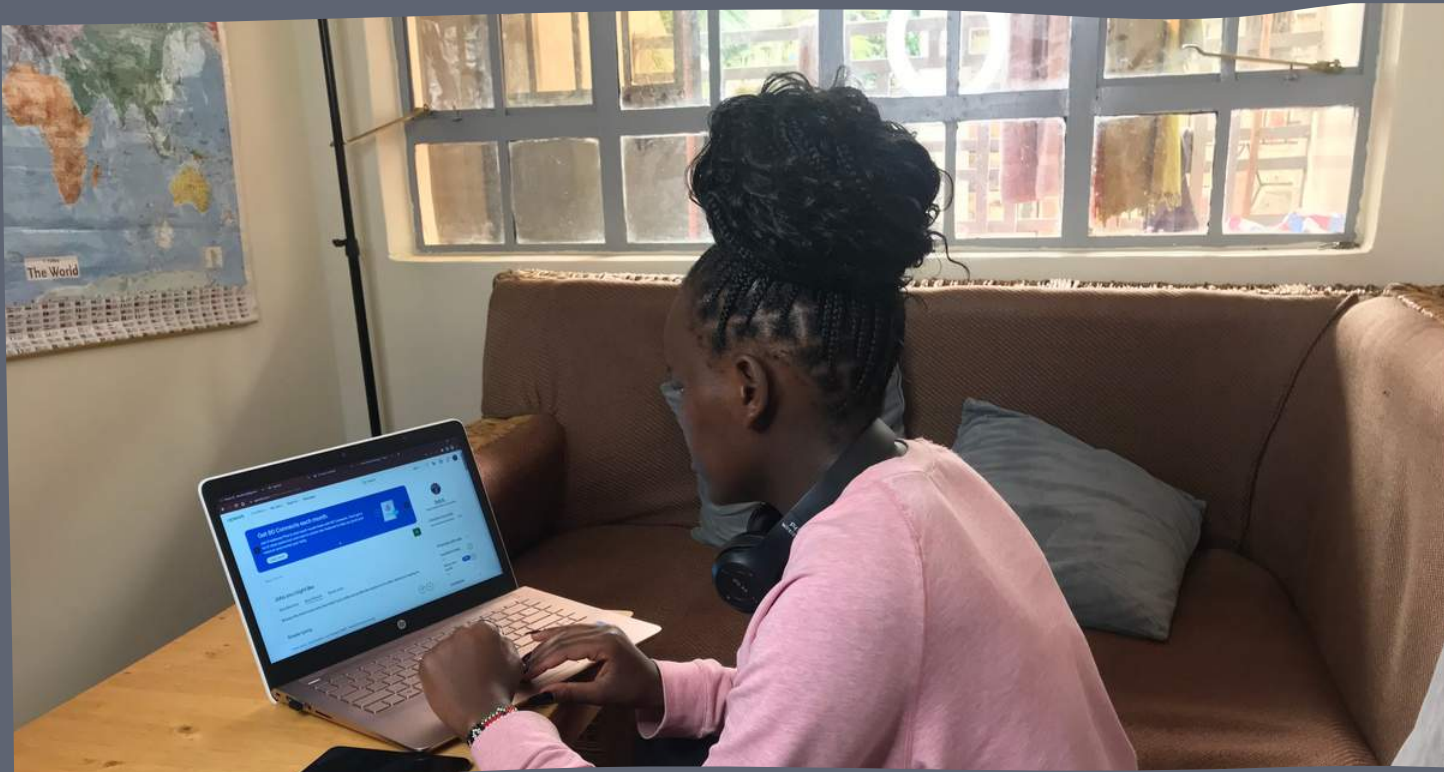


New Routes staff visiting Ruth’s family’s new house

**“I would like to thank New Routes for taking my younger sister through University and giving her a chance to even know Nairobi. Thank you for being part of our family. Through your kindness, grandma was able to take me to college to study a short course in videography because my sister inspired me. Thank you!”**

**- Ruth’s Elder Brother**





## **LIFE AFTER UNIVERSITY**

**Ruth has been doing well ever since she cleared her course work. She went for a three month internship with the Media Council at her home town where she learnt a lot about print media and writing news articles. She then came to the New Routes office and has been applying for jobs both online and in person.**



**She has been freelancing on an online platform where she has been given some translation and video editing jobs. She also volunteers with the media team at Calvary Chapel Church, Eldoret where she creates content for their social media pages, as well as helping out New Routes with their social media.**



**She is looking to find a fulltime job within journalism where she can continue telling stories that drive positive change in her community. It has been a great honor for us to walk beside her as she builds her career as a journalist.**







## **THANK YOU FROM RUTH**

**It still feels like yesterday when I went for the New Routes interview, so oblivious of how much my life would change. I did not have a lot of expectations as I had not done very well in my high school exam (because I was working during COVID rather than studying).**

**Where I come from, the path always seemed to be set before us; finish high school then spend the rest of your life doing manual jobs to support your family - just like my aunts, grandmother and many others before them.**

**When New Routes called to tell me that I had been accepted to their programme, I was just as shocked as I was excited. It marked the beginning of a beautiful journey - one that I could never have imagined the day I joined them. A journey of experiencing God's love, growing in His word, learning how to handle my emotions, joining university...I cannot say it all.**

**Through the help of New Routes, I have changed the narrative in my home and village. I have been guided and have grown all round, from my faith, to my skills, socially and even mentally. I have been brought up, corrected, and nurtured in love, to be of godly character.**

**I would like to specially thank all my sponsors for not only financing my education but also encouraging me, sharing their lives with me, praying for me and treating me like their own. I have always felt their support.**

**Surely the time spent with New Routes has been incredible not only to me but also to my family. Thank you so much for making a dream that seemed so far fetched come true and blessing me more than I could imagine. I am looking forward with hope because I know I have the tools to take on my career and life in general because of how much I have gained courtesy of New Routes Foundation.**

**THANK YOU!**