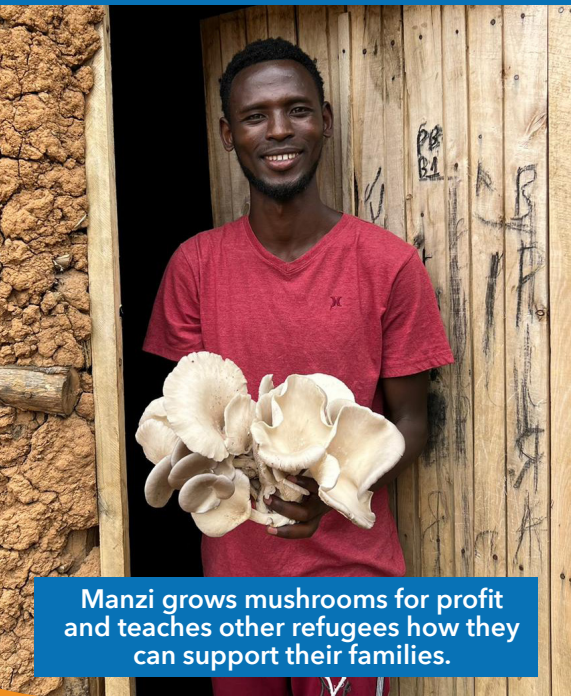




## News Highlights

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**Page 4 | Kalispell Church Supports Young Refugees**



Manzi grows mushrooms for profit and teaches other refugees how they can support their families.

## The Gift You Gave Manzi

**Manzi, Impact Hope graduate, is farming mushrooms and teaching other young refugees how to grow!**

I was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. When I was 12 years old, my family and I departed because of the war and found refuge in Rwanda. We had to live in a refugee camp where life was hard. I studied hard in the refugee camp school in hopes that I would get a chance to learn at a better school. As a result of my hard work and good grades, Impact Hope sponsored me so I could continue my studies at a boarding school. I finished high school at Gahogo Adventist Academy.

Throughout my three years at Gahogo Adventist Academy, instead of going back to life at the camp during the summer months, I got the opportunity

to receive vocational training at the Summer Trade Program. Students sponsored through Impact Hope have the chance to learn life skills like hairdressing, culinary arts, tailoring, and agriculture! I took agriculture classes, which taught me how to farm and cultivate. I also learned the basics of starting my own business.

Now, I own a mushroom farm. I supply mushrooms to locals and at a hotel in a nearby town. My vision is to teach other refugees how to grow mushrooms so they, too, can sell mushrooms to support their families. Because of Impact Hope, I am creating a better life and teaching other refugees the skills I received!



# Experiencing Life in Rwanda through Tyler's Lense

Tyler Parker is returning home after his ten month student missionary service with Impact Hope in Rwanda. Tyler taught English at Gahogo Adventist Academy. He also worked with a professional film team, traveling around the country to capture various aspects of Rwandan life and collect stories from Impact Hope students and villagers.

## Most Impactful Experience

Some of my most impactful experiences have been hearing life stories from so many different people. When you take the time to sit and listen to someone, you can learn so much about their past and challenges. It's extremely humbling and makes me realize how important it is to listen to other people because they all have a story. It's also amazing how happy people are despite not having anything besides the clothes on their backs. In life, it is the small things that we take for granted.



## Common Sights in Rwanda

There are many things that are common to see in Rwanda. One that still surprises me after the eight months that I have been here is how much people can carry on bicycles. No, these bicycles aren't your typical bikes. They are solid steel with NO gears, which means that they are impossible to pedal uphill. They are extremely heavy and fully loaded! Sometimes, they carry firewood, milk, full steel doors and framing for houses and sometimes full couches. All this can be found on a small two-wheeled bicycle! Other things that are common to see are people with baskets on their heads.



Tyler with film team in Rwanda, August 2023.



## Colorful Birds in Rwanda

My primary job was photography/videography for Impact Hope. In my free time I would sit behind the dormitory at the school I taught English at and there were always colorful birds! It was hard to capture because the birds move so fast and are extremely skittish.

## Life in the Refugee Camps

Life in the refugee camps is extremely difficult. The students describe the challenges with access to clean water and getting enough food. If you visit a camp, you will observe lots and lots of children. Without access to jobs, the parents have too much free time. This results in making a lot of babies. I have seen how this only makes their situation harder because they have more mouths to feed.

Have you ever smelled fermented urine? Well, it is a common smell in the camps. Sewage is generally running down the little paths between houses and the smells are horrendous. It is fascinating and humbling how Impact Hope really can transform the lives of so many young people by taking them out of an almost impossible living environment.



## Friendships Made

At the school, I made many connections with staff and students. I would let students come to my room in the evenings to learn guitar and to hangout! Their favorite game to play during that time was UNO.



## Grateful for the Small Things

You really have no idea what life these refugees are forced to live until you experience it. It truly makes you grateful for the small things in life.

**Thank you, Tyler, for your service to Impact Hope!**





## Impact Hope Series Coming to 3ABN

Last August, Impact Hope partnered with Big Puddle Films to begin documenting a special series for you. Throughout 13 episodes, you will experience what life is like for young refugees in Rwanda and how their lives are impacted when given the opportunity to get an education and learn a trade through Impact Hope. Episodes will begin airing in June on 3ABN. Scan the QR code to watch the series trailer on the Impact Hope Youtube channel!



## Blessings All Around

The Kalispell Seventh-day Adventist Church in Montana has chosen Impact Hope as their special mission and giving focus this quarter. Kalispell SDA has a huge heart for supporting both local and overseas ministries. In Pastor Casey Higgins year's of shepherding, he has noticed that when his church family commits themselves to mission projects, they also receive blessings in return. Thank you to all of our Kalispell sponsors and donors!



If your church would like to add Impact Hope to their mission projects and have a representative come to your church, please contact [Karrie@Impact-Hope.org](mailto:Karrie@Impact-Hope.org).

## World Refugee Day is June 20th!

Grab your calendar and a pen! Circle June 20 for World Refugee Day. We are planning a special campaign. (Hint: this will not only help Impact Hope students, but their families will be equally blessed as well!) More details to come!

## Ways **YOU** Can Make an Impact

### SPONSOR A STUDENT

\$50 monthly provides a safe education at a Christian boarding school and all living essentials.

### DONATE

Whether you make a monthly donation or a one time donation, 100% of gifts goes directly to the mission.

### FOLLOW



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