



NORLIE LAZARD

Degree Program: Nursing

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Norlie Lazard is a bright and happy young lady from the village of Galette Chambon. She was twenty-one years old when she graduated high school because for most of her school age years, she had to take turns going to school with her other siblings. Norlie has five brothers and a sister, and they were raised by their single mother. Her mother did not have a reliable source of income, so very often Norlie had to sit out of school and wait for her turn to be able to go to school. Her mother could barely afford tuition for one child, much less seven! When Norlie could not go to school, she would continue studying her books so that she would not fall behind in her learning. As soon as it was her turn to go to school again, she would take a test to see what level she was on, and nearly every year she would score high enough on the test to skip a grade and stay fairly close to where she should be in school. It became harder when she reached the 7th grade, so Norlie decided to apply for a BGM Sponsorship so that she could stay in school. It took a long time for her to get sponsored, but in the meantime, Norlie would work by cleaning people's houses in the village to try to save up money to pay her own tuition. She eventually got a sponsorship and that allowed her to focus completely on her studies and rise up to the top ten of her class. During her senior year she heard that BGM was offering scholarships to a local university to the top ten graduates of her class. She was determined to work hard and stay in the top ten so that she could be one of the ones that got to go to the university. She had no idea what she wanted to study, but she figured she would be able to decide on something when the time came. She was interested in medicine, but she didn't decide to study nursing until after she went with her classmates to the university on a field trip. As soon as she heard the administrator describe the nursing program, she knew that was what she wanted to do.

Norlie loves being in the nursing program with all of her friends. They study together all the time and they encourage one another. They even got laptops from BGM so that they could do their assignments for classes. She had never even owned a phone much less a laptop. This made her feel so blessed and smart! Her favorite thing about going to the university her first year was staying in the dormitory. Norlie had never been anywhere outside her village before she graduated. Living in the dormitory with her friends made her feel grown up and responsible. She loved going to her classes every day and listening to her professors. She felt like she learned more that first year in college than she had learned her entire life! The second year of college has been incredibly difficult. They never even got to move back into their dorms after summer break because the university was attacked by a violent gang, and the professors couldn't safely get to the college to teach classes. Two of them were even kidnapped on their way to work! The school decided to switch to online classes and students would find ways to attend their classes by going online on their laptops. It was very difficult to do this because most of her friends don't even have electricity in their houses to keep their laptops charged. They would go to Hope Center every day and charge their laptops, and then in the afternoon, they would search for a place in the village where they could find some service. A couple of her friends who had phones would use their phone as a hot spot and they would all logon with their laptops and watch their lectures. They never knew from one day to the next where they would have class. Most of the time it was under a tree in some random field in the village. Some days they couldn't find internet at all and they would have to miss class. All of that is about to change now that BGM has rented the students a house in town to live in where they will have electricity and a signal for wifi. She is so happy that they will all be together again! Most of all she is thankful to BGM for choosing her for a scholarship so that she can learn to be a nurse!

