



Rubanda Solidarity School 2017



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A School Born Under a Tree

By the Director General

Dear Reader,

A school born under a tree celebrates its thirteenth birthday this year 2018. It is another new year when our Rubanda Solidarity Development Association (RSDA) and our school celebrate years of hard work and great success. We have so many things to thank God for and we strongly believe that our history of success is a result of so many key players to whom we are deeply grateful. The list is long...our school exists because parents and children exist and have always willed to be part of the process to quality education for better life. This is also the very reason why our teachers and support staff must be people with a passion and excellence for education. Again, to have a successful and sustainable quality education system, we need quality administrators and leaders; men and women who love to serve the community beyond the self. These are people who motivate the young children to love to study hard, work hard and aspire high to make a difference in life; a difference not only in their personal life or their family but also in the community, the nation and the global village whose life they are born to share. This can only be possible when a person loves others and is ambitious and happy to see the lives of others change and get better, from misery to true dignity.

Thank God we have a family of such a people at Rubanda Solidarity School and beyond who are already partnering with us to realize this ideal vision and mission. We're greatly appreciative of all of you who are already engaged and those who will join for the best development of our school and Rubanda community. To the school parents, employees, school neighbors, friends and our donors around the globe, I want to acknowledge you for I strongly believe that in "Solidarity" many things have been done by your various contributions and your presence and our past successes are all a great proof that it works. Thank you all for without you, we would have little to talk about today at Rubanda Solidarity.

From our experience, I want to affirm that our school is continuing to be the best place and family to bring children to learn and to develop integrally. This integrity, commonly known as, "whole person development", is based on the three important components of child development education that has been practiced in and outside our country and proven valuable. This is because it promotes that natural human quest for God, social and economic advancement. For this very reason, within this year, we have introduced a new program in our school called the "Three Pillars" for quality education that we would like to continue to mainstream in our school curriculum as much as possible. These Three Pillars are: **Faith, Academics** and **Life-Skills**. In a nutshell, we must teach our children about God because life is a gift and we are not the makers of our own lives as our final home is not in this world (Faith). Also, children must strongly know that the world has changed and that to be able to cope with the changing world, full of competition, every child needs to have the rightful tools and ability to live in this changing world (Academics). And lastly but most importantly, our children must be taught that we are born to live in a community which is founded on a family and so be useful to the community whose life each is called to share (Life-Skills). This theory is not something new but what's new is the emphasis and the application placed on it in our school. Please join us to realize its powerful message for greater benefits.



Yamba Abaana

Yamba Abaana organization was founded in 2012 to improve on the well-being of the people of Rubanda community, specifically children's education. Currently, seventy-two children are being sponsored and without this sponsorship these children would not be able to attend the school. Yamba Abaana has supported the school to accomplish many things: provided bed mosquito nets for both nursery and primary children, safe and clean water for the school and community and steadily sustained sponsorships. It has kindled projects which have introduced students to computer literacy and improved the English language among children. It has provided a better communication network between sponsors and sponsored children, facilitated the school with easy means to teach and to handout. Yamba Abaana USA has also constructed a nice-looking nursery school and funded us for a new Safe to keep our documents safe. We also acknowledge the Croce del Sud Association who are our very first friends and donors of the school from Italy who still support us. Together with them, we also have the family of Claudia Caselli who continue to coordinate our first fifteen students' scholarships.

By Ms Peace Uwimana, YA Rep.

Hospitality 2017

The year 2017 was a very special year of hospitality for Rubanda Solidarity School. In June it was the first time in the history of our school to host a large group of visitors from America and the global world. The group of the nine Nutritionist students led by their supervisor, Dr. David Sharp from the Kent State University in the United States of America, surprised our students when they arrive at our school with a hip of ready to eat pineapples on top of their jip in the month of July 2017. That was a combined way of both African and American cultural spice. We will never forget it. We were also told that was the first time in Africa for most of them and all to be in Uganda, Rubanda and Mukigyera. What a spectacular blessing for our school students and our visitors. This team of students fell in love with our students right away from the first minute they received them at Kagunga trading center, on a market day with green branches, sign of joy. The warm welcome accorded by the primary students at the trading center to the school gate where they were joined by the nursery kids left the Kent State University students ecstatic. The warm welcome received spoke volumes of the Kiga culture to our visitors. We give credit to our students, administration and all the staff who organized our students to these great cultural values. On their arrival back to America, our visitors wished to reciprocate the same warm reception by creating a remarkable legacy for our school students. They mobilized funds to buy equipment for social games including



Standing at the school football field near Kakhuma Hill

balls, uniforms and other nursery social equipment. Indeed, these donations came at the right time when our students truly needed the equipment. One of the students at the nursery section was overheard screaming with joy, "I will not go back home, I want to play all the time." Thank you dear David and all your team of students for choosing to come to us, sharing your precious time, gifts and adding a great passion to our students towards quality education. We love visitors and we love you all at our school. Come again!



Our New Projects For 2018

Our 2017 priority project plan list included the construction of “Obama” dormitory, five classrooms of primary 1-5 with other minor projects. However, due to the unexpected emergencies of drought and floods that hit Rubanda district in the middle of the year, our plans were affected. We had to halt our priority projects and fit in new ones to answer to the emergency needs. In particular, we are very grateful to Yamba Abaana USA who were so generous to swiftly come in with the emergency food plan that enabled us to keep our school open until the normal end of term two unlike the other schools which had to close earlier than planned.

From the drought and flood crises, we learned a few things including that improvement was needed for our school food security measures. This incorporates creating a school model garden for students to learn, practice, and to strengthen the Yamba Abaana Uganda garden project for school food supplementary and income to sustain the group. Again we are thankful to our friends in the US for their contribution towards this new adventure. Lastly, our major project plans for this year 2018 are to provide five conducive learning classrooms for our primary section students, as well as maintenance and consolidation of what we already have. May the Lord continue to bless us for His own glory and the good of his children on earth.



By Fr. Dominic Tumusiime, AJ.

As I conclude, it would be unfair if I ended without highlighting the presence of God in the miracles done through Rubanda Solidarity. Our past years have indeed been very rough but always with lots of blessings. The school that was born under a tree and nursed in the dust during summer and mud during winter, has seen tremendous growth within these thirteen years. I recall some of the experiences whereby matrons had to walk through the dark every night for over eight years escorting students to sleep or to the toilets because they couldn't see the way. I also remember, in one of my holidays joining the students to go hunting for water in one of the villages for drinking, cooking and laundry. Amazingly, the students of the time enjoyed it patiently and it is a credit to them for the right attitude to cope with the challenges of daily life.

There was also a period known as the “Kerosene lamps-Obutadooba”. Those small lamps were our only source of light in our dormitories though we knew how heavily hazardous they are. They were lamps of nightmares but with no options. They could smoke and cover the whole dormitory, leave the room smelly and everyone sneezing. Consequently, when the flame was quenched, or the lamp ran out of kerosene, it was time for mosquitos to dance on our children. These were horrible and scary times indeed that always left our children sick and in bed. By Divine Providence, things have changed for the best. It's amazing to see today that students sleep safely under mosquito nets, drink safe water, move about wherever they want at night, eat beyond survival, relax and play outdoors on our own land. Thus, the students receive quality education with no registered drop outs due to school inadequacy. Our employees also get a better wage than in the times past. Above all, we are proud to see that for six years, the seventh grade graduates passed excellently to join high school education, making a total of 168 school leavers this year 2018. I am also grateful for the enormous experiences our school administrators and leaders have gained. It's an investment we are proud of because it continues to bring new life and energy to our school to progress from strength to strength. There is a lot more.

My final appeal to each one is to desist from having short memories. There is always a human tendency in each of us, children of Adam and Eve, to keep yearning for more and more and easily forget the past in the present. I encourage every parent, leader and administrator to tirelessly stick to our “Solidarity” values. Whenever possible, teach the history, vision and mission of Rubanda Solidarity. We must instill in our students the values that our school stands for and let them participate in the journey we have walked and continue to walk today. This will help them to appreciate, work hard and create in them a passion to be someone special to make a difference tomorrow. Please school administrators, teachers and support staff, strive to be the best light and salt you can be to these precious children in your hands, you will never live to regret. Involve and engage students in school activities such as: writing articles, songs, poems and drama with storytelling and games, agriculture and many more possible skills of value. In this way, we will keep Rubanda Solidarity, our model school of pride, a community venue for sharing values and a sustainable center of quality education from generation to generation. Let's continue to work hard, together, in “Solidarity” to raise our school to excellence for a better life. Thank you!

I wish you a Happy New Year 2018
Fr. Tumusiime, Dominic, AJ.



Our 13 Year Old School

The Headteacher begins the report by thanking the benefactors and friends as well as the Director General for their support and initiatives.

There is steady improvement in the academics. On health, no pupils were registered as sick due to the good feeding, mosquito nets and general improved care. As far as school enrollment is concerned, it increased in primary section while there was a decrease in nursery section after eliminating the middle class: we have 32 in nursery one and 24 in nursery two with 3 teachers and total school staff of 33 for both primary and nursery sections combined. Then, the Headteacher's recommendations are as follows: urges parents and guardians to tighten their grip on necessities for the children; teachers to stay united in guidance, counseling, coaching and mentoring the learners; pupils maintain discipline and strive for excellency; administrators to always aim at quality education.

The School Directress, gives her congratulations to 25 pupils who received the sacrament of Confirmation. She then thanks the Church leaders for their inspiration and services through school chaplaincy. Many thanks are given to the catechists, staff, parents and well-wishers for their support, and to the students who practiced what was required of them.

The Deputy for Primary Section speaks of Solidarity School in Rubanda that offers a bright future to the pupils growing up. School enrollment statistics are G/P.7 31, G/P.6 23, G/P.5 34, G/P.4 32, G/P.3 35, G/P.2 40, and G/P 1 32, together with the 56 of nursery section, they make up a total of 286 students in the day and boarding school for 2017. On discipline, the primary deputy reports great improvement especially to the teacher -pupil relationship. Sports and games are greatly enjoyed by all classes. She also mentions of the introduction of the new "Three Pillars" program being put in place that has marvelously improved on the academic, faith and life skills disciplines among the learners. She passionately concludes with health, saying that it has greatly improved due to the emphasis on good feeding in our school, thus the learners love the school and study for better performances.



The school staff pauses for a group photo during their annual seminar and picnic at Rwahi Resort in February 2017



He adds that another greatest miracle happened when Father Dominic was assigned to work in America by his religious superiors in 2011. This was the greatest opportunity Rubanda Solidarity will live to remember. We started receiving new friends from the US to our

school and initial projects like fighting mosquitoes began. This was followed by big ones like solar power, hand dug water supply well, land consolidation, e-reader/kindle project, new nursery school construction, food and salary supplements and many more graced Rubanda Solidarity to be what it is today.

Mr. Rogers, attributes local success with Rubanda Solidarity coming from its right vision, mission and objectives right away from its start. It started by clearly identifying the real problem and with the determination to make a difference. "Solidarity" became our song of the day, in and out of the school and soon Rubanda Solidarity became a great seed in the community that everyone is proud of. The community has given its own contributions as well, the great cooperation from the community combined with that of the international community friends make Rubanda Solidarity unique. Solidarity and hospitality go together in our school, the very reason we boast of Yamba Abaana Uganda and Yamba Abaana USA, today. For united we succeed and divided we fall. Orishaba gives thanks to Fr. Dominic for the good relationship he has created and maintains with friends in many parts of the world for the common good of the people of Rubanda and beyond.

By Mr. Rogers, Sr. Brenda, Trs. Immaculate and Joy and Peace, YA Rep.



The Synopsis of Rubanda Solidarity

On the assembly, the students are seen welcoming the Yamba Abaana visitors from USA in July 2017. The general projects' coordinator, Mr. Rogers Orishaba gives a synopsis of Rubanda solidarity as started by Rev. Fr. Dominic Tumusiime in 2004 assisted by Sr. Stella Kyasimire, "under a Tree". The association was started as a non-governmental organization with a mission to eradicate poverty and create better life. The new association targeted three vulnerable groups: children, youth and mothers. At its initial stage, they picked up all the three groups passionately but with time, they realized they were burning out due to lack of qualified personnel and limited resources. They worked around that by choosing to concentrate on the first priority—children. The other two groups were put on hold. For children, they chose to promote "quality education" that has indeed become a model for private nursery and primary education in Rubanda district.



Mr. Orishaba says that he joined the association in 2005 and has since been managing all projects, a service that has earned him a name "Coordinator", that he greatly enjoys in the community. He shares that the greatest initial problems were numerous but the most grave challenge to children was dropping out of the only government assisted schools in the community. He shares the unpublished study that was conducted by Father Dominic and Sister Stella that revealed the cause to be lack of enough food in the families and lack of school meals in government schools. This sparked the founding of Rubanda Solidarity Day and Boarding school. Rogers attributes the success that followed to Fr. Dominic's passion to make a difference in the lives of poor children and their families. He also singles out the enormous generosity of some of our first donors including the Croce del Sud Assoc., Brasilita Onlus, Cuore Amico Onlus, the family of Claudia Caselli and other friends. The development moved on amidst successes, difficulties and failures. They later realized they were meant to make them stronger.

Reflecting on what has made our school unique and kept it focused on quality education, the Deputy for the Nursery Section reports that Rubanda Solidarity is a day and boarding school for both boys and girls. It strives to offer quality basic needs for child development like diligent care, healthy feeding, good sleeping conditions, clean sanitation, safe drinking water, safe environment for learners and staff, which all together contribute to quality education which is our mission. She also extends her gratitude to the school Director, Fr. Dominic Tumusiime, the Coordinator Mr. Rogers Orishaba and all our great donors and friends without whom our school would be different than what it is today. Each one's contributions have helped the school lift the standards of excellence.



The Nursery Deputy is grateful to the donors for the newly and fully equipped nursery campus. She says that the students of Nursery two graduate at the end of third term which is the closing day of academic year. This graduation is something greatly enjoyed by our students and their parents; it helps them to have a taste of a graduation gown and ceremony which leave learners motivated and with a passion to learn. Finally, she reveals how gender sensitive our school is and should be as we strive to promote quality education for both boys and girls. There are fifteen boys and nine girls in the nursery two graduates class of 2017. She urges parents and guardians to take advantage of the new nursery school and bring more children from four years and above. This is



important because children are good learning to read and write at an early age of their childhood development. Graciously, our school has put good provisions for this.

By the Head Teacher, Innocent Asimwe

2017 Candidates



Aheibwe
Grace



Ainamani
Moreen



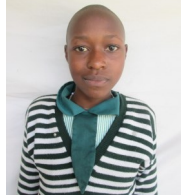
Ainamani
Oscar



Ainembabazi
Brenda



Ainembabazi
Polycarp



Akankwasa
Clare



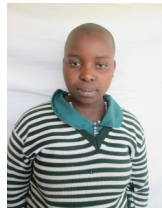
Akankwasa
Joan



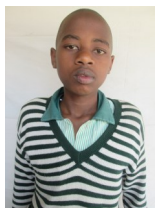
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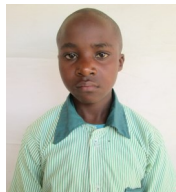
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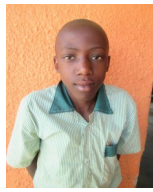
Ayebare
Naboth



Ayebazibwe
Alfred



Ayebazibwe
Aurther



Byomuhangi
Treasure



Byonanebye
Nicholas



Gift
Franclin



Kazora
Onesmas



Kemigisha
Janet



Kukundakwe
Justine



Muhwezi
Onesmas



Mukundane
Desire



Musinguzi
Elizabeth



Muyambi
Ezra



Natumanya
Deus



Ninsiima
Alice



Ninsiima
Violet



Niwagaba
John



Niwaha
Catherine



Niwaha
Ritah



Niwayongyera
Brian

