

Rwanda Rising
August 30, 2016

Dear Friends,

Mixed in with the regular reports I receive from my team in Rwanda there are many moving stories: a widow living with kids under a tarp gets her house rebuilt; orphaned and adrift, kids 10 and 11 are brought in from the street and placed with a welcoming family; 2000 girls have for first time received a full and factual instruction on reproductive health replacing the taboo and shame otherwise holding them back.

One particular unexpected success stands out. Each year we sponsor about 20 destitute 9th graders to enter 3 yr. secondary boarding school. This is their dream come true, not only because it's the first time they eat 3 meals a day, have clean water, electricity, cement floor and their own bed. They also rise up among the 30% of youth who are empowered by a modern education.

Then 4 years ago one of them, Theogene, a double orphan who had practically raised himself in a mud hut, graduates at top of his class and amazingly, wins a National Merit Scholarship. He hitchhiked eagerly to the capital to attend University, sleeping on the floor and virtually starving. It wasn't until after a year that we saw him gaunt and his hair turned white from malnutrition that we realized that we, as his only family, needed to give him a living allowance. We promised him \$50/mon for room, food and books – half of what he needed but he would know how to stretch it and we could find the \$600. He graduated this June as a Food Science Engineer.

The year after he earned the first scholarship, 2 more kids did the same. Year after that 4 more. Last year 6. That's a rate 10 X's the national average and we are astounded – and overwhelmed. That \$600 a year is one of the most highly leveraged investments imaginable and we are anxiously looking for sponsors for the 6 new scholarship winners who hope to accept their invitation to university this fall.

There are many opportunities to support Rwanda's rise to be an African model of peace, good governance and economic development. We are empowering the poorest to be part of that prosperity. \$30 gives a widow a nanny goat or a water catchment system. \$50 provides 60 girls a course on Reproductive Health. \$250 puts an orphan in boarding school. We guarantee your investment.

Gratefully, John

100% of donations go to beneficiaries and are tax receipted. Read about the project and donate on-line at InnovativeCommunities.Org or send a check to InnovativeCommunities.Org Foundation, 1004 North Park St, Victoria, V8T 1C6, specified for Rwanda. Any questions, call me: 250 598-9739

This is our Emmanuel, just starting 3rd yr Med School.

