



## YEGO RWANDA FOUNDATION

### Background

Yego Rwanda was founded in 2010 and officially registered as a charity by the government of Rwanda in 2011. Yego Rwanda currently operates within the city of Kigali but has plans to expand its work to other parts of Rwanda as funds become available. Its office is located in Kimironko, a subdistrict of Kigali.

Yego Rwanda consists of a Board of Directors that oversees the direction of the charitable work, and three volunteers who deliver services: Mrs. Athanasie Mukarutesi (President), Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Gatera (Executive Director), and Divine Irakoze (Accountant and Secretary). Program funds are raised by Yego Canada, a group of supporters in Edmonton, Alberta.

### Goals

1. Bring healing to vulnerable women and youth in Rwanda
2. Empower these woman and youth to become productive, self-supporting Rwandans

### Strategies

1. Deliver healing retreats for women and youth where they can tell their stories and receive support and education to help heal from trauma.
2. Create opportunities for women and youth to form relationships where they feel safe and have a sense of community.
3. Empower the women and youth to become self-supporting by giving them the education and skills they need to find employment.

### Achievements

- Provided school fees to 59 students and school materials to 229 youth and children. Two of these students have completed university, two have completed trade school, and one is currently at university.
- Supported 32 families with counselling and food to encourage the success of their children.
- Developed a cultural music/dance group to provide a therapeutic environment for 162 vulnerable youth. They were also given money for transportation. Youth from different

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**Tel: +250 788301878/0788759414 | Email: yegorwanda11@gmail.com**

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tribal backgrounds form friendships through a common interest. Ten youth have gone on to find employment singing and dancing at events in Kigali.

- Provided an annual Christmas celebration to 283 youth and their families.
- Counselling 110 youth and 30 women at the Yego office.
- Held seven three-day healing retreats with approximately 20 women and youth at each retreat. A total of 147 women and girls have attended.
- Developed a leadership team of six women to minister to the needs of the women and youth after attending the retreats. Kigali has been divided into six zones, each with a leader who connects with the women and youth in her area to form a support network.
- Organized regular gatherings for all women and youth to provide teaching and support.

### **Immediate Plans**

1. To continue with healing retreats, payment of school fees, cultural dance and music group, family support, and counselling.
2. To establish a Computer-Assisted Learning program where youth and women without an education can learn skills to help them become self-supporting. (See note below for details.)
3. To provide temporary shelter for women and youth in desperate situations to give them a safe place where they can deal with issues, heal, and be empowered with skills to become self-supporting.
4. To open a peace library to foster peace and reconciliation among Rwandans, focussing on the younger generation.

### **Computer Assisted Learning (CAL)**

CAL is based on a highly successful program developed by Canadian Peacemakers International (CPI) in Honduras. CPI will support the implementation of CAL in Kigali. CAL uses computers with curriculum targeted to the needs of the students: business, budgeting, marketing, English language, computer skills, high school completion. Working individually or in small groups, students use the computers for two to three hours at a time, allowing three sets of learners to access the computers each day. This also allows flexibility for students who have other commitments like caring for family members or part-time jobs. The cost of the curriculum is unknown at the present time.

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## Immediate Needs

1. Clean and repair a house to be used for CAL. Lent by the Mayor of Kicukiro district, this space can accommodate 12 computer stations, an office and a room for counselling. It is located near Masaka subdistrict in Kicukiro, Kigali.
2. Twelve computers. A businessman from Dubai had offered to provide the computers to get CAL started but has not been responding to emails.
3. Tables or desks and chairs for the students. A local East-Indian businessman had promised to donate used tables and chairs but is not responding to reminders.
4. Curriculum for CAL.

## Long Range Plans

To have a community centre that includes:

- A gathering room for youth and women
- Classrooms for CAL
- Office space
- Counselling rooms
- Rooms to provide shelter for those in need of a temporary safe space

## Annual Budget for Immediate Needs

Repair of house for CAL	\$ 3,000 CAD
6 desktop computers @ \$465 each	\$ 2,790 CAD
6 tables for computer room @ \$155 each	\$ 930 CAD
20 chairs @ \$40 each	\$ 800 CAD
Electricity @ \$50/month	\$ 600 CAD
Antivirus software @ \$50/month	\$ 600 CAD
Computer networking, Internet and maintenance @ \$100/month	\$ 1,200 CAD
4 security lightbulbs @ \$40 each	\$ 160 CAD
20 curtains @ \$62 each	\$ 1,240 CAD
Computer technician and facilitator @ \$150/month	\$ 1,800 CAD
CAL curriculum	TBD
Miscellaneous (5%)	<u>\$ 656 CAD</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,776 CAD</b>

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