

Do you know a hairdresser?

A family of 10 survivors are looking for help to set up a hairdresser's business. Nibasabe Hellen and Uwanziga Sharon are both trained in hairdressing but have been unable to set up in business due to the ongoing challenges of finding food for the family. We would like access hairdressing equipment for them and provide some funding for the equipment that cannot be gathered and for initial set up costs.

They need curling tongs, straighteners, combs, brushes, scissors, gloves, towels, customer coverings, lotions, sprays, mouse etc. They also need funding for some larger items: casques, dryer, steamer, mirrors, chairs and cupboards.

If you have a good relationship with your hairdresser please consider asking if they would donate equipment. If you or anyone else would like to contribute towards the cost of setting up the business (likely to be around £1500) let us know.

Building a Better Rwanda

The Building a Better Rwanda project is now well underway as houses go up at Muyumbu and Mukarange. We will have a fuller report on this in the next newsletter after a visit to the project with a visiting group.



Dates For the Diary:

On **May 24th** we will be having our annual **Support Team Day**. We will be 'officially' launching our Foundation-Makers, discussing developments in the way Comfort Rwanda and Comfort Congo work, reviewing the last year, presenting and discussing 'A Look Ahead' – where we see the charity going over the next five years, and introducing new members of the team. Many people found it really useful last year to have time to meet other Comfort Rwanda and Congo supporters as well.

10.00am – 1.15pm Comfort Rwanda Support Team

(if you are not a member of the Comfort Rwanda Support Team and would like to be please contact us).

1.15pm -3.30pm All Comfort Rwanda supporters - anyone at all very welcome!!

Venue: **St Mungos Ministry Centre**, 46B Bavelaw Road, Balerno, Edinburgh EH14 7AE. If you are coming by public transport and need help getting from arrival in Edinburgh to venue please let us know.

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COMFORT
Rwanda

a little can change a life

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Building for the Future

Developments at Bisesero...

On a beautiful hill in the Karongi District overlooking Lake Kivu two duplex (semi-detached) houses are nearing completion and destined for genocide survivors at Bisesero. This is the culmination of many years of work with the group at Bisesero and it is a great joy to feel the hard years of building



relationship and trust are bearing fruit and helping restore the community that was so deeply devastated in the genocide. There has been a tangible and visible change in the group here – smiles and laughter at last breaking out! We praise God for His work restoring hearts and lives.

At the end of March a group from Bishopbriggs Community Church will be heading to Rwanda. One of their priorities is to spend 5 days in the Karongi District with the people of Mubuga, Bisesero and Gistyta encouraging them and helping them to understand more of God's love for them.

... and the Ihumure Vocational Training Centre

The roof is now on the Ihumure Vocational Training Centre workshop and production unit. It is an exciting time as we prepare for training and income generation production to commence. The new space will enable some of the larger machines that arrived in Rwanda last year to begin operating and the workshops dust expeller will provide a healthy environment for all students and teachers. The work involved in building the workshop has given valuable work experience and income to a good number of ex-students of the IVTC.



The Street Kids Rescue - -happy kids are grateful- -

Most Street Kids Rescue sponsors should have had their annual reports by now. It has been encouraging to read some of their comments:



Iradukunda Egide

last year was a brilliant year - I did well in my Examination, so I am now promoted to secondary school, which I have been waiting for long time.

Gikundiro Liliane

Last year was such an amazing year, being visited by Scottish team, playing with a skipping rope with them which was a good thing to do with them.



Asa Victoire The Friends of Jesus project has helped me as I now have more friends and we learn from each other about life situations. The project teaches us Bible stories and we memorise scriptures. It is very good.

Maniraguha Eliya *My life has been so good over the last year, as it was the year I joined the Drama team in church. There are many things which made me happy over the last year; I didn't know that after my father's death that there are other people who can care about me like this, feeding me, giving me clothes as their child. My life is always good as I have got new parents who care about me so much.*



Building at Kyeze School, D.R. Congo - URGENT FUNDING REQUIRED



Kyeze Primary and Mbula Secondary School have been offered an amazing opportunity to improve the buildings. The local authority with World Bank have offered to pay the bulk of the cost (\$84,000) for 8 new classrooms constructed from concrete blocks which will be properly floored.

Currently the school is a series of wooden buildings, often incomplete (open to the elements) and built directly over volcanic rubble with no flooring. The two schools together take around 650 pupils from a variety of backgrounds including displaced peoples, pygmies, refugees, orphans, ex-child soldiers and children of rape survivors.

The offer from the local authority was dependent on a number of agreed factors: a quick decision made, that the land be owned by Comfort Congo and that Comfort Congo commit to contributing 10% of the total cost. It is great news that we can move ahead on this, but we still urgently need £16,000.

Other Funding Priorities

Street Kids Rescue: We only have a few more children to find sponsors for. Well done everyone! We are grateful also to our friends in Brazil who have found 10 sponsors.

Ihumure Vocational Training Centre: We currently have a good number of sponsored students attending the IVTC. We also have several fee paying students. The IVTC is a big investment and is our priority for sponsorship at present.

Maternity Clinic, D.R. Congo: We have forwarded recently received gifts for the maternity clinic to DR Congo and at present things are progressing well. We will try and get an update of progress and of further funding needs shortly.

The Christian Training College of Rwanda: The CTCR is running with about 80 students. It costs around £250 a year per student to fund the training. We have had some gifts towards this but most of the costs are not covered.

We are very grateful to you all for your continued support of Comfort Rwanda as we invest in the many different projects that we are involved with.