

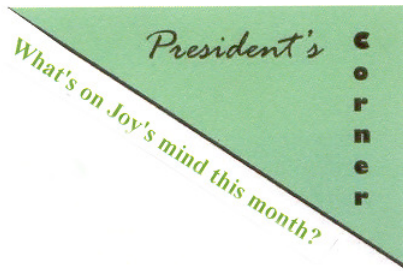
# THE RWANDA SCHOOL PROJECT

... WHERE EDUCATION IS FOR LIFE

Volume II, No. 2

The Rwamagana Lutheran School Newsletter

July 2012



## JOY PETTY, PRESIDENT

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other."

Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln said it best – for both our Rwanda School Board and for our students in Rwanda. It was that deep resolution that took a dream and made it into reality and it is what continues to inspire us to take one step in front of the other and every so often look back to see how incredibly far we have come. This is true of our dream for a dormitory as well. One of the top priorities for the Rwanda School Project is to create a sustainable environment and without a dormitory and space for families to send their children, sustainability is not possible. You responded to our call and we are overjoyed to report that we've raised enough funds to complete the first quarter of a dormitory that will give us 28 more beds and new restrooms and showers. This success will serve our students and their needs and puts us on the road toward sustainability.

(See *President* on page 2)

## IN 2012 WE'RE 70 STUDENTS STRONG ~ WE NEED 20 NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AND 19 RENEWALS

Our enrollment has grown from 40 students to 70. We have 14 students who are paying full tuition, 36 students with sponsors, and 20 students who are awaiting a sponsor.

Your \$100/mo will sponsor a student, and you can pay monthly, quarterly, or annually. If you wish, we can match you with a student so that you can correspond.

When you agree to sponsorship, you will receive a student letter and from there you can determine your letter writing involvement.

Please consider sponsoring a student for the 2012 school year. **Your gift will change a life!** If you want more information please call or contact us at [www.rwandaschoolproject.org](http://www.rwandaschoolproject.org) We serve all students regardless of religion, race, or gender.

## NEWS FROM RWANDA

Robin Strickler, Principal



Recently, I gave the S1's a dental care lesson, replete with Nancy Ferrick's dental floss donations and a lesson on brushing and flossing. When I asked the class of 26 how many had already lost an ADULT tooth to decay/extraction, SIX raised their hands. Only one had ever heard of fillings ("they put a kind of cement in your tooth") so I walked around and showed them the inside of my mouth aglow with metal fillings in the back and they were fascinated (and I

(See *News* on page 3)

## WHERE IS RWANDA?



Rwanda is the smallest and most densely populated county in Africa. Rwanda's economy grew 7 percent in 2011, continuing its recovery from the earlier global financial crisis. The country has stabilized—economically and politically—since the 1994 genocide, but the majority of Rwandans still live in deep poverty. Many people do not

(See *Rwanda* on page 2)

**DECADES AGO IT WAS DANGEROUS JUST TO EXIST.  
NOW THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.**

Rwanda School Project \* Tax Id #: 20-3455455 \* 501(c)(3) a nonprofit corporation

**STUDENT STORIES!**

Meet Josiane!



Josiane, age 13, and her brother and sister are ethnic Rwandans who attended an international school in Uganda, but her parents wanted their children to learn more about their national culture. Coming to RLS, Josiane won this year's academic scholarship for girls because of her excellent school record. "I like the library at this school so much," she says, "because it helps me know the world." She asked to have her picture taken in the library! Her parents pay full fees for her brother and sister, helping our school to develop a sustainable financial future.

Honey, have you made this year's contribution yet?



Rwanda School Project  
1300 St. Francis Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

**PRESIDENT** (Continued from page 1)

Last year, "Mabel" had to walk 45 minutes each way to school along a very busy road where it is not uncommon that the fog hovers and visibility is low in the early morning. As there are no sidewalks in Rwamagana, when you walk anywhere you are within inches of cars or buses whizzing by. "Mabel's" determination to succeed was evidenced by the fact that she not only made it to school every day, but excelled and became a leader for the other girls both academically and socially. Now she will be able to live on campus and because you heard the call to be resolute, "Mabel" will have a dormitory to call home.

Special thanks to the Board of the Rwanda School Project for coming to our first retreat hosted by Karl & Linda Smith. Board members made their way at their own expense across the country so that we could spend the weekend together learning, brainstorming and preparing for the future. We were blessed to have Robin join us and fortunate enough to have my wonderful friend, Annette Zucconi, volunteer to facilitate our meeting and bring the best out of us. Thank you to all of you for giving your time and resources to continue our journey with resolution to succeed.

For more information on current detailed data on Rwanda and children and education, check out [www.unicef.org/rwanda/children.htm](http://www.unicef.org/rwanda/children.htm)

**RWANDA**

(Continued from page 1)

have enough food to eat and malnutrition among children is widespread. A considerable amount of health improvement still need to happen within the country; about one-third of people use unsafe water sources and only about half have access to adequate sanitation facilities. The government continued the fight against HIV and AIDS last year, initiating several plans to prevent new infections and encouraged testing and early treatment. In January, hundreds of children attended the sixth National Children's Summit, an event designed to help them participate in their country's development.

From World Vision Community News, Spring 2012.

**PARTY WITH A PURPOSE**

Inviting people to your home is a great way for people to enjoy themselves, while giving them the opportunity to participate in supporting the school. Here are some tips on hosting a fundraising party:

- Solicit donations for food and beverages.
- Suggest a donation from each guest close to the amount they'd spend on dinner out (\$40/\$50 per person).
- Ask a board member to attend to talk about the students and the school.
- Play our DVD with footage from the school (we'd be happy to provide).

If you are interested in having a board member attend, please let us know.

## NEWS FROM RWANDA

(Continued from page 1)

thought I would not be caught dead doing that in the States!!)

Finally, we've all been learning about how to take care of the biogas digester, and it really does take some coordination. We've appointed two academically and socially responsible students (one boy, one girl) to be *Daily Flushers*, meaning that they are authorized to turn the valve twice a day and flush the system from the water tanks and we also expect them to monitor the system and notice the water levels, the system's flow and any problems. Meanwhile, all of us have had to learn how to mix cow dung and water and remove the impurities and feed the system through a tube to supplement the waste that we are supplying (cow dung has a higher rate of methane). The running joke now is that "I have to go contribute to the biogas digester" and of course witty Jimmy said, "You'll have to feed us bigger lunches so we can contribute more." We're strategizing ways to keep the system going during the break while we're not in school.



*Environmental sustainability is part of being socially responsible.*

## HELP WANTED BUILDING OUR DONOR BASE

You are receiving this newsletter because you have donated to The Rwanda School Project, and we are grateful for our accumulated donations of \$600,000. We have just started a new school year with 40 continuing students, and 30 new students and we are attempting to complete the first wing of our dormitory.

Since most of our gifts have been from individuals, and we see the need for a continuing income stream to keep the school operating month-to-month, we are asking for your help. **Will you please pledge a continuing donation of \$25, \$50, \$100 per month?** Your gift in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

## WINE TASTING EVENT ATTEND SCHOOL FOR \$20

Community Lutheran Church, 21014 Whitfield Place, Sterling, VA will hold a wine tasting and much more on Saturday July 14 from 4:00pm-8:30pm. Proceeds will benefit the Rwanda School Project. Tuition to this "school" is \$20 and includes a class in Driver's Ed (Road Rally), Art (Can you identify wine labels?), History (Test your knowledge of Rwandan history), English (Match the wine description with the wine samples) and the featured Science lab on African wines. Attendees earn grades in each "class" and a valedictorian will be announced at the end of the evening. For more information contact Cathy Whitlow [whitlowsva@verizon.net](mailto:whitlowsva@verizon.net)

## Contributions

The Rwanda School Project has 501(C)3 status so all contributions are tax deductible. Contributions can be made by sending a check to:

**The Rwanda School Project  
1300 St. Francis Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409**

Credit card contributions can be made online at:

[www.rwandaschoolproject.org](http://www.rwandaschoolproject.org)  
At the left, click on the "You Can Help" link and then go to the secure link.

**PLEASE DONATE NOW**

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Look for Rwamagana Lutheran School's  
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**WATCH OUR VIDEO ONLINE**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbjgohP-v-4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbjgohP-v-4)