

Seven United Spring 2017 Newsletter

Since 2008, we have led efforts to fight poverty in our communities. Our programs have encouraged youth to be the agents who educate and serve their communities, an effective and innovative approach.

Planting a Vegetable Garden



Seven United members from the chapter at Kibogora Polytechnic (a university in Rwanda's Western Province) recently created and planted a vegetable garden—known as "akarima k'igikoni," or a "kitchen garden"—as a way of improving family nutrition at very low cost.

Words from a Scholar: Reflections of One of the Children Seven United Supports in School



I call myself a lucky child because I saw the impossible becoming possible. Due to the financial situation at my house, I never thought studying was an option in my life. I was born into a family of 10 children and all of us needed our basic needs to be satisfied. Out of poverty, my parents sent me to Cyangugu to see if at least their third child would get an appropriate education. But in vain. My parents failed to get the little money that was needed to pay my school fees. When I came back to Kigali, I met SUN, which helped me to live a better life by paying for my school fees and all the necessary items for me to have a better education. I thank the Lord for having made a way again in my life.

Elsa Uwijuru

(translated from Kinyarwanda)

Visit to Umwana nk'Abandi



The SUN chapter at the University of Rwanda visited children living with mental and physical disabilities who stay in a care center known as Umwana nk'Abandi (Every Child Is a Child) in Kigali's Nyamirambo neighborhood this past April. The center offers programming and support to 35 children, some who stay there and others who go home at night.

More than 25 members of Seven United participated in the event. They spoke with parents who have kids in the center and with Jertulde Mukakarangwa the center's founder. They were engaged in learning about the center's programs and enjoyed spending time with the kids.

Seven United provided financial support to Umwana nk'Abandi to further the organizations' common mission of creating access to high-quality and inclusive education. We were glad to be able to contribute to this amazing work. We also appreciated all the smiles and happy laughter shared during the event.



Mugisha is 14. He is deaf and has other physical disabilities. Mugisha's parents thought that kids with disabilities are not like other kids, and they left him on the street. He was taken in by benefactors, who brought him to the center, where he started receiving treatment. Now he can feed himself, a good sign that he will be able to be more independent in the future. Young people in Seven United had fun sharing lunch with him, and he was so happy to meet new people.

Schola is 21 years old. She is deaf and mute. After her birth, she did not receive the treatment usually provided to kids with such these disabilities. Her family did not treat her like a kid who could have a great future. She learned of Umwana nk'Abandi and came on her own. The center is helping her in various ways. She now helps the center, too, with cooking, doing laundry, and caring for the other children.



Meet Amanda (left) and Danielle (right), two American university students and friends of Seven United

Danielle Marvin

I have worked with disabled children in both a school and a daycare setting, and it makes my heart happy to see children being given the chance to thrive when, without this care, they wouldn't have these opportunities.

People with disabilities are just as deserving of love and respect as anyone else, and it is heartening to see others who realize this. I was especially impressed by the classroom setting in the center and hearing about how the

Amanda Flores

I appreciated the chance to see Umwana nk'Abandi and get a sense of what everyday life is like there. I am touched by the organization's commitment to its mission. I think that it's helpful to know how the organization functions and to meet the people who work there and the children who live there.

I admire Seven United so much! I really

children are able to access education despite their disabilities.

I think that the world needs more organizations like Seven United. Organizations that genuinely want to do good, not for any personal benefit but just because they want to lend a helping hand where needed. I think that the work Seven United is doing is important, and I am very glad to hear that they are getting chapters established around the world.

love your story and it's been an honor to have met some of the founders and other members of Seven. You have made my stay in Rwanda so much better, and I am in continuous awe of the work that you do as well as your passion for it. I know when I go back to university I'll have so much to say about my time getting to know you and your work. I have faith in your ability to expand as an organization and make a large impact on the people you serve, and I'm very proud to have been even a very small part of it.



Samuel Muhindo, Seven United's President of Institutional Relations, with one of the children at Umwana nk'Abandi.

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