



March 2022 Newsflash

Fundraising in 2022 – We hope to see you!

As mentioned in the January newsletter, we are excited and hopeful that this year we will have an in-person fundraiser. We will confirm later in the year but in the meantime, **please save the date - Thursday, November 17, 2022**. Thank you so much for your support in the past and we hope that you will continue to support Rwanda's survivors throughout the year. Just as it is impacting people around the world, COVID is still impacting the lives of Rwandans.

Commemoration of the 28th Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda

Please join the Rwandan Canadian Society of Calgary on Zoom April 10, 2022 3:00 – 6:00 pm for the Commemoration of the 28th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Link to meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83478116648>



Rwandan Canadian Society of Calgary

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Virtual Event



Meeting ID: 834 7811 6648

3pm-6pm, Sunday, April 10, 2022

*You are cordially invited to join us for
the 28th Commemoration of the 1994
Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.*

*"Promote the Commemoration and
empowerment for our Youth."*

28TH COMMEMORATION YYC

In addition, the UN has marked April 7 as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Here is their statement:

2022 marks the 28th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, one of the darkest chapters in human history. More than one million people – overwhelmingly Tutsi, but also moderate Hutu, Twa and others who opposed the genocide – were systematically killed in less than three months. On this Day, we honour those who were murdered and reflect on the suffering of those who survived.

You can join the UN's commemoration online Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:00-11:00 am ET (8:00-9:00 am MT).

More details are available [here](#).

An Update on COVID-19 in Rwanda

According to the Rwandan Ministry of Health, March 3, 2022 marked one year since the arrival of the first COVID-19 vaccine in Rwanda, and 60% of the total population are now fully vaccinated with two doses. More than 1.5 million people have also received a booster dose. Rwanda has a goal of reaching a 70 percent vaccination target by June 2022. (Source: Rwanda New Times)

A Word from Our Partner: Survivors Fund (SURF)

This month, we would like to share a story of how the Helpline and legal support that is funded through your donations continues to provide help in Rwanda.



PHILIBERT

In 2005, before she passed away, Philibert's grandmother gave her land to him as an inheritance. Although the inheritance was communicated in front of the family, other relatives, and neighbours, after her death his uncle and aunts refused to acknowledge the inheritance.

In 2018, these relatives filed a claim to the land in the Ruhango Primary Court. They contended that the land should revert to the family succession. As Philibert was at a loss as to what to do, he contacted the Helpline for legal support, and was provided the assistance of a lawyer. Thanks to the help of the lawyer, Philibert was successful but the relatives appealed in the Muhanga Intermediate Court. After more time, the case was, once again, successfully resolved in favour of Philibert and the court ordered that Philibert possessed the land legally. The land value is estimated at six million Rwandan francs (approximately \$74,107 Canadian). Philibert expressed happiness and thanks for the assistance he received through the Helpline, which is

sponsored by INSPIRE!africa. He emphasized that without the Helpline he could not have secured rights to his land.

A Word from One of Our Donors: Wayne Knorr

When did you go to Rwanda with INSPIRE!africa and what do you remember most about your trip?

I went to Rwanda in the spring of 2018. What I remember most about the trip is meeting some of the survivors of the genocide whom INSPIRE!africa have supported. In particular, there was one group of four survivors whose story amazed me. Three of them were 5 years old at the time of the genocide and one was 14. They were all orphaned and then were homeless for 14 years but stuck together. Eventually, with the help of the helpline that INSPIRE!africa supports, one of them got land back which had belonged to his family, and four houses were built on it for them. Despite all the difficulties they went through, they were so welcoming and seemed so happy. They even sang "You are my Sunshine" for us!

Why do you continue supporting survivors by donating to INSPIRE!africa?

I continue to donate to INSPIRE!africa because even before I gained a more personal connection through the trip and meeting some of the people in Rwanda, it was clear that the need was still very great and that INSPIRE!africa are excellent stewards of the donations. One year I noticed how the livestock donations had changed from what was being asked for the year before and when I inquired about it, I was told that certain animals just were not needed by the people there anymore. The donations from previous years had fulfilled the need. After that, I noticed that the requests change regularly as some needs are fulfilled and new ones arise. INSPIRE!africa does an excellent job of assessing the changing needs as Rwanda continues to rebuild its country.

How you can donate:

Please go to our [website](#) for more information on how you can help.

Follow INSPIRE!africa on social media!

Facebook: [INSPIRE!africa](#)

Twitter: [@INSPIREafrica2](#)

Website: [INSPIRE!africa](#)

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.