

Winter 2016

Dear Friend

I feel very fortunate to have swapped November in the UK for November in Rwanda: warmer, longer days and not a premature Christmas song to be heard. The team were in excellent shape and we were able to reflect on many of our 2016 achievements that have worked to improve life for over 24,000 people.

Shoe-making: healing their way to success

Within an hour of arriving in Kamembe, I visited one of our enterprise groups, a shoe-making group, who have benefited from a Rwanda Aid start-up grant.



The leader of the group, Leo, has plans to expand the business across East Africa. He also made his first sale to an international customer as I purchased an almost made-to-measure pair of leather sandals. Leo has managed to overcome his physical disability and is seen as a fantastic role model for other entrepreneurs. This cooperative is certainly not just a load of old cobblers.

Farm Training: Katerina's Story

Meet Katerina. She's a widow and mother of 5, living in Bweyeye, a very remote sector where I lived in 2013-14. Since receiving Rwanda Aid organic farm training from Emmanuel and Jerome, our Farm Training Manager and Farm Training Assistant, Katerina is now beaming with delight as she admires her Kitchen Garden which she made 2 months ago.



She now grows beans, carrots and cassava, providing improved nutrition to her children. Furthermore, she has a surplus, which means she can sell her crops, earning a small wage which can pay for health care and her children's schooling. Sometimes the smallest differences have the biggest impact. Katerina has proved her skills at organic farming so she will be invited to attend Rwanda Aid's Livestock Training in 2017, enabling her to maximise her land in a sustainable manner whilst providing for her family.

Baho Neza Mwana: A Better Life for Children

Estimates suggest that there are as many as 400 street children in Kamembe, so there is an urgent need for safe and nurturing care for these children. The village has been asked by the local government to accommodate more children, and in response to this we are delighted to have finished building an additional house. From January 2017 this will provide additional accommodation to 12 children, as well as a room for the children who attend Baho Neza Mwana on a daily basis.



This extra house would not have been made possible without the support of our wonderful donors, and special thanks must be given to King's House School in Richmond and the Jackson Foundation who donated specifically towards this cause.

Manas's Christmas Wish: **"Just to go to school, please"**



Manas is just one of 215 vulnerable young children whom our Street Children's village has supported. Manas, like so many of the children who we have met at Baho Neza Mwana, just wants a safe place to live and the opportunity to go to school.

It costs just **£4.50 a month** to send a child to school, or £54 a year. If you would like to read more or donate to our Christmas Campaign to see that Manas and his friends have their wish come true, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/rwandaaid/offthestreetandintoschool>

We are always looking for sponsors for our street children and children with a disability at Ngwino Nawe village. If this is something that you would like to learn more about, Emma, our Child Sponsorship Coordinator, would love to hear from you:

EmmaOgilvie@hotmail.com



On behalf of all the Rwanda Aid team, thank you for all the wonderful support that you have given. We wish you and your families a very **Merry Christmas** and we look forward to updating you with **exciting news from Rwanda in 2017!**

Karen

Karen, David and the Rwanda Aid team