



THE VILLAGE TIMES

KEEPING THE LEGACY OF ANNE HEYMAN ALIVE

TERM 1, 2014





FROM OUR VILLAGE DIRECTOR

This year started off on a great note! We had a wonderful graduation for our Imbutu Grade and were blessed to have our founder and mother Anne Heyman in our presence. As is true for all of Anne's visits, her time with us was incredibly enlightening and inspiring. Anne reminded us of how unique the Village is in its existence and expressed her pride in all of ASYV's accomplishments in such a short period of time. In memory of Anne's relentless drive we are motivated to push forward with our future initiatives. Her confidence and determination encourages us to reach our goals for 2014 to make our Village a place that is more holistic in the healing of our kids.

The day of Anne's passing, January 31st, 2014, was devastating for Agahozo-Shalom as well as for the country of Rwanda. Yet, in the midst of despair, we saw great resilience. We are inspired in Anne's passing to ensure that her dreams for ASYV live on. This sentiment is confirmed by her husband Seth Merrin as well as our dedicated Board of Directors. We are continually amazed and blessed by the support we receive from her husband and children. The students of ASYV are deeply appreciative of their devotion. Their commitment to the Village has given ASYV students and staff the strength they need to stand strong.

Anne was an angel on earth and we feel lucky to have felt her impact. While it is difficult to move past Anne's departure, we are doing our best to restore the rhythm of life within ASYV. In honor of Anne, we must put the pieces back together and strive forward for her and for the children.

The foundation that Anne laid for Agahozo-Shalom is so strong that we can already see tangible results. In our continued collaboration with the Rwandan Government, Liquidnet Family High School is now recognized as a government-subsidized institution. Outside of our gates, Anne has single handedly helped to bring together the biggest solar field in the region, which will bring up to 8.5 mega watts to Rwanda's national energy grid - close to 10% of the national electricity consumption. The impact of Anne's work is not only evident within the Village, but also throughout the nation of Rwanda.

We continue to hear amazing things about our students post-graduation. They are considered leaders within their communities.

Many of our graduates have joined the Ingando and Urugerero Programs, which are national youth programs that facilitate volunteer services within local communities. This indicates that our students are taking to heart the value of Tikkun Olam, which Anne strived to instill in each student at Agahozo-Shalom. This is one of the best achievements we could hope for our graduates.

ASYV will go on innovating its enrichment programs as exemplified through the introduction of our own national Stand Up Event that will take place in the Village this summer. This is the first Stand-Up event we will have in ASYV and it will require the collaboration of every staff, student, and department. We are looking forward to sharing the diverse accomplishments of our community with all of our local partners and supporters.

ASYV will go on innovating its enrichment programs as exemplified through the introduction of our own national Stand Up Event that will take place in the Village this summer. This is the first Stand-Up event we will have at ASYV and it will require the collaboration of every staff member, student, and department. We are looking forward to sharing the diverse accomplishments of our community with all of our local partners and supporters.

To the ASYV students, I want to say that the best way to sustain Anne's legacy is to become the best person that you can be. Set your minds to achieve great things and live a life of fulfillment in the spirit of Tikkun Olam. To our educators, I will quote Anne in saying: "Education is the gift that keeps on giving." With that in mind, continue giving that gift to our students so they can reach their full potential.

This is the message that must transcend from us to the children and from these children to the rest of the world.

They will pay it forward! For the children, paying it forward translates to giving 100% in all things that they do. In order for them to achieve this goal we must ensure the quality of our programs and build on the achievements that Agahozo-Shalom has already realized. This is only the beginning for Agahozo-Shalom, with Anne's vision, I know we will continue to achieve great success and make the educational philosophy of ASYV a model for education known across the world.

Sincerely,

Village Director

Artwork by Iddy Basengo

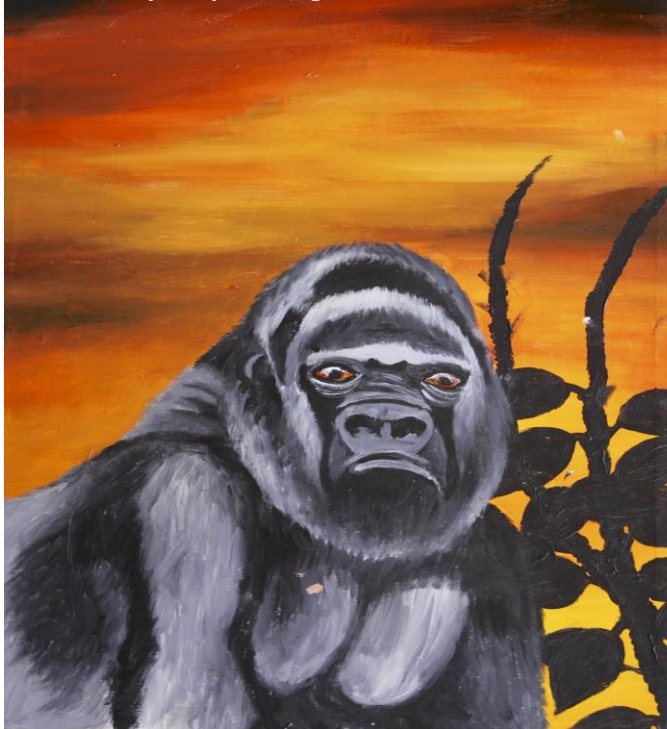


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Letter from the Village Director

3 Tikkun Olam in ASYV

4-6 *Thank You Grandmother: Assorted Stories and Testimonials from Students in Honor of Our Late Grandmother Anne Heyman*

7-9 *Dear Anne: Letters from our Family Mothers*

10 *Football Captain and Aspiring Computer Engineer: A Day in the Life of Frank B'Ntambara*

11 *Applying Science to Life: A Look Inside ASYV's Science Center*

12-13 *What's the Goal? Aspirations of Enrichment Year Students*



Restoring the Rhythm of Life through Tikkun Olam



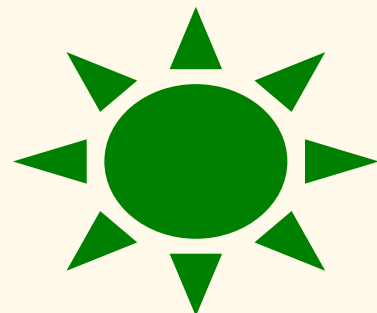
Tikun Olam translates from Hebrew as “repairing the world,” and practically, “engaging in social action.” This philosophy is a central component on which the foundation of Agahozo-Shalom firmly rests. We believe in well-rounded education for our youth that goes beyond performing well in school. It is important that their education extends to being a good person who cares about others and gives back to their communities. The concept of Tikkun Olam is particularly important in Rwanda, given the country’s history. Agahozo-Shalom understands that to have a lasting impact within a society we must start with the individual. With this in mind, ASYV works hard to educate our students on the importance of being kind and accepting people for who they are.

Each of ASYV’s four grades are uniquely involved with the Tikkun Olam program. They have earned the reputation of leaders within ASYV’s local district of Rwamagana. Many students have internalized the Tikkun Olam philosophy and continue the practice within their local communities. This year, the projects that our students are involved with are especially indicative of their academic abilities as well as their passion for helping others.

The Ingenzi Grade (11th grade students) helped to pave a road over 300’ meters long in conjunction with a government sponsored day of service. They also tutored English at two local primary schools. The Inshema Grade (10th grade) students are working to build homes for the less fortunate. They have already constructed 349 mud bricks that they will use to build a home for a widowed mother with four children. To date, ASYV students have constructed 12 mud brick homes in the Rwamagana District.

The strategy for Tikkun Olam at ASYV involves a four-year process of gradually expanding the youth’s “area of service.” During their first year at the Village the children are encouraged to focus on Tikkun Halev, or “repairing the heart.” During this time they work on building their own sense of self, identity, and confidence. As students grow within the Village they take on larger and more profound projects in the Tikkun Olam

program. Working within their communities to create positive change is a very rewarding experience for our students and Agahozo-Shalom is proud to support the spread of education and development to Rwanda through the achievement of Tikkun Olam.



Thank You Grandmother Anne Heyman



Assorted Stories, Poems, and Testimonials from ASYV Students in Honor of Our Late Grandmother Anne Heyman

Uwamahoro Adelphine:

Eleanor Roosevelt Family



My Grandmother Anne Heyman, may God bless you. You are the first person who loved me and I will never forget you for all of my life. Always I think of what you have done for the orphans of Rwanda. I believe you are in Heaven now, looking down upon me.

I am very sad that such a strong woman has passed away.

You loved Rwandan Orphans.
You helped people who have problems.
You are always the first in my heart.

I hope to God I see you again.
I will work hard so I can also help people like me who have problems. I will be an innovator in this Village and work to change the world outside of Agahozo-Shalom.

Thank you for teaching me what is important. I will love you and you will always be in my heart. I am thankful that you will forever be a part of me. I believe God has received you in Heaven. ♦

Cedrick Ishimwe:

Albert Einstein Family



It is a pleasure for me to take this moment to talk about my Grandmother, Anne Heyman.

The first time I saw her, she was smiling and I knew that she loved me. This moment touched my heart.

In the short time that I knew Anne, I felt like I really knew her. I learned that it is important to love everyone in a society and throughout the world, not just the people we know. I want to help everyone that I can. I know that I will have to work hard to reach where I wish to be.

I have so much to say, but let me stop with this: thank you Anne Heyman. I wish you all the blessings from God. ♦

Rugema Patrick:

Nelson Mandela Family



In my life I never met a woman who has as strong a heart as Anne Heyman.

She was a mother of 3 and the founder of Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village.

In my language, Anne was an “*ingabire*”, a gift.

She helped the children of Rwanda and they cry a river for her loss.

Anne taught us to love, to respect, to help, to have integrity, to have time management, and to work hard.

There are many things that Anne showed to me.

So many that I cannot write them all down here on this paper.

Anne, you are my role model and you will never leave my heart.

Rest in peace Grandmother. ♦

Aline Umutonwale:

St. Valentine Family



My grandmother was an angel of our big family that is Agahozo-Shalom. I remember when we met at graduation. You cried tears of happiness on that day. I remember your support and that is one of our core values at the Village. Your love was not focused on wealth, but on those from vulnerable backgrounds. You were the shining light of Agahozo-Shalom.

There are many things I learned from you. One of which is to have respect for everyone, not only our friends or people that we know. You helped everyone, even people you never met. What you wished for us is that we strive to become leaders of Rwanda and the world. We will think before we speak and speak before we act. In this way, we will achieve our goals.

My Grandmother, you were my everything, both my mother and my father. You remain the light that shines the way to my future. Rest in peace, I will never forget your smile and your commitment to Agahozo-Shalom. Thank you, for everything. I love you. ♦



Adelainde Ubusanze:
Eleanor Roosevelt Family



My Grandmother Anne Heyman, thank you so much for your kindness. I never in my wildest dreams thought that I could study in a good school like Liquidnet Family High School. I didn't think that I would be given the love that you showed to me. I have received much love within Agahozo-Shalom. You will always be my hero.

My lovely Grandmother, I will forever love you because of your commitment to ASYV. Your love and your beautiful smile are memories I keep close with me. I will do my best to follow the values that you taught to us.

My Grandmother, I will always remember how you cried even when you were happy. I will always remember your hard work and how you never gave up.

Anne Heyman, you are so special to me because of how you set goals and worked tirelessly to achieve them. Even though in the beginning people tried to make you give up. You taught me to never give up and so I won't.

Anne Heyman, I will always be the person who cares about Tikkun Olam- everywhere that I am, as much as I can. In this way I will see you again. Rest in peace, Grandmother. I will work everyday to make you smile. I love you.



Uwizeye Aime:
Nelson Mandela Family



Anne Heyman was a good parent. She loved us like her children, she helped us to leave the darkness we were in and gave us hope in our hearts. She gave us everything we needed through the founding of the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village.

She began this journey with the Urumuli-Grade. She provided them with wonderful education and now they are spreading our core-values around the world. After the Imbutu-Grade graduation she promised to come back to ASYV and we would have a long conversation with her. When she returned we never thought that it would be the last time she would ever come to the Village. But she kept her promise and we met with her. It was our first and last conversation with our Grandmother.

She must have completed her mission on this earth. She was kind, wise, and she did everything she could to help us. She wanted so much for our lives to be filled with happiness. All this even though we were Africans that she never met. That is the most real example of love I could ever imagine. Her words were followed by actions. I will always remember the words she told me, "We will never give up on you, but you must not give up on you either."

She replaced the sadness in my heart with hope, happiness, and love. Anne taught us that we must give back to the world through Tikkun Olam. I can say that her advice will keep us strong until we reach our goals. ◆

Dear Anne:

Letters from Agahozo-Shalom's Family Mothers

**Marie Claire Mukamitali:
Eva Peron Family**

Dear Anne,

I Love You. I am so delighted to find this gorgeous moment to talk about you. Anne, you are an angel. I cannot believe that you are not here because I cannot pass an hour without thinking of you. I remember the first time I met you; it was like meeting someone in the Garden of Eden. I began to tell you about my background and what I have been through. You listened to me carefully and you said, "Don't worry, we are together, feel at home, I will be your family." You asked me if I had any children? I said, "Yes, I have three old children and a young boy." You told me that this young boy will grow up together in this home, he will grow up in our hands. I will never forget this day we shared together.

Anne, you dried the tears of many children. Those kids are like a tree of life that you planted and this tree will spread out over the world through the love of Tikkun Olam. Now they have a bright future and they will encourage the Rwandan people to live in peace.

I thank you for the way in which you cared for the mamas all of these years. It is important to me that mothers are able to spend their years in a caring environment with such an impeccably high standard of care, delivered with warmth. We are so happy here and are so grateful for your kindness. Agahozo-Shalom is such a special place.

Thank you for the wonderful leaders that you have created here at Agahozo-Shalom. We will continue forward to reach our goals in your honor. May your soul rest in eternal peace.

Sincerely Yours. Mama Marie-Claire. ◆



Mama Betty Mbabazi: Golda Meir Family

Dear Anne,

ASYV wiped away the tears of Rwandan children who were broken hearted and had no hope in their lives. ASYV enlightened us and revealed to us what true love is. To love and be loved was a concept that was once strange to us, but not anymore.

You, our beloved Grandmother, as well as directors, educators, staff, and children are role models to all Rwandans and the world at large. ASYV took away the burden of many poor families, who had no means of educating our vulnerable children or provide them with medical care. These are the problems within our communities. Not only did we learn the core values, but also we put them into practice. We are the role models in the way that you showed us to be. ASYV is the medicine for our broken hearts, young and old. We now have the resources to become all that we can be and show Rwanda the way.



In ASYV we live by our core values. It is through the adoption of these principles that we are able to heal one another. We are so grateful for you, Our Mother, for giving us hope for our future lives and on behalf of our families. You are a doctor to broken hearts, the mother of nations and the answer for the Rwandan orphans, and the hand that wipes away our flowing tears.



To all nations, you, Anne Heyman, are a hero. You have gone back to our heavenly father to advocate on our behalf, but we know that we will be with you again.

**Mama Daphrose Kamanzi:
Eleanor Roosevelt Family**

Dear Anne,

We lost you, our strong woman.
We lost you, our beloved mother.
We lost you, a hero of Rwanda
and to the entire world.

Your accomplishments and
achievements inspire all of us:
children and adults alike. ***You
taught us how to love deeply,
how to be patient and how to
set high goals for a better
tomorrow.***



As an example of your ability to change the world, I would like to talk about my personal testimony. Before I came to ASYV, I did not have a stable life. When I reached out to the Village on the 4th of August 2009 my life was changed forever. I say “thank you” to God for this change. I am a widow of the genocide, but you, Anne- you became my second husband.

That is for two reasons:

The first is that you helped me mentally. You gave me the precious gift of sixteen children to educate. When they surround me I smile because inside my heart I feel so happy.

The second is that you gave me a job, which allows me to be financially independent. Each month I am paid a salary that helps me to support my family outside of the Village.

The kids of ASYV must study hard to achieve their dreams. After they have become the successful people they worked to become I know they will look back on this Village with appreciation for the support that it gave to them. The staff must work seriously and with commitment in order to help these kids to become appreciated citizens of Rwanda and around the world. We will work to achieve these goals for ourselves and Agahozo-Shalom.

We could have never achieved this dream without you, Anne.

I am grateful to have known you each day of my life.

My Name is Frank B’Ntambara,

I am Football Captain and Debater Extraordinaire

Here is my Story...

My name is Frank B’Ntambara. I am a Senior 5 Math, Physics, and Computers (MPC) student at Liquidnet Family High School (LNFHS) and a brother in the Ronald Ross Family at Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village. I am a member of the Debate Team; I serve on church protocol, and am active in the Leadership Club. I am currently the captain of the Boys’ Football Team here in the Village. I played football since I was seven years old. I remember seeing other boys playing around and I learned my skills from watching them.

Before I came to ASYV, I played a lot of football at home. I played for my district, District 17, and am currently vice captain of that team as well. When I return home for term-break I will continue playing for that team to keep myself in shape for ASYV and to practice my skills.

It is necessary that we have sports at ASYV because, most importantly, they are fun. Sports allow people to get to know each other and build friendships. We work hard to be good players and this is something we have in common as a team. When I am with my teammates, I believe anything is possible. When I came in Enrichment Year, we won the district cup. Before I graduate I hope to win that title again.

I never thought that I could be captain of the ASYV team, but I am so honored to have the privilege. When I was in my first year I would stay in the field for many hours and practice my skills. I would show up early so that my coach would see how interested I was in being a good player. I practiced from morning until night and when the coach could not be at practice, I would step up. To be a good captain you must be experienced. I work very to have that experience for my team.

At ASYV we have a lot of team spirit. Not just for the Boys’ Team, but for the Girls’ as well. Football is not only a team, we are a family, and we play as sisters and brothers. I take my studies very seriously at LNFHS and in all ASYV programs in which I am a participant. As a member of the Debate Team, I have to practice public speaking all the time. This skill helps me to be a good Football Captain when I need to pump up my teammates before a big game or even when we are warming up.



After I graduate I will test for Rwanda’s national team. It would be a dream to play football for my country. I tell my teammates always- to never give up. I tell them that they are always winners, even if we lose a match. As long as we keep our spirit, we cannot lose.

It is my goal to always play football, but I also want to become a computer engineer in Rwanda. If I have my choice, I will attend university in Canada where science is more developed. Then I will bring that education and technology back to my country. I want to thank ASYV for all the opportunities it has given me- I have a bright future with many options. I will continue to work hard to reach my goals in football, debate, and in my studies. ♦



A LOOK INSIDE THE ASYV SCIENCE CENTER

BY: ASYV

“Our main objective is to have fun. If we accomplish fun while learning some scientific principles then we’re doing our job as educators” says Gaspard Twagirayezu, currently heading ASYV’s Science Center. The Center was founded in 2010, thanks to a generous donation by The Gelfand Family Charitable Trust. The center is an integral part of the informal education program in the Village. There are four subject areas in the Center - biology, computers,

mechanics, and electronics - that complete a mandatory two-year rotation for students in their first and second year at the Village. Older students are encouraged to continue their scientific interests through independent projects.

The objective in each subject is to work on a project that is applicable to the student’s life on a larger scale. For example in biology, students learn about the organisms that live in contaminated water and the processes involved with water purification. Students are able to look at contaminated water under a microscope and observe the bacteria. When asked how they felt about what they saw the reaction was a unanimous “ewww.” Many of ASYV’s students live in rural communities far from Rwanda’s Energy Water and Sanitation Agency’s (EWSA) supplied area of distribution. Learning about water purification methods provides students with the ability and know-how to clean their own water supply when they return to their home communities.

In the electronics lab, students use recycled cardboard boxes to design the basic layout of a house equipped with windows, doors, and room arrangements. Upon completion of their model homes, students wire them for electricity using LED lights powered by batteries. *“There is a student in Senior 5(11th grade) whose family home is lit using this technique, skills he perfected in this classroom,”* says outgoing Science Center Coordinator (2012 and 2013 Village Fellow) Miki Vizner.

The Science Center provides students with a hands-on learning experience that extends far beyond the gates of the ASYV. A student working on a model home was asked how many rooms he intended to build. He responded: *“Enough to always say ‘you are welcome in my home.’”*

What's the Goal?



Goals and aspirations of ASYV's First Year Students



Ukimputwe Elyse Golda Meir Family



I will be a hero of my country Rwanda without fighting a war.

I will unite my country.

I will learn in my classes and in my family, of course.

I will give support to others and work hard.

With the help of ASYV, I will increase my talents and maximize my potential.

Thank you to my grandmother Anne Heyman

You helped me to continue my studies when I didn't have school fees.

You gave me a chance to live in a Village and to learn many things,

I learn in both formal and informal education.

ASYV doctors check to make sure I am healthy.

Grandmother, you have dried our tears.

You make us think about our future,

To have hope for tomorrow with confidence to do many things.

Thank you Grandmother, rest in peace. ♦



Tuyishime Descartes

Albert Einstein Family



To be who you want to be you must have help from many sides. I dream of becoming a patriot of Rwanda with special skills in information technology, this will help me to become an electrical engineer and I will help Rwanda to develop advanced technology. I hope that I achieve my dream so I can in turn help my brothers and sisters to reach their dreams. Agahozo-Shalom is a beautiful place where children graduate with a lot of knowledge and the ability to succeed. I want to thank Anne Heyman and all educators for helping with the education of orphan children. Rest in Peace Grandmother, I will never forget you. ◆

Murwanahyaka Oscar

Nelson Mandela Family



I believe that I will be a leader like the prime minister or I will be president of Parliament and ASYV will help me to achieve these goals. Going to Liquidnet Family High School and living in the Village helps me to learn how to live in a society with different people who have different cultures or behavior. ASYV has many clubs, which help us to understand many different things and have the core values of a good leader.

As I said, I want to be prime minister- who is the one who makes all the decisions in government. These decisions change the country, as prime minister you have the responsibility to encourage citizens to work hard in order to develop the country. Hard work is necessary to avoid such miseries as famine. To be prime minister you must be good at problem solving. I will learn to be a good prime minster in my studies at ASYV if I live by the core values. I will learn to be a leader inside of Agahozo-Shalom, so I can be a good leader outside. Thank you ASYV! ♦



Issue Produced by 2014 Village Fellows: Sasha Friedman and Yael Zaken



If You See Far, You Will Go Far

Facebook: AgahozoShalom
Twitter: @asyv
For General Inquiries and Donations:
646.381.7863
info@asyv.org

Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village
498 Seventh Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10018
www.asyv.org

In Rwanda:
Tours and Overnight Visits
can be Arranged Through:
info@asyv.org
+25078.830.2196