



Young Vikings Football Academy

Keynsham Town Football Club (KTFC) became aware of the Young Vikings Football Academy via a local male nurse at the RUH Bath, Ladi who plays football on a Sunday morning for a Bristol based club. The Academy is based in Zambia and needed kit and equipment to help

the lads develop their footballing skills. Initially KTFC donated a brand-new box of football and these were very well received. The Academy produced a brilliant video which was sent to the club thanking us for our generosity and how much the balls were welcomed. Since that time, football boots and training equipment have been collected and will be given to Ladi at the game. Other options to support Young Vikings Football Academy are being explored.

Today Ladi is visiting the club to see our game against Hengrove and get to meet our club officials and supporters. Below is Ladi's story on his journey to this country and the dreams he has of supporting young Zambian children in the love of football and sport in general.



A message from Ladi

Having had played football all my life, I had a real opportunity to see the good that sport can bring into a child's experience of life, especially the vulnerable one. Being an orphan myself, football was especially the reason I did not end up on the streets drunk and violent like most of my peers. Once the dream was set, it remained an anchor, which everything else is still based upon. For this child its no longer about just money but essentially joy, creating good memories and actualising dreaming. The

direction to take in life is easier to see when you are anchored. And this is what

I do. I try to give those children who have no one to give him or her a shot at life, a real chance to salvage something. With resources I would include other sports but football is what I know well.

I understand that 90% may not grow into successful soccer stars, but I know 100% will go on better equipped to deal with life than otherwise. This is enough reason for me. So, I took an open arms approach and recruited many children to play a game that they love. If only to have 2 hours each day to look forward to, that they don't have to worry about food or clothes or even shelter, I recon that's a good gig, and their young brains can dare to see life from a brighter perspective. Often this is all that matters, perspective.



I had done this single handily from 2017 until I came to the UK in 2023. At this point I rely on my sister and the coach that I employed to carry on the work. My wife and I now fund the project from here. Things have slightly improved now because I'm making a much more decent amount working as a nurse than I did back home. However, there is a lot of work that still remains to be done and any kind of help we can get tremendously helps these little souls.

Along the way I grew to love these kids and couldn't care anymore about money or resources that I surely didn't have. It was all about seeing them dare to dream, the enthusiasm in their eyes. I was their parent away from home and a reference point in their lives. I've never been the same again.



I'm currently nursing old people in the Royal United Hospital Bath and this has given me an amazing opportunity to compare and contrast between things that matter in childhood and in old age.

Thank You, Yours Sincerely, Ba Chungi (Ladi)