

During my month in Rwanda I visited with 36 of our 37 university students, They shared a common message: this was their only chance, and they are using it to turn potential into possibility.

Toni and our grandkids were moved by the desperate stories of the students' early lives and yet enthralled by the buoyant spirits that filled the long conversations. "There is no sense of entitlement" the grandkids said, "**only appreciation, even when they still live at the bare minimum.**"

University students on first day



University students came for breakfast on first day and stayed for 6 hours, brimming with enthusiasm for their studies and their futures. They wrap their stories in gratitude for this opportunity which would have been beyond their reach.

Peter is a third year student of Midwifery. He has a soft smile and serious demeanor. I asked him why he chose Midwifery. He answered: "**birth is a minute of compressed potential, a golden minute, on which the rest of life and all its possibilities depends. I want to be there. It's like what Rwanda Rising did for us in that moment when years of hard study gave us invitation to boarding or to university - but there was no chance. You, however, were there.**"

We travelled to several campus towns to meet and talk.



Major Activities:

- We grew from 26 university students to 37, due to a generous grant supporting girls' education from the Universalist Community of Victoria.
- We partnered with a local priest to fund the reintegration of 44 street kids back to school with uniforms, supplies and a full meal every day.
- Through the Rotary Club of Oak Bay, we funded a large vegetable garden project for a remote school's lunch program, enabling many poor families to earn their kids' lunches by cultivating the school garden.

A important part of the visit focused on children transitioning from life on the streets into a structured environment of care, education, and daily support.



Father Bosco visited kids on the streets after dark for two months, finally inviting them to school and daily lunch. Forty-four came and stayed.

The street kids are joyous in sports, intently engaged in games and crafts, and amazingly well behaved. They come from homes with little food, caring or reliability. Here they get all those seven days a week.

Kids during sport activities



A young mom drawing



The new uniforms, notebooks, backpacks which made them proud schoolkids for the first time in their lives.

kids with uniforms and books



Two young moms come for food and caring



Girls in new clothes



Donate to:

<https://transforminternational.ca/project/rwanda-rising/>

Scan to donate

