



2016

PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

SURF (Survivors Fund)

Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YETP)

Started in 2012 and since then our partners have trained over 1,000 youth survivors in work readiness and entrepreneurship skills.

- 108 have attended internship positions
- 46 businesses have been started and 87 jobs created
- For those attending the job readiness program, 54 youth have found work
- In 2016 SURF began to focus on the 275 youth graduates of YETP who despite great efforts and time, remain unable to find work and income. They have designed a more in-depth program to improve the chances for these remaining students

Vocational Training Program

INSPIRE!africa has committed to supporting 5 youth to attend a short-term vocational training program. SURF and INSPIRE!africa will be focusing support for some of the 25,000 children born of rape after the genocide. Children born of rape do not qualify for government funding for youth survivors to attend university as they were born after the genocide ended, however they are the most vulnerable population.

Helpline

INSPIRE!africa has been supporting the Helpline for vulnerable young survivors since it started in 2013.

- It has grown to a comprehensive legal and counseling support service, and it has filled a gap in support for vulnerable young survivors suffering from trauma or outstanding legal disputes on a national basis, and in particular those living in remote rural areas.
- 172 counseling clients have been supported
- Services have expanded and now there are legal and paralegal staff working all over the country.
- Land claims: By November 2016, the Helpline had received 707 requests for legal help and about 288 of those legal cases have been resolved. Land worth \$1,000,000 has been returned to these

youth; the majority for claims of land with an average value of \$10,000. Access to this land, to either sell or lease, means they can pay for their education, or start a business. This makes an enormous difference in the lives of these survivors.

Student Sponsorships

During the 2016-2017 school year, INSPIRE!africa continues to support 6 students, and 12 of the students we have supported since 2008 have graduated university. In 2014, the students who have been sponsored by INSPIRE!africa created their own support group called the “Rwanda Family Welfare” and they continue to meet on a regular basis and have created a wonderful community of support.

Solace Ministries

Livestock for Widows

INSPIRE!africa is committed to supporting widows with livestock- this provides them with a modest income to pay for food, medicine and everyday items. It also provides them with companionship and a purpose. In addition, beneficiaries contribute a percentage of their profits from the livestock to a micro-credit loan program that others in her community can access.

In 2016 INSPIRE!africa donated enough money for the widows in Rwanda to receive the following livestock.

- 3 cows
- 140 piglets
- 130 chickens

INSPIRE!africa has committed 10% of funds donated towards livestock will be put into a veterinary fund to protect our investment and add security for the widows.

Aspire Rwanda (through Network 4 Africa (N4A))

INSPIRE!africa started to support Aspire Rwanda in 2015. Aspire works to improve the lives of vulnerable women through vocational skills training programs.

In January 2016, INSPIRE!africa funded a pilot project that teaches hospitality skills to 50 young women, all school drop outs. The program includes 6 months of training in childcare, cooking and housekeeping so they can work in the growing hospitality industry.

During training, the women’s children attend daycare/preschool on site. Women are also provided with education on rights and health awareness and psycho-social support.

As a result of this project:

- 7 women founds jobs right away in the hospitality sector

- Aspire arranged for internships in hotels and day care facilities for many of the women. Very impressed, the hotel managers provided letters of recommendation for all of the interns.
- Another 50 women began the training in July 2016
- INSPIRE!africa provided funds for 50 chefs shirts for the ladies to use during their internship.

Fundraising Activities

10th Annual Fundraiser- “10 Years of Hope and Happy Results

Celebrating our past and looking into the future.

Our annual fundraiser was held at Webster Galleries. Eveline Goodall and Jim Arthurs, both volunteers on the 2016 spring trip to Rwanda spoke about the projects that really impacted them. Louise Manzi, a Rwandan Calgarian, provided the guests with her own insight and appreciation for what INSPIRE!africa does for her country.

The Rwandan inspired art card for 2016 is a Christmas card and “the cow who discovered she could and would” was unveiled, thanks to artist Theresa Simons.

There was a huge silent auction, and our first African Market was quite a success. We raised over \$106,000.

Primates a Go Go/ African Market

Merrill Genereux was a participant in both the 2012 and 2014 volunteer trips to Rwanda, and worked with Aspire Rwanda and Fair Child Fair Youth Rwanda to produce unique bags, jewelry, and Christmas ornaments made from beads and colourful fabrics that were shipped to Calgary in time for our first African Market. The proceeds of her sales go towards INSPIRE!africa projects. More Rwandan crafts are available at primatesagogo.com

Art cards, posters and crafts we bought in Rwanda were also available for shoppers.

Volunteer Trip

10 volunteers participated in the trip to Rwanda from May 20 to June 3. Several volunteers used Facebook to document their time along with excellent pictures:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111283675568571>

A full report about the trip is on our website in the August newsletter

<http://www.inspireafrica.org/index.php/newsevents/187-inspire-africa-august-2016-newsletter>

Awards

INSPIRE!africa was honoured to be nominated for the prestigious Obsidian Award- these awards are a celebration of African, Caribbean and Afro-Canadian culture and excellence.

INSPIRE!africa was the winning recipient for the Award in the Diversity Organization category. The awards ceremony was held in September 2016 the Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary.

INSPIRE!africa Administration Activities

We welcomed Jae Cowie as our new treasurer, and a big thank you to Monica Ha's years of service.

Pre-arranged giving = monthly donations for supporters was arranged