

Letter of appreciation from Funelakhe Duze (a first-year student at UCT studying for a Bcom in Accounting) to Steve Sherman, MD of Living Maths. Funelakhe was a Living Maths student and is now a Prudential bursary scholar through Studietrust.

Good Day Steve

15 October 2014

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the contribution you have made into my life thus far. I appreciate all the support and benefits I got and still have to date.

You saw the need to support students from disadvantaged background by giving them a chance to excel in studies through maths. You believed in students who at times do not believe in themselves.

I heard about the Tutoring classes from a friend after June exams in grade 11. At the time I was getting code 6 in maths. ever since I started attending, I started to get code 7 up until the final exams. In grade 12, I had 100% attendance, despite having to wake up at 6 am for 7 am classes. I was so motivated, not only in maths but all my subjects. R1 000 was always at the back of my mind whenever I practice maths because I knew I need it as my father earn roughly R4 000 per month and he is the only one working, what made it worse is that I was not staying with him so I was not getting anything from his salary. I was staying with my grandmother and grant was the only income at home. Thank you for the calculators as well, I also got a nice watch by the end of the year as being the best student in class. This came as a surprise as there was some students from Private school who usually intimidates me in class by.

I managed to get 5 Distinctions, maths was one of those. As far as I know. I am the first to get maths distinction my school Phandulwazi High school since my school was opened in 2005. I was honored to be part of Western Cape awards. Where I walked away with R8 000.

I received a call from you and I told you that I have not got any bursary offers then you recommended me to study trust. My sponsor Prudential portfolio managers pay R85 000 yearly. My family do not even know the real meaning of this amount and they can't believe my fees. What else could I ask for?

I believe you have been behind all my success thus far, and I want to assure you that you have invested in right person. I owe you a lot and I believe that the best way to repay you for all of this is, is to do what you did to me.

I was helping out grade 12 students this year from time to time. next year I am planning to have about 20 grade 12 students whom I will mentor and tutor as well. I will invite them to university so that they can get a taste of what to expect. I plan to give them all the necessary information about tertiary education. I will assist them when they apply for tertiary and help them get a lot of bursary application forms.

Lastly, I have grown as a person, university has opened my eyes. I plan to start a business, Yes a business, I am still working on my plan, slowly. Until I am sure what I want and getting good people involve. I believe its never too early to follow your dreams.

In my community I give hope to hopeless kids because of you. You've worked so well behind the scenes. I Thank YOU

In your legacy, I believe.

Yours Sincerely

Funelakhe Duze (UCT 1st year Bcom Acc)