2020 Third Quarter

Newsletter

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October Update

It is hard to believe that it's already October! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools in Uganda, including Rukundo Preparatory School, remain closed except for graduating classes. We are keeping our projects running as best we can despite the circumstances, but we need everyone's help to overcome this challenging year together. We're all aware of how severely the pandemic has affected us in the West, but we challenge you to imagine the effects for those who were already living in extreme poverty. You can help us to keep the dream alive of changing futures, one life at a time.

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October 17: Virtual Charity Gala

We are super excited about our virtual Seventh Annual Charity Gala and Silent Auction! We hope you'll tune in on our **Facebook** page for a LIVE event on Saturday, **October 17, from 8-9 pm** for a night of celebration and the kick-off of our Silent Auction at 9 pm. We can't wait to "see" you!

We have custom, hand-crafted wine available for purchase via contactless pickup at our Gaithersburg, MD headquarters. For every bottle purchased to support our cause, you'll be entered to win a deluxe wine basket donated by the Olney Winery containing seven bottles of wine, plus fun accessories – a $200 value! Visit our **website** to order.

Our team has worked hard to put on a show you won't forget with music, dance, testimonials, and more. You can also help us by buying tickets for our 50/50 raffle for a chance to win cash! Find out all about it on our **website**. Don't forget to tune in to our live event for a chance to win a $100 Amazon gift card by participating in our fun scavenger hunt!

Another simple way to support us is by spreading the word! Share this information with your friends and family, invite others to our Facebook event, or host a LIVE watch party on October 17 with your Facebook friends!

The Bean Project

Rukundo International has established a new partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture to implement an Agricultural Cluster Development Project. Through this project, we supplied bean seeds to communities in Kabale and Rubanda Districts in an effort to combat hunger and food scarcity – an unfortunate problem that has significantly increased due to the pandemic.

Beans are an essential source of protein and micronutrients, such as vitamin B, iron, calcium, and zinc and, after only three months, they are ready for harvest. The seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides were distributed to Rukundo's 203 Girl's Empowerment Program participants, as well as our 56 scholars. This project will not only improve our GEP participants' and scholars' lives, but also their parents, siblings, and other family members, ultimately supporting over 1,000 beneficiaries. All individuals have received training on how to properly grow and harvest the crops and RI will provide regular technical support and monitoring.

Through this project, we are committed to providing sustainable, long-term solutions to mitigate food shortages. By reserving 10% of each harvest for replanting the following season, we're successfully realizing our goal and continuing to positively impact rural communities for years to come.

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Rukundo Preparatory School

Thanks to our generous donors, we have been delivering at-home learning packages to all Rukundo Preparatory School students since our schools were forced to close in March. Our teachers are doing a fantastic job facilitating and monitoring at-home learning, visiting each child weekly, where possible. It's challenging for our teachers to rely on parents to support their children's at-home learning because many of our parents are illiterate. However, our team is going above and beyond to help our students keep up with their academics. Our staff is also caring for the school's gardens and have planted more vegetables and fruits that will provide even better nutrition for our students when they are able to safely return to school.

New Programs Manager

After the tragic loss of our former program manager, Hilary Namanya, in an automobile accident in June, Rukundo International welcomed a new program manager in August. Stephen Magezi was born in Kabale and has worked as a teacher and in rural development. Stephen is 39 years old, married, and has three children. Stephen has been warmly welcomed by our entire staff.

Girl's Empowerment Program

Our staff was able to adapt our Girls Empowerment Program to at-home learning. They have distributed two rounds of workbooks to the 203 girls currently enrolled, as well as the materials for each girl to start a small micro-business at home, such as craft-making, gardening, or animal-rearing. They've also used this opportunity to raise awareness about how to avoid contracting and spreading COVID-19. Our participants were excited to finally see our team since they've been away from school since March.

Women's Co-op

We're excited to share that our mushrooms are finally showing progress due to continuous monitoring and care. And our goat project is successfully growing! The 22 goats distributed in October 2019 have now doubled, birthing 22 kids, providing rural women with supplemental income and manure for their gardens.

#Move4Love Summer Campaign

Due to the pandemic, we've found new creative ways to fund our projects because of the inability to host in-person events. During the summer, we launched our first virtual #Move4Love Campaign to encourage our supporters to help us "keep our school running". We are incredibly thankful to everyone that donated and helped us raise $12,917.

To continue to meet our long-term goal of expanding Rukundo Preparatory School, we need to raise an additional $45,000 to secure a fourth-grade classroom for our third graders graduating next June. This construction will also ensure the future expansion of our school, up to seventh grade.

We hope you'll join us at our virtual Charity Gala on October 17 to help us reach this goal!

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon Prime Day Sale October 13-14

Amazon gave us an extra reason to smile! You can now support Rukundo International in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. You shop, Amazon Gives! Shop with this link:

smile.amazon.com/ch/46-4639092

Amazon will donate 0.5% of every purchase to Rukundo International at NO cost to you!

Follow these simple instructions to turn on AmazonSmile in your phone app and start generating donations:

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into "Settings".
3. Tap "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

Make a Difference

- Purchase Rukundo Wine (ready for contactless pickup in Gaithersburg, MD)
- Become a volunteer! Email us at info@rukundo.com (All skill sets welcome!)
- Watch and share our Fall Silent Auction
- Create a fundraiser for Rukundo International
- Share our mission with friends & family

No matter where you are around the globe, we understand things are uncertain and challenging right now, and that many worthy organizations need support. We appreciate you choosing to stand with us to allow us to continue to educate and empower our kids. Webale Munonga (Thank You).