



The Village Times

Term 2, 2014

sup·port /sə'pôrt/ · **what support means to us** ·

Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village

Note from Our Village Director

If I could describe this term in one word it would be, intense.

The second term is the longest of the year, spanning about 14 weeks. These weeks are packed with a variety of different activities for both students and staff. We had three major projects this term - the Stand Up & Be Counted fundraisers that took place in New York City, Boston, and here in the Village for our first-ever Stand Up & Be Counted Rwanda. We knew these events would be different than in past years because of the loss of our dear friend, founder, and Grandmother to the kids, Anne Heyman. We prepared a larger group of kids than in past years to attend the events in the United States. As a result of these kids' hard work and with the support of our contributors we were able to raise over one million dollars. These back-to-back events were amazing successes!



We also hosted our own Stand Up Rwanda on July 10th. We reached our goal for raising close to \$100,000 dollars. I am so humbled by our community of supporters who saw Agahozo-Shalom as a place worth investing in. Stand Up & Be Counted Rwanda was amazing because we knew it was something that Anne really hoped to bring to fruition. She always articulated the importance of reaching out to the Rwandan community and Rwandan nationals to raise awareness about the ASYV. Anne wanted to give the Rwandan people the opportunity to invest in the future of Rwanda through supporting the youth of ASYV. We believe that \$100,000 was a solid target and we are proud that we achieved this goal. On top of all of this, Rwanda's First Lady, Her Excellency Jeannette Kagame, was the guest of honor at the event. This is a demonstration of the very strong support we are receiving from the First Lady as well as from the President of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame, who was the keynote speaker at the graduation of our Urumuli Grade in 2013. Additionally, we are proud that some of Anne's other dreams have been realized through new business initiatives taking root in Rwanda. The first of which is the solar project that lies just behind the Liquidnet Family High School, within the property limit of the ASYV. The project brought 250 jobs to local Rwamagana residents who work on the site, including some ASYV graduates. The solar plant will provide about 8.5 megawatts, which is approximately 8% of the energy in Rwanda. This shows the great impact that ASYV is having on the surrounding community and the ripple effect that reaches far beyond our gates. The second is the creation of See Far Enterprises, a Business Product Outsourcing company in partnership with UST Global. ASYV graduates will comprise 50% of See Far's incoming workforce. They will work for this company to hone their professional skills and emerge as valuable and experienced laborers.

The goal for next term is to focus on making sure that we complete the year successfully. More specifically, I am talking about the kids' academic performances. We are preparing our Senior 6 students (12th grade) to take the national exam, and we hope they will perform as strongly as the previous graduates. We want all of our students to finish their year with academic marks that show their improvement. Next term will be a much calmer term in comparison to this past one. We want to consolidate and digest everything that has taken place in the past 14 weeks. The first term was marked by the death of our dear founder and the second term was overtaken by the commencement of some major projects. Next term we will refocus our efforts on why we're here- the kids and their education.

Sincerely,



Jean Claude Nkulikiyimfura
Village Director

Table of Contents:

Page 2

Note from our Village Director

Page 5

What Support Means to Me

Contributors: Eunice Umubyeyi & Vincent Ruhumiriza

Page 6

Lean On Me: The Big Brothers and Sisters of ASYV

Page 7

Hope for the Future: African Child's Day

Page 8

My Life Before ASYV

Contributors: Odeth Mahoro & Josiane Uwamahoro

Page 9/10

ASYV Commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the 1994
Genocide Against the Tutsi

Page 11/13

Village Voices: Educators

Contributors: Jakila Wilberforce & Albertine Abayo

Page 15

Village Voices: Student

Hello, My Name is Adelaide Uduanze ...

Page 19–23

Stand Up & Be Counted Comes to Rwanda!





What Support Means to Me

Support means a lot to me, both for the people I support, and those who support me. For those I support, I try to give them the chance to reach their goals. They may be in trouble and need someone to lean on. I can be an asset to them because I listen to their aspirations and we can work together to achieve their goal.

I think: *How would you feel if you were the person who needed support?* Trust me, you'd feel the same way, excited to have someone on your team.

If I reach my goal, the people who support me, feel proud because they helped me get to where I am. My supporters really mean a lot to me. I will never forget them for the rest of my life. This includes the people who support the ASYV. Without their support, I could not study at the ASYV. Before the ASYV, I did not have the money for school fees.

Now, I am following my dream to become a computer engineer. When I achieve this goal, my supporters will be proud of me. This is what real support means to me.

Contributor: Eunice Umubyeyi - Amelia Earhart Family
Pictured Right



I was someone who could not attend school every day because on some days I had to go and search for materials that would allow me to survive. Getting school fees and necessary school materials was almost impossible. Even though I wanted to study, I found many people in my life who discouraged me from making progress in my studies. They would say, "What's the point of studying when we have no food?"

When I came to Agahozo-Shalom, I found that if someone takes one step forward, than others can encourage him or her to continue moving forward - this shows the spirit of family. I have never had this before in my life. Now I am ready to make my life more complete. **When I think of support, I think of having a new life and a new vision.** I know that I must work hard to grab all the opportunities that are offered at ASYV. **The skills I learn here will help me ensure that my past is forever my history and not my destiny.** I will not return to that poverty.

I would like to conclude in saying that ASYV has built in me the confidence to sustain me in my future and gave me the tools to have a successful life.

Contributor: Vincent Ruhumiriza - Steve Jobs Family
Pictured left



Lean On Me:

The Big Brothers and Sisters of ASYV

One of the most unique elements of the ASYV family structure is the role of our Big Brothers and Sisters within the Village. While the Mamas mend the hearts of our children, the Big Brothers and Sisters restore the fun of childhood. Many students are experiencing the love from a parent for the first time when they arrive at ASYV. It can be unnerving and sometimes overwhelming to let someone new into their lives in such a profound way. For this reason the Village provides another form of support - that of a sibling. Big Brothers and Sisters live in the Village to dispense advice and support students whenever and wherever needed. Unlike the Mamas who live with one family of kids for all four years, Brothers and Sisters have multiple families that they mentor during the child's first two years in the Village. The students that enter ASYV in their enrichment year range from 15-18 years of age. The Brothers and Sisters provide a level of comfort to the new students because they represent the same generation and have shared similar experiences. When walking through the Village it is not uncommon to see Big Brothers and Sisters sprawled out with their families on the grass, or holding hands and giggling as they walk up to the dining hall. The strength of a sibling bond is something that can never quite be understood, but it is a beautiful connection to witness and experience.

When speaking to the Big Brothers and Sisters about how they perceive their role in the Village, their responses mirrored their commitment to the Village. Dorkus Ashimwe explained that her role for her young Sisters is primarily to serve as an example. "When I was their age, I struggled to stay focused on my studies. They're young, in a new place, with new people and many new things to try. I understand that it can be difficult to adjust and I am here for them during this transition. It was not long ago that I was a student. I am here to encourage them, to have them learn from my mistakes - as any Big Sister would."

Big Brother Guy Kamatari shared insight into his own learning experience at the ASYV. "The Village is here to heal. I am able to heal my own history through being a part of my Brothers' lives. My boys are my Brothers. You do this for a job for one or two months and you start to feel like you have to be in the Village. Agahozo-Shalom is my home. To me, this is what healing really is, when it's so good that you don't even realize that you've changed. That you're finally happy." Big Brother Alexandre Umurinzi nodded his head in agreement, "We are around their same age," he continued, "the kids feel comfortable approaching us with whatever problems they are experiencing. It can be difficult for a teenage boy to talk to his Mama about some of the things that they can easily discuss with us. We make ourselves available to them, so no kid ever feels that they are alone without someone to talk to.

The roles of the Big siblings extend beyond that of the family construct. All of our Big Brothers and Sisters have alternative positions within the Village such as coaching sports, teaching art or music, or assisting with IT. In this way, the community grows even stronger and titles such as "Village," or "Family" are sincerely justified. "I know who these kids are and where they come from. I understand how to teach them and how to motivate them inside and outside of the classroom," said Big Brother Guy, "I'm with them every day. No one knows my boys better than I do." ASYV could not function in its familial capacity without the camaraderie that is encouraged by our Big Brothers and Sisters. We are so grateful for their endless love and abounding spirit!



Hope For the Future: ASYV Celebrates African Child's Day through Tikkun Olam

On June 11th, 2014 Agahozo-Shalom celebrated African Child's Day, an event that recognizes the hope and strength of children across the African continent. ASYV appreciated the occasion through assorted performances and surprises for the kids. The students took it upon themselves to showcase their accomplishments in front of their peers. Music groups, dance troops, and poets graced the stage boasting inspirational messages for their fellow Brothers and Sisters across the continent.

ASYV welcomed members of the Board of Commissioners from Rwanda's National Commission for Children (NCC) as our guests of honor. This organization is the first of its kind in Rwanda and is dedicated to improving the lives of children through education and advocacy. After the performances, the Chair of the NCC Board, Mr. Ngabonziza Damien, shared a few words with the student body. He encouraged the students to reach for the impossible. He reiterated the importance of **education as a tool of economic and social development, and fundamental in promoting the rights of children in Rwanda and across Africa**. The message hit home, as no child understands the opportunity of education better than ASYV's student body, most of whom were once considered the most vulnerable in the country. "We want to improve the world outside because we know how it feels to almost have nothing," said Senior 5 (11th grade) student Maxime Iryumugaba when asked for his reaction to the commissioner's speech.

The performances were followed by a special lunch, which included cold sodas and fresh meat, indulgences on the Rwandan lunch menu. However, the most joy came from the students when they saw the ASYV staff wearing paper hats and bow ties, performing lunch service duty for the day. As a special treat to the students, the ASYV staff took on the task of lunch service and clean-up duty. The event provided a unique occasion for the kids to pat themselves on the back and recognize how far they've come, while still encouraging them to push themselves toward their next achievements.

In honor of the celebration, some of the ASYV students decided to "pay it forward" and spent the week honoring the children in the surrounding community of Rwamagana. They visited the local primary schools to deliver necessary supplies such as notebooks, pens, and chalk. Senior 5 (11th grade) student Maxime Iryumugaba and Senior 6 (12th grade) student Florentine Mukangoga led the initiative, which they have poignantly entitled "Hope For the Future." We are so proud of our students for living in the model of Tikkun Olam. Please visit the ASYV YouTube page ([youtube.com/theasyv](https://www.youtube.com/theasyv)), for a special video about the project.



My Life Before ASYV

I grew up with my mother, father and my siblings. My dad used to give me school fees and money for shelter. Unfortunately, he passed away when I was in Senior 2 (8th grade), in 2012.

I started struggling in school and at home. I asked myself, "What am I going to do? Where am I going?" I was very sad to see the other children living good lives, while mine was so bad. I used to say, "Oh God, why not me?" But I had my mother who always told me, "You will have a good life. Be patient."

One day, when I came back from school, I saw my mother crying. She was saying, "Oh my God, I do not have money to buy food for my children." Those words of my mother made me so sad because I knew that I was the one who was causing that poverty, because my school fees were a lot of money. From that moment, I started to put more effort in my school work. Fortunately, I was successful!

Now that I am at ASYV I see what my mom was saying, because I have a good life here.

I thank God that I came to ASYV; where I have my siblings, I have my lovely Big Sisters and Brothers, and a cousin who always look out for me. I think that ASYV is the most beautiful place that I have ever seen. I promise I will use the chances that I am given and I will maximize my potential. I will be a change-maker in Rwanda.

Contributor: Odeth Mahoro, Eva Peron Family

Pictured Left



Life before Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village was not very easy. Before I came to ASYV I had trouble getting school fees or school materials. Both of my parents passed away and I lived with my old grandmother. She tried her best to make me happy, but we were so poor that our lives were very difficult. I had to do all of the housework, such as digging and fetching water, gathering vegetables, and cooking dinner for my grandmother and me. Even during this time, I had dreams of other places, but I had no hope they would come true. I remember one afternoon some people from ASYV came to my home. I was not there; I was in the forest collecting wood. When I returned home, my grandmother told me that people from a school in Rwamagana came to see how I was doing. I was so surprised to hear that someone took his/her time to think about my life.

After two weeks, the people from ASYV came back. This time I was at home and was able to greet them. I welcomed them and went to the house to get my grandmother. When they told us that I would be going to ASYV and receive help for school, my grandmother and I went crazy!

Now that I am at ASYV, I try my best to reach my potential. Here in ASYV I am learning to live with my 15 Sisters, Mama, Big Sister, and cousin. I am learning to support them and allow them to support me. At the end of each day I evaluate myself and I find that I have learned something new. In ASYV I have people to advise me and I love them very much. I thank our late grandmother, Anne Heyman, and may her soul rest in peace.

Contributor: Josiane Uwamahoro - Queen Victoria Family

Pictured Right



The Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village Commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi



On the 15th and 16th of May, 2014, the Agahozo-Shalom community came together to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. The national commemoration events were held in their official capacity during the last three weeks of April. Each year the commemoration event begins on the 7th of April and continues for 100 days thereafter in remembrance of the 100 days of killings that took place across the country. During the national weeks of remembrance, the students and staff are on leave from the Village. For this reason, ASYV holds a separate ceremony once everyone has returned from break and are able to observe the 20th anniversary as a community through Village-wide prayer and discussion.

In preparation for the event, the Health and Wellness Center held a day of training to educate the staff on how to care for children who may experience an emotional reaction. Trauma can result from their memories of the Genocide, the family they have lost, or any other psychological malady that could be triggered. Many of our staff and older students experienced the Genocide first-hand and endure ongoing painful memories that are as sharp as they were during those dark days in April of '94. For our younger students who were born in the past 20 years, their lives are marked by a fearful history that no Rwandan is exempt from.

The observance began on the evening of Thursday, May 15th when students gathered in the Lily Safra Village amphitheater for a performance of songs and prayers. No lights were permitted aside from the candles that each student held in their hands. Songs were performed by many of the religious choirs, while prayers and poems were recited by staff and students alike. Final remarks were delivered by the Village Director, JC Nkulikiyimfura. JC urged the students to remember and learn from their past to ensure the inability that something as horrible will never happen again.

The following morning, the Village embarked on a silent "Walk to Remember" to the Rubona City Center (a distance of about 3 kilometers) where the Executive Secretary, Honorable Jean-Baptiste Mutabazi, greeted the ASYV community. The Agahozo-Shalom community then returned to Liquidnet Family High School where they broke into small discussion groups. During this time, students were encouraged to share their stories and reflect on their own history. It is of vital importance that students have the opportunity to share their thoughts, express their frustrations, and find strength among a common struggle. The Genocide Against the Tutsi impacted everyone differently, but as a community, we came together to care for each other.

When asked about the importance of holding a commemoration event at ASYV, Village Director JC responded as follows:

"We hold a commemoration ceremony for the purposes of showing our students that they are not alone in their experiences. It is very easy to fall back into what happened here 20 years ago. The youth of today are the agents of change for tomorrow. So it is not only their moral duty, but also their obligation to ensure that the different factors that caused the genocide are forever reversed. We do everything to promote education and entrepreneurship, social and economic development, human rights and so forth. It is also important that by doing so they show their love for their country. As Anne used to say, 'Education is the antidote that will prevent 1994 from ever happening again.'"



Village Voices: Educator

Jakila Wilberforce

My name is Jakila Wilberforce. I started teaching at Liquidnet Family High School (LFHS) in 2010. I currently teach mathematics for first year, or 'enrichment year,' students. The biggest change I have seen at the school is the response the kids have to learning. They really enjoy pushing themselves to learn English, and they jump into their studies full-force. That is why you see all different sorts of themed events taking place up at the school throughout the term such as "Language Day," "Social Science Day," and so on.

I was born and raised in Uganda, so it is actually quite a miracle that I ended up at ASYV. When I came to Rwanda, I heard about this Village that cared for orphans and there was also a school component. When I came to see for myself, I knew I would work here for many years. I felt the energy of the space; the environment makes you feel like you are at home, even when you are at school. The DNA (discussion, negotiation, and agreement) element of communication between teachers and students fosters mutual respect. This is something that is very new to Rwanda (and East Africa more broadly). I share lunch with my students and we discuss things that extend beyond their homework assignments. These relationships inspire me to be the best teacher I can be for them.

I remember this one boy in particular who graduated this past year. He was doing poorly on his exams and was not focused in class. When I asked him what it was that distracted him, he told me that his parents had died, he was living with his aunt who had recently remarried. The newlyweds no longer wished to care for a child who was not their own and were pushing him to move out of the house at the age of 16. He told me he was not loved and had no one at home to support him. He worried about becoming homeless when he left the Village. These are the thoughts that prevented him from focusing on his studies. I could see that this boy needed care, advice, and plainly, love. For two years I counseled this boy, listening to his worries and provided him extra tutoring. By the time he graduated, he was a strong student and had performed well on his national exams. He had hope for a better future. This boy inspired me so much. When I see him now and the life he is able to achieve from having a secondary education, I am filled with immense happiness.

The message I want to tell my students is that their hard work will pay off! **Life is not perfect, but the more they work and the more education they pursue, the easier their lives will be.** One day I hope to see my students coming back to the Village as principles, managers, or even Village directors. I want to see them being the ones in charge because I know how hard they worked to overcome their vulnerable backgrounds. I want to be able to say that these students went through my hands and when I let them go, they blossomed into the change-makers of Rwanda and the world at large.





JUST a MOMENT

LET ME THINK!





Village Voices: Educator Albertine Abayo

My name is Albertine Abayo, and I am a geography teacher for Senior 5 (11th grade) and Senior 6 (12th grade) students at Liquidnet Family High School (LFHS.) I began working at the Village on May 5th, 2011; I still remember the exact day. I have watched one grade arrive and graduate and that gave me more as an educator than I could have ever anticipated. Every day I see students push themselves to perform better and better, I see them revising their notes, where they used to relax or sleep. I see them become motivated and their hard work is reflected in their marks - this improvement further motivates them to continue putting forth effort.

When I heard about ASYV through a friend, I thought I would come and see the Village for myself. After speaking with a few kids, that was it, what can I say? I am committed to these students who come from nothing. I am so attached to their improvement that it is as if we study together, we motivate each other, and when they do well on their national exams, it is a celebration for all of us.

A specific girl that stands out in my mind is a graduate from 2013. When we met, she was discouraged and solemn. All her life she was told she would not succeed. It is difficult to overcome this mindset. Together, we studied and prepared for her exams. She began to have more self-confidence and her marks slowly improved. She passed her national exams and now she has a certificate of secondary education, which many do not have in Rwanda. She is currently working as a cashier and is saving up money so she can put herself through private University. Her struggles are not over, but she knows how to face adversity and she is no longer afraid.

I want to instill in my students that there is hope for them. There is no need to be discouraged because of their past, they must only look forward and take advantage of the opportunities that are being provided for them. I want them to learn independence and the importance of hard work. I want them to have the knowledge to make good decisions so that they never again return to the poverty from which they came. As a teacher, the ultimate reward is to see your students doing well and enjoying their studies. It would be wonderful to see them all attending University, but my primary goal is to ensure that they pass the national exams so they have options for a better life.



Village Voices: Student

Hello, My Name is Adelaide Udusanze

I am a Senior 4 (10th grade) student in the Eleanor Roosevelt Family at ASYV. My combination (major) at school is English, French, and Kinyarwanda. I have always enjoyed learning languages and I believe speaking English and French will help me to get a good job in Rwanda.

One of my favorite activities at Agahozo-Shalom is playing on the girls' basketball team. This is my second year on the team. My position is starting point guard. I never played basketball before I came to ASYV, but on special occasions, I was able to watch some games on TV. I became obsessed with watching international basketball games and tried to watch them whenever I could. When I came to ASYV and saw the basketball court, I knew this was my opportunity to learn my dream sport. It is amazing to me, when I play basketball it is something that comes really naturally to me. When I play basketball, I feel free, like I am doing something I am meant to do. I hope I will continue to play basketball after I graduate from ASYV, maybe not professionally, but in my free time with my friends.

My favorite part of the basketball game is the warm-up before the game starts. There is a lot of good energy among the team and the sense that anything is possible. For the past two years the girls' team has competed very well. This year we are heading to the semi-finals in Kigali.

When I am not playing basketball, I am with my ASYV family. Our family is so special! We help and support each other with whatever we need. We have become very close this year and I can only imagine how close we will be by the time we graduate. When I first came to the Village and learned that I would have 15 Sisters, I was very nervous. At home there are only three of us, so this was a big change. At first it was difficult to understand one another, but now we have become comfortable and can express ourselves freely.

When I graduate from ASYV, I want to become a journalist or a news anchor. I like to conduct research and present my work. In the Village, I am the President of a news production called, "Did You Know," which is shown during Village Time every Friday. The show focuses on things that are going on in the Village, such as sports, achievements, special events, and so on. My main responsibilities are conducting the research for ideas and presenting them in front of the camera. I want to become better at video editing so that I can do more work behind the scenes.

My role model in the Village is my cousin Courtney. Although she was only here for one year, she taught me so much. She was so committed to our family. She would come if someone was sick, even if it was in the middle of the night. She was excellent with time management and this is something that our family is still working to perfect. Although we still connect with her through Facebook, we miss her very much.

If I could leave a message to my fellow Brothers and Sisters at ASYV it would be to **work hard at everything that you do. Only with hard work are you able to reach where you want to go. Use your time well so that you never regret the time you have lost.** This is the best advice I can leave you.





Stand Up & Be Counted Comes to Rwanda

On July 10th, 2014 Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village hosted its inaugural Stand Up & Be Counted fundraiser in the Village. This event was attended by a special guest of honor, Her Excellency Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda. It was the dream of ASYV founder, Anne Heyman, to create a youth village that would collect support and build a community within Rwanda. The hosting of this event proved one step closer to the realization of that goal.

In November 2005, Anne Heyman and her husband, Seth Merrin, heard a talk about the Rwandan Genocide Against the Tutsi. After the talk, Seth asked the speaker to identify the biggest problem Rwanda faced. The answer was the vast number of orphans with no systemic solution to support their well-being and development. Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village was founded in the spirit of enabling orphaned and vulnerable youth to realize their maximum potential by providing them with a safe and secure living environment, health care, education and necessary life skills.

Anne Heyman passed away on January 31, 2014, almost a decade after beginning her work for the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village. While her presence is deeply missed in the Village, her legacy and spirit live on through the lives of the children she so eagerly promoted. Stand Up & Be Counted celebrated the life of Anne Heyman through her most cherished philanthropic endeavor.

Seemingly overnight the Village transformed into a vibrant exposition, showcasing the various talents and diverse activities offered at ASYV. White tents sprawled out through the heart of the Village welcoming guests as they made their way through the gates. Representatives of the ASYV student-run media club presented their video editing skills while the ASYV science center showcased their solar panel experiments. As distinguished guests such as the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Mrs. Oda Gasinzigwa and the Minister of Education, Mr. Albert Nsengiyumva walked through the event, they were interviewed by various Village student-led press mediums such as the weekly news show “Mr. Opinion” and the “Sunlight Times,” a student-run tri-annual newsletter.

Stand Up & Be Counted provided an opportunity for both students and guests to get to know one another more personally. ASYV students are proud of the accomplishments they have made and were honored to share their successes with supporters of the Village. There was an equal amount of excitement from the students as from the guests, which created an exuberant atmosphere that lasted throughout the evening.





Stand Up & Be Counted Comes to Rwanda *continued...*

After winding through the exhibition, guests found their way to the Lily Safra Village amphitheater where the performances took place. The ASYV student body sat among the honored guests, which made for a more familial sort of occasion. The performances included ASYV's traditional dance group (currently ranked the second best high school group in the country!), a slam poetry reading, and student-performed songs, followed by speeches from distinguished guests including Seth Merrin, ASYV Executive Director Danielle Burenstein, ASYV Board Chair Laurie Franz, Village Director Jean Claude Nkulikiyimfura and honored guest, Her Excellency Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda.

In her speech, First Lady Jeannette Kagame spoke on the importance of sustaining the ASYV community, "Supporting Agahozo Shalom Youth Village is a symbol that we can and should support our very own and thus guard this jewel we call Rwanda... There is no doubt that this community of change makers will deliver no less than the incredible." Her inspiring words brought forth an eruption of applause, bringing everyone to their feet.

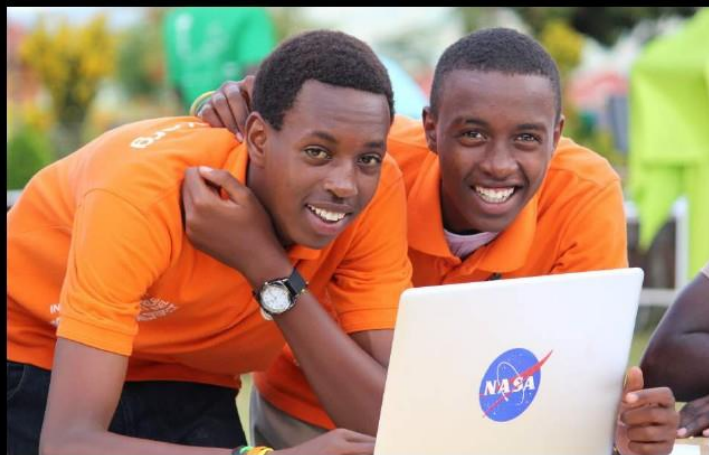
Recent ASYV graduate and college freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, Emmanuel Nkundundiye, made note of his amazing journey from defenseless orphan to speaking in front of the First Lady of Rwanda and his ASYV family. It is a journey that has not been without its hardships, but finally, Emmanuel has the resources to pursue his dreams, thanks to Anne Heyman and the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village.

Danielle Burenstein, ASYV Executive Director, invited guests to join ASYV in "... not only restoring the rhythm of life for our kids, but investing in the future, their future, because they are the future of Rwanda."

Village Director Jean Claude Nkulikiyimfura closed his remarks with saying, "Our greatest challenge thus far is the loss of our beloved founder and visionary Anne Heyman. She may no longer be with us, but her legacy lives on."

The event raised more than \$91,000 or 61.4 million Rwandan francs, a stunning success for the inaugural gala. Agahozo-Shalom is honored to have the support from such a diverse and talented group of people and is looking forward to redoubling its fundraising efforts in years to come.

Please watch the video on the ASYV YouTube page: [youtube.com/theasyv](https://www.youtube.com/theasyv) to see highlights from the event. A special 'Thank You!' for all those who continue to support the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village!





If You See Far, You Will Go Far

Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village – 498 Seventh Ave., 15th Floor, NY, NY 10018

Website: www.asyv.org Phone: 646-381-7860 Email: info@asyv.org

In Rwanda: +250-783-302-196