

A sponsorship for Christmas?

Staying with the Christmas theme from the start of our newsletter - how about a sponsorship for Christmas? As a joint gift from family, colleagues or simply a gift from yourself. With a sponsorship starting at 30 euros per month (child sponsorship), the money that would otherwise be spent on presents for things that most of us already have far too much of, can improve the standard of living of an entire family. They no longer have to worry about financing the next school year or getting together just enough money to pay the rent or buy food.



We are looking for sponsors!

With us, a sponsorship not only gives you a good feeling, but also a new family member in Rwanda. Through the regular exchange of letters, photos and gifts, we enable personal contact with the sponsored child/widow on site. And next year, of course, a personalised Christmas card from Rwanda!

If you are interested, please send an e-mail to our new contact person Kerstin Dietermann (sponsor@iriba-shalom-international.org). Together with our local partners, suggestions will be made as to which sponsored child, widow or family is most in need. You, you or they then decide who sparks the spark and which life story suits you best.

Our contacts

General information, lectures, public relations

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Donation Account und contact

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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"Full of joy you will draw water from God's rich springs" - (Jesaja 12:3)

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Newsletter

Word of Greeting

We will soon be approaching Christmas again these days. It is a terrible time in which we live - full of natural disasters, wars, violence, cruelty, unbridled terror and unbridled hatred. Why is God silent about all this?

We often don't get an answer to this question. But Christmas makes one thing very clear to us again: God has an infinite longing for us humans, he becomes human like us, does not leave us alone, but comes to us - into our dark, broken and maltreated world. God is always where we are - isn't that wonderfully comforting?"

With this comfort, we wish you a Merry Christmas!

Kind regards,

Iriba Shalom International e. V.

Christmas is just around the corner - let's share this festive season with our friends in Rwanda

Advent has begun and Christmas is just around the corner. In Germany, this is the time of Christmas markets and get-togethers with friends, colleagues and family - over biscuits, mulled wine and other treats. These traditions do not exist in Rwanda, where the gathering focuses more on the history of Christmas and honours this time in prayer. God gave us his son on earth so that he could be among us and with us. Many of the people in Rwanda, especially the poorer among them, probably have a better understanding of the poverty and uncertainty in which Mary and Joseph lived as they awaited the birth of Jesus.



In order to enable our partner organisations Iriba Shalom Rwanda and Shalom Ministries to have a joyful and contemplative fellowship with a good meal in the community, we are asking for donations for the Christmas celebrations on site. A small donation can bring a lot of joy to the Christmas season.

The intended use is: **Christmas party**

A year with a lot of travelling

This year, we were finally able to organise numerous trips to Rwanda again. In particular, the 14-day group trip, which we had to postpone several times due to coronavirus, finally took place in August. Together with Monika Meier (2nd Chairwoman), Denise Uwimana-Reinhardt (1st Chairwoman) and Wolfgang Reinhardt, 13 other friends of our association travelled to Rwanda. For some it was their first visit to Rwanda. The group had the opportunity to get to know numerous corners of the country and visit our partners' projects thanks to a well-organised trip. Particular highlights were A visit to the Genocide Memorial in Kigali, a visit to the Kings Palace in Nyanza, visits to sponsored families and free time at Lake Kivu.



In November, both Elisabeth Kürsten (Board member) and Denise Uwimana-Reinhardt travelled to Rwanda to visit projects there and maintain the sponsorships. Elisabeth received a warm welcome when she visited the families in Kigali, Mukoma and Shangi. The sponsors were delighted with the gifts she brought them and reported on the positive impact the support has had on the families. In the coming weeks, the sponsors in Germany will receive letters, photos and videos of the visits.

In Mukoma, Elisabeth had the opportunity to attend many of the projects offered there. The last tailoring course, computer course and knitting machine course of this year have already been successfully completed. The pupils showed their results and expressed their thanks. Thanks to their participation and the certificate, they now have much better chances to get a job.



In addition to the training courses, Elisabeth also visited the agricultural projects such as pig breeding and cow breeding. Here, too, she was told of positive changes in people's lives and the successes in breeding have already enabled several animals to be passed on to other families, so that more and more poor families are benefiting from the projects. However, she was particularly impressed by the farming around the multifunctional and senior citizens' centre in Mukoma. Here, soya, beans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, manioc, maize and much more are grown with the help of the widows and up to five farmers. One third of the harvest goes to the poor families, one third to the centre for guests and staff and one third is sold to pay the farmers.



We would be delighted to receive further donations for all these regular projects. Simply make a general donation or specify the project in the intended use. Further updates on the projects can be found on our website: iriba-shalom-international.org, Instagram: [iriba_shalom_international](https://www.instagram.com/iriba_shalom_international) and Facebook - it's worth taking a look!

School uniforms for children and young students

Who hasn't experienced it: you hardly see your grandchildren or nephews and nieces for a few weeks before they have grown again and the clothes from a few months ago no longer fit. Families in Rwanda have the same problem. However, this becomes particularly problematic and expensive when you have to keep buying new school uniforms as they grow. In addition to growth, there is also wear and tear. The poorer children in Rwanda often only have one uniform, which they wear every day, even on special occasions outside of school, as it is usually the best cared-for clothing they own. However, if the uniform is too small or worn out, buying a new one is a huge financial outlay for many poor families, which some of the poorest families can hardly afford. The cost of a school uniform is around 10 euros, not much money for most of us. In Rwanda, however, this is a lot and when you consider that many families have between 5-7 children, this amount multiplies.

With your donation, we can finance school uniforms for these poor, large families so that the children and young people can attend school clean and happy.

The intended use is: **School uniform**

Our Senior Centre in Mukoma

Construction of our new major project, the senior citizens' centre in Mukoma, began in the middle of the year. In our last newsletter, we reported on the laying of the foundation stone and the first stages of construction. Now all the walls are in place and all the construction work is being finalised. You can already see how beautiful the site will be, especially with the fantastic view. Each room will be home to two senior citizens. They will share one bathroom and one toilet. This means that 12 of the oldest and most care-dependent widows will have a place in the senior centre. The new residents have already been selected by the social workers on site. The factors here were the housing situation (mostly the simplest houses made of wood and clay), the family connection and the level of care. Some widows who will live in the centre due to their care level can no longer walk due to illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure and are trapped in their homes.



The grounds with a beautiful view of Lake Kivu and green spaces in the courtyard



A senior citizens' room for two people. Bathroom and toilet are separate.

In the coming weeks, the roof will be built, the walls will be panelled and the floors will be finished. Thanks to the Schmitz-Foundation and numerous donations, these construction measures have already been financed.

As soon as the structural work on the building has been completed, the interior design and furnishing of the senior citizens' centre will begin, for which we still need donations of around €20,000. We want to offer the senior citizens an age-appropriate residential facility where they will feel at home.

We would be delighted to receive any donation with the following purpose: **retirement home**

We have also received an offer to donate used care beds and furniture from Germany. However, the transport to Rwanda involves a high financial outlay and knowledge of transport, which our board team does not have. If you can help, please contact us.