



October 2020 Newsflash

2020 INSPiRE!africa Fundraiser – Saturday November 21

It's almost time again for our annual fundraiser! The fundraiser will go ahead in November, but will look a little different this year. In order to keep everyone safe, it will be held virtually. As usual we have lots of interesting things in store for you including first hand accounts of the impact of COVID-19 on Rwanda's genocide survivors and how your donations are making a difference.

Please join us

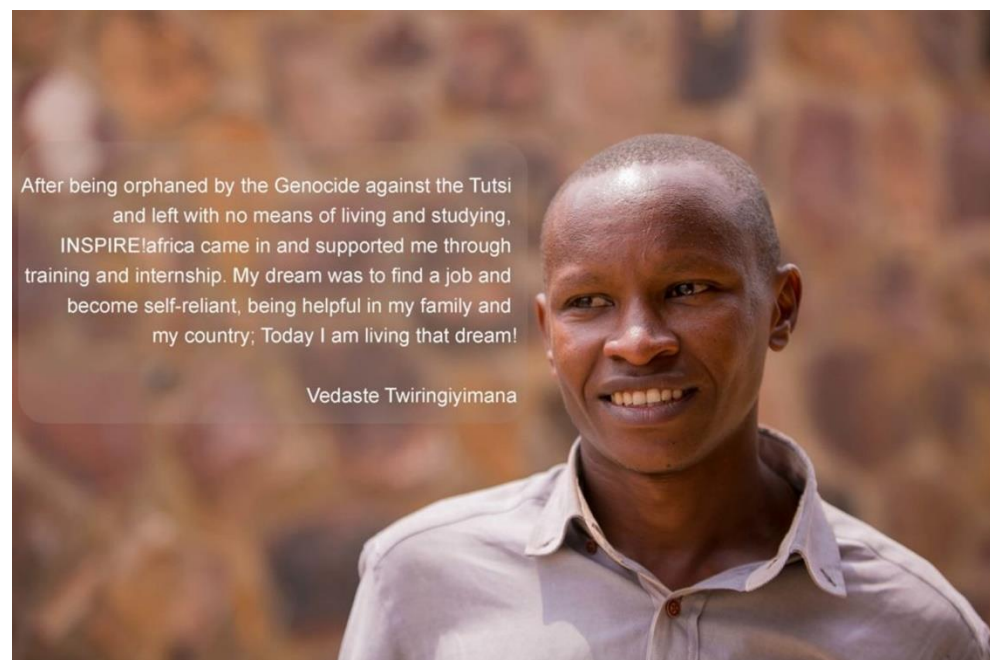
Date: Saturday November 21, 7-8 pm

Locations: Zoom – link will be sent after you register

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/were-in-this-together-supporting-rwandas-survivors-during-covid-times-tickets-124502431123>

Cost: free!

News from our Partner, Survivors Fund (SURF)



Our Rwandan partner organization SURF (Survivor's Fund) has put together [this video](#) about the INSPIRE!africa funded Youth Entrepreneurship and Internship Training Program. The aim of the program is to provide valuable entrepreneurship skills to vulnerable young adults, and of reducing youth unemployment in Rwanda. The film demonstrates the very real impact that your donations are having on the lives of youth genocide survivors (those whose parents and relatives were killed during the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda).

INSPIRE!africa has been supporting this program since its inception in 2012. With the support of your donations, 1,000 youth have received training through Akazi Kanoze, a youth livelihood project in Rwanda working with youth aged 14-35. This age group accounts for about 70% of the Rwandan population.

SURF is doing this work in partnership with two organizations dedicated to youth; National Association of Genocide Survivors (AERG) and National Survivor's Association of Graduate Students (GAERG). These organizations are mentioned in the film.

- AERG is an association of student survivors of the genocide. It is run by students for students and its main mission is to connect and represent all student survivors attending university or secondary school. They assist students overcome trauma, homelessness and financial problems.
- GAERG is an organisation founded by Rwandan graduate genocide survivors. Their mission is to create a world where the memory of the Genocide against the Tutsi is preserved.
- FARG (Fund for Vulnerable Survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi), also mentioned in the video, was established in 1998 to provide assistance to vulnerable genocide survivors.

We are thankful to SURF for preparing this video and for their tremendous work to support Rwanda's youth survivors.

Garden of Memory

During the pandemic, work has continued on the Garden of Memory at Nyanza Genocide Memorial Centre in Kigali where 5,000 victims were killed after Belgian soldiers who were serving in the United Nations peacekeeping forces abandoned them. Construction started in April, 2019. The Garden will symbolise life and rebirth after the genocide, as well as the protection that nature provided to many during the genocide.

The garden will cover 3 hectares and along with many natural elements, will include an open lawn and amphitheatre for gathering during commemoration ceremonies, a flame of hope, and a place for meditation, relaxation, and reflection.

The hope is that the garden will be fully completed in time for the commemoration in 2021, so when we can travel to Rwanda again, we will add this to our itinerary materials and training to start this enterprise that will help ensure girls and women have access to reusable feminine hygiene products and can fully participate in school and employment. Thank-you Eveline!



How you can donate:

Canada Helps: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/inspireafrica-foundation/>

E-transfer: info@inspireafrica.org

Mail: Send cheque to 102-520 Cedar Cres. SW, Calgary, AB T3C 2Y8

Take Care

COVID-19 reminds us how connected we really are to each other. We are all in this together. Take care of yourself and each other, and stay safe.

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