

INSPIRE! africa!

2018 Volunteer Trip to Rwanda



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We have returned from our 6th Volunteer Trip to Rwanda where 10 enthusiastic volunteers spent two inspiring weeks. We did so many things, and there is no way that we can capture it all in this newsletter, but here is a glimpse;

- We met youth survivors who have been successful in receiving their family land back from those who had taken it after the genocide. Lawyers, supported by INSPIRE!africa helped make that happen.

- We dropped in on the 12-youth born of genocide rape sponsored by INSPIRE!africa as they were in their vocational training classes. Classes included hair dressing, baking, sewing, electronics, and car mechanics.
- We visited 5 widows in a rural community who had received cows from INSPIRE!africa last November.
- We had lots of fun with staff from Solace (one of our Rwanda partner organizations) as we spent our mornings helping them improve their English.
- We flew to the south west corner of Rwanda, enjoyed a memorable boat ride on Lake Kivu and visited the chimpanzees in the wilds of Nyungwe National Park on the way back to Kigali.
- We were saddened by the genocide memorials, but inspired by the resiliency and hospitality of the people and awed by the beauty of the country.

It was an amazing, life changing trip for us all. To see some pictures and read our reflections, visit the INSPIRE!africa [Facebook](#) page.

Donations That Made an Immediate Impact



Thank you to everyone how responded to our request for donations that we could put to use immediately when we were in Rwanda. You responded with about \$2,000. With that money we partnered with Survivor's Fund (SURF) to provide about 50 rural households of mostly elderly survivors with solar powered lights. These lights will allow them to socialize or make crafts in the evenings rather than go to bed at sunset (around 7pm). They can

charge their cell phones, which is the critical means of communication in Rwanda. Any children they care for will have light to study. They will not have to pay for costly kerosene or candles and will be safe from risk of fire and hazardous smoke.

Also, a special thanks goes to everyone who provided donations-in-kind which we took to Rwanda. Items such as clothing, school supplies, laptop computers, first aid kits, medical supplies and children's toys were all distributed and greatly appreciated.

2018 Fundraiser – Mark your Calendars – November 22

Thanks to a keen group of volunteers, planning has begun for our first INSPIRE!africa Pub Night on November 22. Details coming soon. If you would like to help in the planning or at the event, send us an email; info@InspireAfrica.org.

Want to Help

We are always grateful to accept donations either through [Canada Helps](#) or send a cheque to INSPIRE!africa 102, 520 Cedar Cres SW, Calgary, AB, T3C 2Y8