



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF REFUGEES | APRIL 2022

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10



Theogene at Gahogo Academy.

Because of Your Sponsorship

My name is Theogene, and my family lives in the Kigeme refugee camp.

This is my story.

I remember many things before becoming a refugee in the Congo. I would walk one kilometer to and from school. After school, I was responsible for taking care of the family goats.

One evening as I was returning home with the goats, I heard the sound of gunfire and felt bullets whiz by my head as people were shooting at someone behind me. The goats were spooked and bolted home. I urgently ran to catch them.

When I neared my home, I saw four soldiers with my parents. They were asking for bribes from

my parents and trying to recruit my father to their cause. My father responded that he could not join them, but he did pay the bribe money.

One of the soldiers saw me watching the event unfold. He told me to show him where the kitchen was. After showing him, I left the soldier to share our food with his comrades and ran off into the woods to hide. When the soldiers finished eating their food and left our house, I returned to be with my family.

After one week, my father came home saying we must move to Rwanda because the soldiers wanted to enlist my father and uncle. The following morning, we packed our family and got on a bus heading to the border. (continued inside)



You took me when I had nothing. You gave me the chance to achieve my dreams and be something. I will be able to support myself and my family in the future because of your sponsorship.

(Continued from the first page)
We traveled seven kilometers until soldiers stopped us at a checkpoint and forced everyone off the bus. The soldiers picked through the passengers, allowing only Hutus to continue to the border. We, along with the other passengers who were Tutsi, were sent back to our homes in the Congo.

The following day we attempted to go to the border again. This time without my father because he needed to stay to take care of the cattle. We rode on two different motorcycles. I was on a motorcycle with my two little sisters. My mother and brother

were on the other one. A soldier stopped my motorcycle while my mother continued ahead. The soldier said that I was too old to continue and must go back and take care of my little sisters in the Congo. I pleaded with him that I could not, at ten years old, provide for my two little sisters. We were kept at the checkpoint for one hour until the soldier finally let us go.

We met our mother and brother in the town of Sake, Congo. We kept moving until we made it to immigration at the border city of Goma. Rwandan immigration accepted our family as refugees into the country.

We were escorted to the Nkamira refugee camp and given two packages of maize flour, beans, salt, and oil per month to live on. We did not receive any clothes or money to get clothes. We were kept in a large warehouse building that housed over 120 families.

After one month, we moved to the Kigeme refugee camp. Since 2012, I have been living

in Kigeme camp. The first year, there was no school provided. The following year a school was built nearby, which allowed me to begin my studies again.

As I approached my tenth-grade year, I did not think I would be able to continue my studies because my school only went up to the ninth grade. When I learned that Impact Hope was sponsoring students who passed their national exams, I became determined. If I did not continue my studies, chances of finding a steady job would be slim.

I studied very hard and passed my national exam! In 2019, Impact Hope selected me to attend a Christian boarding school. Sponsorship allows me to learn educational knowledge and practical life skills. My education not only helps me but my family as well.

You took me when I had nothing. You gave me the chance to achieve my dreams and be something. I will be able to support myself and my family in the future because of your sponsorship.



Impact Hope University Students at AUCA.

Stitchin' for Your Kitchen!



Aprons made by Impact Hope's first co-op!

After completing vocational training in tailoring, five Impact Hope graduates have joined together to start a tailoring cooperative. Along with sewing for their local community, these talented young adults are making beautiful aprons for you! Starting this month, new sponsorships will receive one apron in the mail as a gift of our appreciation!

The Key to Success

Future accountants, digital marketers, financial officers, business managers, and nurses! This group of Impact Hope university students is studying at the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA). One young man, Bosco, says, "I am so thankful for having this chance to study. There are many people out there who don't have this chance." Your support gives these young people the key to the door of their careers!

The Center for Hope

Announcing Impact Hope's vocational trade school!!!

We have seen that vocational training empowers young men and women to launch their careers. In addition to partnering with state trade schools, we are excited to announce Impact Hope's very own year-round vocational training program called the Center for Hope! This program will provide young adults with the vocational and entrepreneurial skills to start a business and become self-reliant. We are eager to begin filling the halls with students at the grand opening in May 2022. Stay tuned for more!



Construction is under way for Impact Hope's new vocational training school.



65 Reasons to Give

We are very grateful to our sponsors for supporting refugee students to attend Adventist boarding schools in Rwanda. **Sponsors impact students' lives, giving hope to students and their families.**

We are beyond grateful for your continued support during these challenging times. We want to say thank you to those who have sponsored in the past.

We currently have over 65 unsponsored students and need your help to find new sponsors to support them.

Please tell your family and friends about Impact Hope. They can sponsor a student or donate to the general fund and help these young men and women thrive.

Follow Impact Hope



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The Cost of a Gift

Impact Hope aims to help the students become upright, educated, independent, and involved contributors to their developing society. We want to do nothing that will encourage them to become dependent, to link sponsorship with personal gain or to equate a sponsor's care and friendship with access to money or expensive presents. Generosity on this scale has the potential to be disruptive and damaging not only to the individual concerned, but to the community. We request just a personal letter or card. Due to fairness issues and favoritism, we ask that no cash or gifts be sent to Impact Hope for students.



Invite Us to Your Church

Help us to spread the word about this ministry to your church family. Our team loves to give church presentations. Even better, we love for YOU to give a presentation with our provided materials. **For more information, please contact us: info@Impact-Hope.org or call (503) 673-3905.**

Three ways you can help

PRAY

Support Impact Hope as a Prayer Partner by signing up at: www.Impact-Hope.org/prayer-partners

SHARE

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, sign up for our email updates, or invite us to speak at your church or event.

GIVE

Sponsor a student, support our operations, or donate while you shop. Visit www.impact-hope.org.

