

Dear friends and supporters,
2011

October

Your ongoing support to Embrace Rwanda is helping to make a difference for many families in Kigeme, a rural community in Rwanda.

Our team of 11 this year was able to take a number of projects to the next level. The work has evolved into three streams:

1. Maternal and Child Health
2. Early Childhood Education
3. Community Economic Development



1. Maternal and Child Health

The **Healthy Mums Project** continues to work to increase the number of full-term births and reduce infant mortality. The Project assists mothers during their pregnancy by offering practical support and consultation with qualified **Health and Social workers**. As a result, many more women are visiting the local health centre for regular check-ups and attending the hospital for delivery. In the past **3** years, **600** mothers have been supported.

The training of local volunteers, the “**Agents of Health,**” has now spread to **53** communities, where one-to-one support and regular home visits have helped the women to be better educated about: Nutrition, Family Planning, Parenting, and Agriculture.

The project still depends on gifts from Canada but the Rwandans are working towards more local sustainability. A **goat or pig** is given to pregnant women, providing much needed manure to assist with their kitchen gardens and grow food to address some of their nutritional needs.

A “**Starter Pack**” containing a hoe, seeds and a watering can is given to mothers to help them to start their gardens.

Mothers often arrive at the health centre for the birth without any baby clothes - not even a blanket to wrap the baby in. A **layette** of donated clothes is given to these mothers to get them started. Many of these clothes are knitted by volunteers in Canada.

The “Blanket Project” at Alouette Correctional Centre for women provided the project with 150 blankets crocheted by the inmates. This partnership has been a special addition to the work of Embrace Rwanda.



2. Early Childhood Education

Introducing **Preschools** to rural Rwanda. The babies of the healthy Mums Project are now becoming toddlers. In Kigeme, thousands of children have no access to early childhood education. The **Bright Start Pilot Project** will equip and staff **four** preschools, offering a strong, bright start to more than **1000 children** in one of Rwanda’s most poverty stricken regions.

In partnership with the Schmidt Family Foundation in Canada, new chapels have been built in rural Rwandan communities. These chapels will also serve as space for preschools.

Rwanda has recently introduced English, (in Rwanda, it is their third language), as the primary language for teaching in schools. Many children in rural communities have had no exposure to the English language. The preschools will use English for everyday dialogue between teachers and children.

Training will be provided to preschool teachers to equip them with the necessary skills to prepare young children for the future and support their successful entry into the formal education system.

Nourishing sorghum porridge will be given to the children every day. For many, this might be their only meal.



3. Community Economic Development

The Five Thousand Fund provides start-up funding and training to launch small, income-generating community collective projects.

The **600** mothers from the Healthy Mums Project have now formed **30 community associations**, for the purpose of generating income through **small projects and small businesses collectives**. Each small business gives back to the collective, **building independence and sustainability**. Embrace Rwanda's *Five Thousand Fund* is locally managed by the Rwandans.



There are many ways that you can continue to help

Healthy Mums Project Choose your gift card & provide the gift of...

1. *GOATS AND PIGS to provide manure & reproduce more livestock* **\$40.00**
2. *BABY CARDS – contribute to wages for the 2 local health and social workers* **\$20.00**
3. *LAYETTE - for newborn babies whose mothers cannot afford baby clothes* **\$15.00**

4. *STARTER PACK - hoe, seeds & watering can for the kitchen garden* **\$10.00**

Pre School Project Costs

1. *TRAINING for 24 teachers* *\$400.00 for each teacher*
2. *WAGES for 24 teachers* *\$600.00 each per year*
3. *RESOURCES for the classrooms* *\$60 for each teacher*
4. *NUTRITIOUS FOOD- sorghum porridge* *\$5.00 per child per year*

The Five Thousand Fund

Your donation provides start-up grants to small projects and businesses in community collectives in rural Rwanda.

Use the attached donation slip or pay online at
www.embracerwanda.org

Thank you for your ongoing support to the work of Embrace Rwanda. Your contribution is really making a difference to the lives of many families in Kigeme, Rwanda. Please contact me if you would like to have more information.

Blessings, Hilary King

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