

INSPIRE! africa!

JANUARY 2020 NEWSFLASH

Happy New Year

Firstly, we want to sincerely apologize for the lateness of this update. Since our November fundraiser we have been having challenges with our website and our ability to get news out to you. We have identified the problem and it is being addressed. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

2019 Fundraiser – Another Great Success

Thanks to all who attended our 13th Annual Fundraiser. You will be pleased to know that we raised **\$87,000**. This is a fantastic accomplishment, especially since Calgary has been in an economic slump for almost 5 years now. Thank you so much. For those who were not able to attend, here is an overview of what you missed.

For the second year in a row, we used a pub night format at the Renfrew Community Centre for our fundraiser. It was a great evening with lots of buzz in the room while guests bid on silent auction items, shopped at our popular African market, and munched on delicious pub food.

Melchior Cyusa, president of the Rwandan Canadian Society of Calgary, spoke to us about his experience during the genocide as well as his impressions of Rwanda now and then. Melchior was 9 years old at the time of the genocide and came from a family of 12. He lost 7 of his family members during the first week, and said that survival was a daily miracle during the 100 days of killing. He came to Canada in 2008 as a refugee, is now married with 2 young children. Thank you so much to Melchior for sharing his story with us.

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to help make the evening a success, from the reception and set up to those who cooked the food and cleaned up at the end of the night. We couldn't have done it without you!



Update on 2019 Activities

Here is an update on the difference you made in Rwanda with the **\$102,000** that you donated at last year's fundraiser. **Because of You...**

- **13 students attended vocational training** in culinary arts and hospitality, hairdressing, shoe repair, electronics, mechanics, and film and television.
- **30 households were given solar lights**, allowing students to study, and elders to socialize in the evenings instead of going to bed at sunset (around 6:00 pm).
- **3 houses were rebuilt** providing 3 families with a much needed safe and secure home.
- **57 pigs** were given to 62 survivors.
- **46 chickens** were given to 23 survivors.
- **Hundreds of youth** have benefitted from the helpline and legal counselling.
- **Many graduates of the youth entrepreneurship program**, including Claudine (below), received a loan to start their own businesses.

Your Donations at Work

Claudine is 26 years old and survived the genocide with only three of her siblings. She now has a bachelor's degree in Finance and has attended the youth entrepreneurship training program. After completing the training, she got a temporary job conducting surveys. She used her savings from that job to start a business selling construction and electricity materials in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. She has invested about \$1,500 of her own money in her business, but needed double that to be successful. So, she applied and received a loan from INSPIRE!africa.

She says "I am happy today that I have started a business after hard times looking for a job. This business has increased my hope for the future and I believe with hard work and integrity, I will grow a big business. I have been in business for 6 months now and I make a profit of about \$450 a month".

That is a lot of money in Rwanda!



On behalf of survivors, THANK YOU for your support!

2020 Volunteer Trip to Rwanda

Unfortunately, we did not have enough people sign up for the 2020 Volunteer Trip to Rwanda. We are disappointed; however, we will consider a trip in 2021. So, if you have been contemplating a trip with us, please contact Margaret at mmcq@telus.net. During the trip, you will have an opportunity to meet survivors and hear their stories, help survivors improve their English, see the projects we support, and visit genocide memorial sites. It really is a trip of a lifetime.



2020 Rwanda Genocide Commemoration in Calgary

Each April, the Calgary Rwanda community arranges a memorial to the genocide victims. We are pleased to announce that Sam Munderere, the CEO of our Rwanda partner organization, SURF (Survivors Fund) will be the key note speaker at the memorial this year. We are thrilled that he is able to make this trip to Canada. We will be arranging other opportunities for you to meet Sam and hear about the remarkable work of SURF. Stay tuned.

Making a Difference

It is never too late to make a difference in Rwanda with a donation. Here are your options:

- Send a cheque to 102-520 Cedar Cres. SW, Calgary AB T3C 2Y8
- Donate through [Canada Helps](#). Please be aware that Canada Helps charges an administration fee.
- Send an e-transfer using our email address info@inspireafrica.org
- Set up a monthly donation

For more information about the last 2 options, please contact us at info@inspireafrica.org.

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From all of us at INSPIRE!africa, all the best for 2020.

Diane, Jae, Joy and Margaret