



HOPE HAVEN  
RWANDA

July 2017



## Rapidly Rolling Through Year 6

We are quickly approaching August 1st, which will be the term break between our 2nd and 3rd term of our 6th year! (We are on a calendar year school plan in Rwanda.) We have a thriving school community this year of over 425 children! Our oldest children are in “Primary 5” or 5th grade. They easily have more education now than 99% of our community, They absolutely love school and have even asked to come for a half day on Saturday, which the 4th & 5th graders now do. They are an impressive group! As you look at these smiling faces, all clean and full of JOY, it is easy to forget where they come from every morning. I did some recent home visits to six families while I was in Rwanda in June. There are no words for the conditions that these families live in, yet they choose OPPORTUNITY, JOY & JESUS! I am so proud of our families and our kids. They are the future leaders in Rwanda and this is a privilege to work hand in hand with God, to be HIS HANDS AND FEET!

Your PRAYERS and your FINANCIAL SUPPORT are making a difference! God is using you, and for that comes so many blessings! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Susan Hollern, Founder



## A New Beginning

Meet Richard, a bright and energetic 5-year-old boy who recently started attending school at Hope Haven. Richard's life took a dramatic turn just a few months ago when he met Colman McVaney, a visiting college student from Colorado.

Richard's story is one of severe poverty with no hope for the future. Abandoned by his mother at 7-months Richard was left in the care of his father, Francois. Their home was the most broken in the village with absolutely nothing inside and Richard spent his days wandering the streets of Murindi.

Francois worked as a cobbler making maybe 200 Rwandan francs per day, equivalent to just 20 cents in US currency! The stress of living in such dire circumstances drove Francois to spend his time in local bars thus leaving Richard to fend for himself. It was not unusual for Richard to visit the homes of strangers in search of food.

Colman met Richard when walking down the street in the village. It was very obvious this was a little boy desperate for help. Colman approached the staff at Hope Haven to find out what they could do and would it be possible for Richard to begin attending school.

Things moved very quickly and between Priscillah, our Director of Families and Susan (who just happened to be in Rwanda.) Richard and Francois were able to begin the process of getting their lives on the right path.

The photos above give you a small glimpse of the lives forever changed through the simple acts of kindness and willingness to get involved. Colman and Richard (seated on Colman's lap) have developed a special friendship and bond. Richard is proudly attending school and eager to learn every day. Francois is now working at Hope Haven and is standing in front of a new home he shares with Richard.

The transformation of Francois and Richard continues every day. At a recent worship service hosted at Hope Haven, Francois accepted Jesus Christ into his heart and is committed to bringing Richard to church on a regular basis.

Both receive two meals a day as part of the programs we provide to students and employees and both smile constantly with a renewed sense of hope and purpose.

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## #TeamRwanda

[International Medical Relief](#) (IMR), a Colorado based nonprofit, took a team to Hope Haven this past May and spent eight days running a clinic for the families in our community. Hundreds of children and adults received the medical care they so desperately needed. One young boy with malaria was saved by their fast thinking and ability to transport him to a nearby hospital.

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## Many Hands Make Light Work

During the month of June, we had 27 volunteers jumping into daily life at Hope Haven; contributing their gifts and talents. We had HHR Board members, Advisory Board members, college & high school students, and new donors to Hope Haven. A new Bible curriculum was developed and implemented by Red Rocks Church young adults, Art classes and new curriculum taught by Patty Ramey, beautification projects and organization all took place. Hope Haven is so grateful for family and friends that contributed their time and talents!



## Summer Adventures

The summer months are busy at Hope Haven with several teams coming to serve and experience the beautiful country of Rwanda. This is such a huge blessing for our children as they develop new relationships and participate in activities such as art classes and Vacation Bible School. Please pray for safe travels and God's provision for our staff.



## Save the Date

Fabric of Hope 2017 was a wonderful celebration of the miracles God has done in our short five year history and we can't wait to see what will take place in 2018. Mark your calendars for April 18, 2018 and join us for an unforgettable evening.

