



MARCH 2023 NEWSFLASH

We're returning to Rwanda and taking piglets, goats and solar lights with us!

Well, we are not actually taking piglets, goats and solar lights in our suitcases, but with your help today, we will be able to distribute these items to survivors when we are there. We would be very grateful for whatever amount fits your budget, but consider that a donation of:

- \$35 will buy one solar light and provide a sustainable alternative to kerosene lights
- \$80 will buy a piglet that will grow into a pig for breeding
- \$75 will buy a goat which can have multiple litters per year, providing much needed revenue for survivors.

Please **send in your donations before** our departure on **May 16**. See our [website](#) for details on how to give. Please help us to help Rwandan genocide survivors continue to get ahead.



We are really looking forward to returning to Rwanda for the last 2 weeks in May. This will be the first time since 2018. Our small but mighty group of 5 volunteers will learn more about the projects that INSPIRE!africa supports, meet survivors of the Genocide Against the Tutsi, and have the opportunity to see first hand how your donations have been put to work. Follow our trip on Facebook and read about our adventures!

All of us at INSPIRE!africa continue to be inspired by our many supporters. We are humbled by your awesome generosity over the past 16 years and we would welcome your further involvement right now as we take your support with us to Rwanda's youth who are waiting with great hopefulness for our visit in May.

A Word from Our Volunteers

We asked Marsha Mah Poy, one of our 2023 trip participants why she is going to Rwanda with INSPIRE!africa and what she is looking forward to. Here's what she had to say:

When I tell friends and relatives I am going to Rwanda, they ask WHY? One woman immediately asked "Is it safe? Didn't they have troubles there?" Those who are from Calgary and know my association with Margaret McQuiston and INSPIRE!africa say "Finally you are going, and you are so fortunate." It is a privilege to travel in 2023, and I am 71 now.

It seems for most, Rwanda is associated with the genocide that occurred between April 7 and July 15, 1994, when in 100 days close to a million Rwandan people were murdered. At the time, the population was arbitrarily divided by the Belgian government into three groups: Tutsi, Hutu and Twa. The favoured group were the Hutu. Will Ferguson, in his book *Road Trip Rwanda*, states that genocide doesn't just happen – it has to be cultivated with indoctrination of hate against a group, and this group was the Tutsi in Rwanda.

What is amazing and inspiring to me, is how this small country of 12.3 million has worked to reconcile their past to flourish today. Margaret was inspired when she first visited and continues to inspire others to visit. What I will learn and carry with me is “up to me”. I look forward to meeting Rwandans and see this “land of a thousand hills”.

Your 2022 Donations at Work

In 2022, thanks to you, we sent **\$51,395** to our partners at Survivors Fund (SURF) in Rwanda. **THANK YOU!**

The funds will be used to support the following projects:

Helpline:	\$31,440 – covers operational costs for 1 year
Vocational Training:	\$8,200 – funding for 10 students
Housing:	\$2,735 – funding for 2-3 house renovations
Entrepreneurship Programs:	\$8,200 – provides 15 youth entrepreneurs with a business loan
Solar lights:	\$820 – enough to purchase 20 lights

In addition, we received **\$350 for livestock**, which we will add to the donations we receive before our trip and donate to our partners at Solace when we are there in May.

Calgary Commemoration of the 29th Anniversary of the Genocide Against the Tutsi

Please join the Calgary Rwandan community for the Commemoration of the 29th Anniversary of the Genocide Against the Tutsi.

Where: Virtually using this [Microsoft Teams](#) link

When: Saturday, April 15 1:00 pm MT

  29th Commemoration of 1994
Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

RWANDAN CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CALGARY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO JOIN US
Saturday 15/04/2023
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Live Webcast Coverage: Microsoft team
Live Webcast Coverage:

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Gatera

**29th Commemoration of 1994 Genocide
against the Tutsi in Rwanda**

"Kwibuka" means "to remember" in Kinyarwanda, Rwanda's national language. It describes the annual commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. By remembering, we honour the memory of more than one million Rwandans who died in the hundred days of the Genocide. It was one of human history's darkest times. Twenty nine years later in Rwanda, ask the world to unite to remember the lives that were lost. We ask the world to come together to support the survivors of the genocide, and to ensure that such an atrocity can never happen again - in Rwanda or elsewhere. Kwibuka is also a time to learn about Rwanda's story of reconciliation and nation building. The national commemoration of the genocide begins on 7 April every year.



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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.