

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year 2013! With this second newsletter, we wish you the Lord's peace and His abundant blessings on you and your families.

With your continual financial support and prayers, 2012 was a year many orphans and extremely poor children will remember for the rest of their lives. Your gifts to them have brought joy, hope, and the dreams that every child deserves.

Because of you, the Burundi Education Fund was able to guarantee schooling and basic needs to 266 students in six secondary schools. In their letters of appreciation, you will notice that you have become their new mother, father, brother, or sister in Christ. They write about how your gifts have improved their lives and they promise to share this generosity with others in need. You can read excerpts from letters in this newsletter.

Many donors have contributed toward clean water, sanitation, and electricity projects in Burundi. Some of these projects are now underway.

The dream has already come true for 25 girls at the Muramba secondary school. Your generous contribution of \$10,000 has provided a dormitory to keep girls safe for many years to come. For the first time in their lives, these girls can read at night and sleep on a mattress. They all know that their prayers have been answered.

A total of \$50,000 has been wired to our sister charity in Burundi to support all these projects. The Board of Directors is extremely satisfied with the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green for managing your financial donations. In order to minimize the bank wiring fees, the Board has decided to request a fund transfer only once a year. This will occur each December.

All these projects are being accomplished with minimum administrative expenses. We are proud to report that in 2011, the expense ratio was only 3.89%. In 2012, that ratio will be less than 3%.

In compliance with its IRS 501c(3) status for charitable organizations, the Burundi Education Fund filed its annual 2011 Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Form (990-EZ). This return is now available for the public. The 2012 return will be available in April 2013, and copies will be obtainable by you upon request.

We wish you a prosperous and generous 2013!

### Burundi Education Fund Inc. Board Members



Jane Buch Ann Del Ponte Nancy Jodarski Cormac Joyce Amanda Lauer David Lee



Denise McQuillen Egide Nimubona John Potters Doug Schlicht Will Woolman

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**Jimmy**, an orphan student you have helped, writes: *"I am writing this letter to thank you for the financial help you gave which was crucial in my life. I was able to pay school fees, to buy school supplies and clothes. I even visited doctors for medical care. I do not know how to express my gratitude, only God will increase your blessings and strength."*



*Clean water is a rare commodity*

*Expense ratio to be less than 3% in 2012!*

## Burundi Students Express Their Gratitude

Here are excerpts from letters written by five of the many Burundi students you have helped. The letters were translated from Kirundi and French.

**Virginie writes:** "I am frankly speechless. In fact, I have now all I need and can thus study without any hindrance. There are those among us who believed that God had given up on them but now they enjoy a normal life like anybody else. You set us a wonderful example to love and support each other. This is a crucial step in mutual support towards collective uplifting."

**Thierry writes:** "I am honored to thank you for the help you granted me....My grandfather used to provide for me but he is getting old and poor. Your help was like a miracle that changed my life. I was able to pass my class. In concluding, I thank you again. May God protect you, grant you health in your family and everywhere."

**Fabiola writes:** "You indeed did a lot for me during the 2011-2012 school year, and I thank you so much. I would like to let you know that your gesture has delighted me so much that I am determined to follow this good example."

**Jean Claude writes:** "I have the great honor to write to you to express my gratitude for the gift you granted me. I am very happy about the affection you showed me and that you continue to show me. Your financial help made it possible for me to pay school fees, to buy school supplies, to pay for medical care and other small things needed in the daily life of a student."

**Alice writes:** "You thought of me as my real parents would have done. This shows me that there are still people who care about others, who are concerned by the problems experienced by their fellowman, who have compassion, who enjoy giving and helping others. I would like to thank you for the support you gave me this year. When I graduate, I will help kids who will be in my predicament: orphans and homeless children. I am aware that they experience a lot of problems."

## Sponsored Students Strive to Succeed

Burundi Education Fund, Inc. is happy to report that 71% of the 266 students sponsored in school year 2011-2012 have succeeded. Although it would be better to have 100% success, the educational situation in Burundi is challenging, and issues of poverty and illness often interfere with obtaining an education.

Students are allowed to enter high school when they pass a nationwide competitive exam after grade 6. The success rate for all students is below 50%. The fact that very few students benefit from high school education is due not to poor performance by students. The root cause is rather the shortage of high schools. Grade 6 becomes a bottleneck and children repeat this grade as often as they are allowed. This results in increases in class size and student age. Once in high school, students face many educational challenges: class size, shortage of educational materials, teachers' unpreparedness, student hunger, and fatigue because of long walks to and from school.

Sponsored students navigate such a system with better results. Many have succeeded – and even graduated from high school – thanks to the support received from you. Some students have been allowed to repeat the grade. Others have had to change schools or withdraw.

It is very difficult to keep track of children in the latter group because student portfolios are not sent to receiving schools. A small number of students who registered in new schools took the initiative to contact Burundi Education Fund via the Joseph Nishirimbere Education Fund (named after the father of Egide Nimubona). We will do our best to keep in touch with them and give them the support they need.

In this context, the names of students presented for sponsorship may vary each year. This table illustrates the situation. Thank you again for helping 266 young people to have a future.

School Name	# Students helped	Graduated	Advanced to next grade	Repeated grade	Changed or Left School
Buta Preparatory Seminary	33	6	19	4	4
Notre Dame Gitega	81	23	31	7	20
Makamba Nursing HS	14	0	12	0	2
Ijenda HS (girls only)	37	4	22	5	6
Muramba HS	26	3	16	4	3
Rwasanga HS	75	0	53	17	5
Total	266	36	153	37	40



## Your Gift Is Giving Hope

### Donations Support Clean Water and Sanitation Projects

Since April 2012, Burundi Education Fund, Inc. has been working with Rotary Clubs of Wisconsin to help provide water and improve sanitary conditions for Burundi schools and students. Two water projects will be funded at a total cost of \$8,650. We thank the Neenah Rotary Club and the Appleton (Downtown) Rotary Club for supporting this effort.

The Catholic Parish of Mubimbi made an urgent request to provide clean water to more than 1,900 students. A leaky water tank has been repaired and five fountains have been established. The local population contributed their labor to make trenches for the water pipes and also provided sand, gravel, and stones.



Waiting for the tank to be repaired



Dirty water for drink and cleaning

The school Kinama II was built in 2003 by the local population with the help of an international development agency in Canada. It is located on a narrow, hilly, and ragged slope. The school has never enjoyed running water on its premises. To quench their thirst or to clean anything, students travel about half a mile into the valley to the nearest water source.

The long trek for water uses up valuable learning time, and children and staff run the risk of falling and hurting themselves while climbing on the stiff and slippery slopes. To change the situation, there is an urgent need to provide a water tank to supply water to two drinking fountains at the school. We have good news! The project is about to start thanks to your help!



Principal walks to water source with a student

## Donations Build Dormitory to Keep High School Girls Safe

Girls attending Muramba High School now have a place to stay and no longer need to walk home each day along six miles of dangerous paths.

Completed in September, the dorm accommodates 25 students. Learning conditions and student retention are greatly improved because electricity allows the girls to study after dark for the first time.

Girls staying in this dormitory say they are relieved, confident, and happy to enjoy comfortable living and learning conditions. They are acquiring other skills as well as they cook, clean, and socialize together. The building was built for only \$10,000. It lacks indoor plumbing, but the grateful residents have no complaints.



The girls enjoy their new home



New dorm has 13 bunk beds

## High Schools in Diocese of Green Bay to Accept Burundi Students in 2013

In the fall of 2013, five Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Green Bay will welcome students from Burundi.

Burundi has a long and vibrant Catholic history. These beliefs are reflected in the names given to children, in religious rites, and in sayings that channel Burundian wisdom. Through the years, many Burundian youngsters have been educated in Christian institutions at home and abroad.

The students who will travel from Burundi to Wisconsin are highly motivated. They are fully aware of the achievements of American educational institutions in mixing Christian human ideals and scientific and technological progress and they are eager to use what they learn to help their homeland.

They will bring an open mind and values anchored in Ubuntu (humanity). The students selected are among the most promising and have been successful despite the challenges of poverty, scarcity of teaching materials, the unpreparedness of teaching staff, and poor job prospects.

Their parents are prepared to do their utmost to support their children financially despite their own limited means. Sincere thanks go out to all families who will host the students.

## Join Fact-Finding Mission to Burundi, 5-day Safari to Tanzania

You are invited to join Egide Nimubona and his family on a fact-finding trip to Burundi and a five-day African safari in neighboring Tanzania from June 8 to June 27, 2013.

During this trip, you will become acquainted with the culture and faith of the people of Burundi. This is your chance to meet the children you have sponsored recently and to see the impact your generosity has had on schools, clean water, and sanitation projects.

Burundi is famously called the "Switzerland of Africa" because of the beauty of its mountainous countryside, and Tanzania is a popular destination for people from around the globe for its spectacular wildlife. For more information, please call 920-540-7486 or email [animubona@educateburundi.org](mailto:animubona@educateburundi.org)

To contribute to the mission trip, please make the check payable to **Burundi Education Fund** (Memo: Mission trip 2013) and mail it to:  
*Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay*  
P.O. Box 22128  
Green Bay, WI 54305-2128