



Newsletter



Denise and one of the seniors

Major Project Senior Center

Not only the new generation needs our support. Many of the surviving senior citizens, in particular members of the Iriba Shalom Rwanda community in the southwest of the country, are now so old that they can no longer provide for themselves. They often live secluded and alone in huts which are difficult to reach. Our greatest concern is that the eldest seniors will die without support and care, in solitude and bitterness. Our wish is that they can age with dignity and spend their remaining time happily, within the community.

In order to enable this, we plan to start building a senior citizens' center this year, located close to the multifunctional center which has already been built. Thanks to a generous donation, another plot of land could be bought in that area. We have also submitted an application to a foundation to fund 75 % of the building costs. The remaining €17,000 will have to come from our own resources.

We appreciate every donation to this very special project! We hope to start as soon as the application is approved.

When you donate, simply state the **reason of payment as: "Senior Center"**.

Please let us know if your e-mail, postal address or telephone number changes, so that you don't miss the newsletter and receive all the information straight away.



A group of seniors with the social worker Astherie (3rd from right) from Mukoma

Greeting

"Christ has indeed been raised from the dead... Therefore, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain!" (1 Cor 15: 20,58)

Dear friends,

This is the best message for all those who have experienced the dreadful power of death and evil, in Ukraine as in Rwanda. It is only because Christ was the first to overcome death that there is a living hope beyond death for all who have trusted in him. It also gives strength to the enduring help for the needy, as it has been so impressively shown to the Ukrainians worldwide. The 1 million victims of the Tutsi genocide were completely abandoned in 1994. It is all the more important today to "always and fully" give them our love and support. The articles in this newsletter serve this purpose as well.

Sending easterly greetings

The IRISI Board

The Rwandan peacemakers pray for the end of the war in Ukraine



Women in Mukoma praying for the Ukraine

The Tutsi survivors of the genocide are grateful for peace in Rwanda and for the friends who helped to establish life once again. They relate to the suffering in Ukraine and put themselves in the position of the Ukrainian people. The deaths of loved ones, who must be buried without honor in mass graves, remind us of the fate of many Rwandans during the genocide. The destruction of the Ukrainian's soul through their property, the suffering of millions of refugees, who have to leave everything behind. The traumatic impacts on children, mothers, men, soldiers. They are all with us in our prayers.

Since the attack on Ukraine, widows, orphans, young people have been praying for the politicians and for God's wisdom to make the right decisions at the right time and that this terrible war will soon find an end.

They pray for the friends of IRISI, for God's protection and for the reunion in Rwanda. Especially for the people of Russia and Ukraine. That the hatred between them may be overcome and they become peacemakers in order to overcome evil with good and to restore the relationship between Russia and Ukraine through God's love and strength.

May God console Ukraine and heal its wounds. Have no fear Ukraine, you will live on! Your savior has come! God is here! May God soften Putin's heart and forgive him.

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Iriba Shalom international e.V.
Evangelische Bank
IBAN: DE86 5206 0410 0000 8104 44
BIC: GENODEF1EK1

Please indicate the purpose of your donation and when making your first donation please provide your address for the receipt.

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Celestin is looking for a sponsor

Celestin is the leader of a youth group of Iriba Shalom in Mukoma and a very disciplined and God-fearing young man. He does his best to encourage other young people to build a relationship with God, to spread the gospel and to build a good future for themselves.

He himself comes from a very poor family and as a result he dropped out of school in 2017 after 4th grade and has not attended since. He and his mother live in a small house they rent. His mother helps other people with farming so that they can get something to eat, while Celestin does all sorts of simple jobs to earn money for the rent. Sometimes they fall asleep on an empty stomach because they could not find work that day.

Celestin's biggest wish is to be able to go back to school so that he can finish high school. Due to his financial situation, however, he is not able to pay the school fees, and therefore he needs help to fulfill this dream.

In our sponsorship program, we particularly want to support young people who stand out through their social involvement and desire for education. We know each of their personal histories and understand the need for support.



Celestin- Youth Group Leader



A youth group in Mukoma with Celestin and our German volunteers

In addition to Celestin, there are many other young people who would like to attend school but cannot afford it. If you would like to support Celestin or any of the other young people, please feel free to contact: sponsorship@iriba-shalom-international.org.

Rwanda group trip postponed to 2023!

As many already know, we are particularly interested in personal contact between our German and Rwandan members, between sponsors and sponsored children, as well as in visitations to our projects on site. That's why, for years, we have organized joint group trips. Unfortunately, due to the current corona and world situation, we must continue to postpone it.

We have hope for 2023 !!!

If you are interested or have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The tailoring project

From the darkness of poverty to a real career prospect. That is what our tailoring project provides for 52 single mothers from our two partner organizations. At the end of April, 37 of the women from Shalom Ministries in Ruhango will successfully complete their training and receive their own sewing machine to begin with. Fifteen women in the community of Mukoma and Shangi have already finished their training and have each received a sewing machine with great joy and gratitude.



The grateful tailors with their new sewing machines

Flora Mukantwari, the project manager of Iriba Shalom Rwanda, says: "In the beginning there were some obstacles with the young single mothers. Most of them lived with their traumatized widowed mothers or poor parents and were still dependent on them. One problem was that some parents did not recognize this valuable opportunity for their daughters. They preferred to have their daughters do the housework at home and work in the field. Some parents did not want to take care of the grandchildren while their daughters attended the training. I invited the parents and explained to them how important it is that God opened this source of knowledge and a profession for their daughters through Iriba Shalom Rwanda. They should grant them this new chance in life."

During the training, Flora gave various workshops. During these, she showed appreciation to the single mothers and taught them that they are capable of starting a new chapter of security and hope for themselves, their families and the society. When a young woman has a job, she becomes independent, respected, takes care of her family and will no longer need to suffer from hunger. And men will have no chance of luring them with food and negatively influencing their lives.



Francine tailoring

FRANCINE says: "My father was murdered during the genocide against the Tutsi. After the genocide, my mother was deeply traumatized and was unable to raise me. I worked in other people's fields to get food. There was nothing to eat at home. I starved. In this critical condition, a man fed me and I had a child by this man. I am grateful to Flora, the project manager, who visited me at home to bring me out of my deep loneliness. I thank the management of Iriba Shalom Rwanda and all the friends and donors who made the tailoring project possible!"

This tailoring training also contributes to the process of inner healing, unity and peace, forgiveness and reconciliation. As long as the wish persists, we want to promote the "Sewing Machine" project.

We would like to thank you for the donations already received and look forward to receiving further help. A sewing machine costs 100 €. If you would like to donate to a sewing machine or a part of it, please state the **purpose of your donation as "sewing machine"**.