

AMAHORO



Location: Kigali, Rwanda

Partner: CHABHA

Issue Areas: Armed Conflict, Economic Sustainability, Universal Education, HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases

Points of Interest: Microfinance, Connecting with Partner, Project Leaders, and students at Amahoro

The Organization

Orphaned by the 1994 genocide and the AIDS related deaths of their families, eight teenagers formed the Amahoro Association in Kigali, Rwanda in 2000. As heads of their households, the founding members initially wanted to create a support group for orphaned children. Today, the organization offers home-based care and support to 2,200 children and youth between the ages of 3 and 20. Amahoro ensures that all the children receive an education by contributing to the cost of school fees and supplies. Professional post-trauma counselors work closely with the children to help them cope with their feelings of loss, grief and hopelessness. The children also learn income generation abilities through Amahoro's skills workshops and microenterprise trainings. The organization is known as the premier service provider and advocate for vulnerable and orphaned children in its community. One of Amahoro's founders and its current president, Kayitare Wayitare Dembe, is a talented musician whose unique blend of modern African rock and social themes helps entertain and educate thousands of children and youth.

Amahoro is the first association formed for youth and orphans in Rwanda. Associations in Rwanda are recognized groups that are able to receive funding and government services. Because of their status as an association, Amahoro is better able to access government and other aid agencies' services like health insurance and scholarships. Amahoro is working with other orphan groups around Rwanda to become established associations.

Why the Need?

With a population of over 10 million people, half of whom are under the age of 20, Rwanda ranks among the poorest countries in the world. The dual tragedies of genocide and HIV/AIDS have significantly altered Rwandan society: the poverty rate is at its highest in history, many households are headed by women and children, and a significant portion of the population is coping with trauma. According to the international relief and development organization UNICEF, over 600,000 children have been orphaned. Some of these children benefit from limited support provided by extended family networks. Unfortunately, many are catapulted to the role of household head and forced to contend prematurely with the responsibilities of adulthood. These children face stigma from society and often have difficulties accessing social services. Their dire social and economic circumstances also make them vulnerable to street life, violence, commercial sex work, HIV/AIDS.

How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

Funds NGC Teams raise will support Amahoro's Life Skills workshop. Amahoro holds three workshops per year. The curriculum covers nutrition, hygiene, children's rights, agriculture, HIV prevention, and sex education. A full day for transportation, professional leaders, and one meal costs \$1000 for each workshop.

The Partner

Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (CHABHA) believes that all children have a fundamental right to health, safety and a nurturing environment in their dependent years, CHABHA fosters physical, social and emotional health, education, and economic independence of children who have been made vulnerable by the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. CHABHA believes that working directly with community-based programs is the most effective way to promote the well being of vulnerable children.

CHABHA, a 501 (c) 3 organization, raises funds for grassroots projects in Rwanda and Burundi that care for orphans and other children affected by HIV/AIDS. Young adults who understand children's needs because they too lost parents at an early age lead the community-based organizations. Many "grew up " in their organization and delight in helping young children by giving back as leaders and volunteers.

NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to Amahoro.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

Amahoro works directly with children who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and provides education and psychological counseling services for those in need. By investing energy into the youth, Amahoro is paving the way for a healthy society in which all community members will be able to flourish for generations to come.

Additional Resources

Partner Website: <http://www.chabha.org>

Project Website: <http://www.chabha.org/2009/12/projects.html>

CIA World Factbook (Rwanda): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

Embassy of Rwanda: <http://www.rwandaembassy.org/index.php>

See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.