



News Highlights

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Meet Desange, one of Impact Hope's shining stars.

"From Refugee Camp to Opportunity"

by Desange

My name is Desange, and my story begins in Nyabiheke Refugee Camp, where survival is part of everyday life. Food is never guaranteed, and girls carry heavy responsibilities like fetching water, caring for siblings, and helping at home. Even in the middle of those challenges, I held onto one dream: to go to school.

My mother worked incredibly hard to keep us going. Every morning before sunrise, she walked to other people's farms and worked for 700 Rwandan Franc's (about 50 US cents) a day. It was very little, but to her, it meant hope.

Education became my safe place. But in the camp, many girls never get the chance to continue school because of

poverty or early responsibilities. Some are pressured into early marriage. I was close to losing my chance too—until something changed everything. When I was 17 years old, I received sponsorship through Impact Hope.

Someone believed in me without even knowing me. Because of that support, I was able to attend Gakoni Adventist Academy, which opened a whole new world for me. I studied with gratitude because I knew every book, meal, and uniform was a gift. That sponsorship didn't just pay for school. It gave me dignity, confidence, and a future.



"When you sponsor a girl, you are giving her a voice."

Desange's Story Continued

When you sponsor a girl, you are giving her a voice. You are also breaking a cycle of generational poverty and protecting her future. Your investment in her also makes a lasting and positive impact on her community.

Impact Hope didn't stop helping me after high school—they gave me the chance to attend university, something I once thought was impossible. Because of this support, I was able to help my younger brother go to high school as well. Today he is working as a junior engineer, and our whole family is proud of this achievement.

Your investment in me has multiplied. It changed my life, and it changed my brothers life too. Today I am grateful to have two jobs: Business Coach and Accountant.

These jobs allow me to pay for my Master's degree program and support myself as I prepare to start my own business. I want to create opportunities for others just like someone created opportunities for me.

None of this would have been possible without Impact Hope.

You gave me hope, confidence, and the belief that my future could be different. I carry your impact with me every day.

God bless you,
—Desange



Desange (middle) writing a letter to her sponsor while attending Gakoni Academy.

Why Your Support Matters:

- Educating refugee girls in Rwanda helps break a cycle of poverty.
- Women who are educated can earn income and support their families.
- Education gives women confidence and a voice in their home and community.
- Educated women will teach their own children.
- The impact spreads from one woman to her family and community.

Reflections from Rwanda



Our administrative team during their visit to Rwanda.

During a recent administrative visit to Rwanda, two Board members and a new staff member experienced the country and its people for the first time.

They were struck by the strength and grace seen in everyday life. In rural area's women carry heavy loads on their heads with balance and dignity. Men on bicycles climb steep hills carrying goods that would challenge even professional cyclists. Daily life requires hard work, endurance, and perseverance.

The people stood out most. Interactions felt calm, sincere, and genuine.

While many children were shy at first, smiles and laughter quickly appeared—especially when phones came out for selfies together. In those moments, they seemed just like teenagers anywhere in the world.

The visit also brought simple joys: African tea (full of ginger), fresh tropical fruit, and mild weather with the occasional rain shower.

This time in Rwanda was a powerful reminder of the dignity, resilience, and warmth of the people we serve—and why your partnership with Impact Hope continues to matter so deeply.

Follow Your Students Progress More Closely

Use this QR code to set up your REACH account. REACH is our online sponsorship portal. By setting up a REACH account, you can view your student's profile, see updates, and follow their journey more closely. If you do not have an account, you can create one using the email connected to your sponsorship. You also have the option to send your student a message.



A Message from the President

Last month in Rwanda, I stood in a classroom filled with new refugee students in their fresh uniforms, and it brought me back to the very first time I saw Impact Hope students at Gakoni Academy. I remember tearing up as I looked at them because I knew where they had come from, and now I could see them safe, learning, and full of possibility.

Over the years, I've watched these students grow from shy kids who could only say "happy, happy" into confident young adults in Kigali who can clearly express their gratitude. Hearing their stories and seeing their progress is overwhelming in the best way.

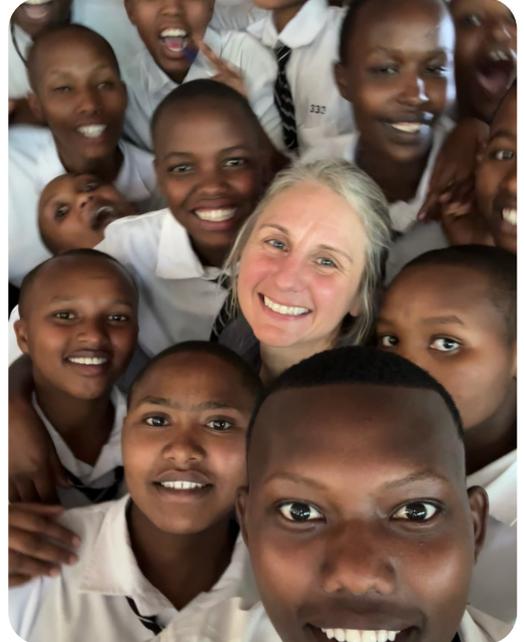
Although I'm the lucky one who gets to stand in Rwanda and hear their thanks in person, that gratitude belongs to you—our donors and sponsors. You are the reason their lives have changed.

Their appreciation reminds me of Mary anointing Jesus' feet—an act of gratitude so deep that some saw it as extravagant. But when you understand what she had been rescued from, it makes perfect sense. In the same way, when you see where these students began and the futures they're now building, their gratitude feels profound and even humbling.

Thank you for opening the door for them. I am honored to witness the impact of your generosity firsthand.

With deep gratitude,

Mindy Duggan



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.

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