



December 2020 Newsflash

2020 Fundraiser – Thanks for your support!

Thanks to all who attended our 14th Annual Fundraiser and to all who sent in donations. Despite this being a very challenging year, **we raised \$63,000**. That's amazing! Please accept our sincere gratitude on behalf of Rwanda's survivors. This money will go a long way towards making a brighter future for many in Rwanda.

A New Way to Get Together

This year's fundraiser was a little bit different. Due to COVID restrictions, we held the fundraiser virtually. It was a new but successful challenge for the planning team! **If you missed the event, you are in luck.** The main presentation, as well as short slide show of photos and videos taken on our Volunteer Trips to Rwanda are on our [website](#). Have a look, guaranteed, you will be inspired!

We are thankful to Cara Luft, a Juno award winning musician, who played her song "Dallaire" for us. She wrote this song from the point of view of General Romeo Dallaire about his role in Rwanda during the genocide.

A big thanks also goes to our partner organization in Rwanda, Survivors Fund (SURF), who prepared an inspiring video about their work and the impact COVID-19 is having on survivors. This video highlights how your donations will make a profound impact.

And last but certainly not least, thanks to all our volunteers on the Fundraiser Planning Team as well as our presenters. A special shout out to Ken (Roy) Christie, our volunteer videographer who produced the video which tells the stories of 3 of our friends in Rwanda and how they have been impacted by COVID-19 and also provides a summary of INSPiRE!africa's activities in 2020.

African Market

We even found a way to have our always popular African market of crafts and other items from Rwanda. The market is still open, so please go to the **December 10** post on our [Facebook page](#) to find out what items are available and how to purchase them! You will find things like face masks, African fabric, trivets, and of course holiday items! Consider buying something from the African market for the person in your life who has everything - or as a treat for yourself!

Update on INSPIRE!africa's 2020 Activities

Here is an update on the difference you made in Rwanda with the **\$87,000** that you donated at last year's fundraiser.

Because of you...

- **139 chickens, 11 piglets, 2 pigs, and 14 goats** were provided to survivors, giving them a source of food and income
- **50 youth attended vocational training** in the areas of car maintenance, culinary arts, tailoring, hair dressing, and shoe repair
- **24 youth survivors received loans** this year to start their own businesses
- **3 houses were renovated**, giving families a safe place to live
- **40 families received solar lights**, allowing students to study, and elders to socialize in the evenings instead of going to bed at sunset which happens around 6:00
- **387 cases were received by the toll-free Helpline**. The Helpline provides much needed trauma and legal counselling. Due to COVID-19 this program was expanded to allow support to all survivors not only youth.

In addition to this, in April 2020 you responded immediately with **\$4,500** to our request for emergency COVID-19 relief support. Thanks again!

With this money you....

- Enhanced the Helpline by providing **cell phone cards to 25 peer support counsellors** so they could respond to the increased emotional needs of survivors due to the pandemic
- Provided **food hampers to 30 of the neediest survivors** so they had something to eat during the lockdown period



On behalf of survivors, **THANK YOU** for all your support during this challenging year!

Donate NOW to receive a tax receipt for 2020!

How you can donate:

- **Canada Helps:** <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/inspireafrica-foundation/>
- **E-transfer:** info@inspireafrica.org ****Please provide your email and mailing address in the comment field so we can send your tax receipt****
- **Mail:** Send your cheque to 102-520 Cedar Cres. SW, Calgary, AB T3C 2Y8. ****Please make your cheque payable to INSPIRE!africa Foundation****

Take Care and Happy Holidays

COVID-19 reminds us how connected we really are to each other. We are in this together. Take care of yourself and each other, and stay safe.

From all of us at INSPIRE!africa, we wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season and all the very best for 2021.

Diane, Jae, Joy and Margaret
The INSPIRE!africa Board



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