



123 East 70th Street
c/o The Heckscher Foundation for Children
New York, NY 10021 USA
(212) 744-0190, ext. 126

Opposite Bio-Medical Center
BP 5594
Kigali, Rwanda

Introductory Note from Michael Brotchner, Executive Director

In 2004, Dai Ellis and Oliver Rothschild co-founded Orphans of Rwanda (ORI), the only nonprofit organization in sub-Saharan Africa working to help orphans and socially vulnerable youth obtain a university degree and become leaders in driving economic development and social reconciliation. Over the last four years, ORI has grown ambitiously, and we now provide full scholarships to 164 talented young men and women.

While most educational aid in Rwanda supports primary and secondary education, our work is premised on the belief that providing access to higher education for promising but vulnerable individuals will have a long-term, sustainable impact on Rwanda's economic, social and political development. ORI's students are driven by a desire to play a significant role in their country's future and their dedication and character provide inspiration to all who meet them. From all of us at ORI, we thank you for your interest in our work and hope you enjoy learning about our students.

For more information about our work, and to learn about some of our students, please visit

<http://www.orphansofrwanda.org/>



Fact Sheet

Our Mission

Founded in 2004, Orphans of Rwanda, Inc. (ORI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping orphans and socially vulnerable young people in Rwanda pursue a university education and, ultimately, become leaders in driving economic development and social reconciliation.

Our Work

ORI offers university scholarships to Rwandan students with demonstrated academic talent and personal drive. In order to help our students achieve academic and personal success, we provide them with a variety of comprehensive services. In addition to university tuition, each ORI scholarship includes a monthly stipend, books, housing, health care, career counseling, computer training and French and English language instruction.

Why

The 1994 genocide and the AIDS epidemic have produced a population of orphans and vulnerable children of unprecedented size, with over 825,000 orphans in a country of approximately 10 million people. By promoting access to higher education for motivated yet vulnerable young people, ORI supports Rwanda's efforts to harness its people's intellectual and entrepreneurial talent. These efforts will succeed only when all students who excel – not only the elite, but women, orphans and other vulnerable youth – have an opportunity to obtain a university degree and fulfill their potential. ORI's students envision a brighter future for themselves and for their country. With the proper support, they will become leaders who create meaningful, sustainable change in Rwanda.

Our Students

The students we support come from extremely vulnerable backgrounds — many are single or double parent orphans

— and they have all overcome incredible challenges in their lives. They hail from all regions of Rwanda and seek to pursue careers in a wide range of fields. From a competitive pool of applicants, ORI awarded scholarships to 47 new students this summer. They joined our program this fall for orientation and in January, 2009, 164 students will be attending Rwandan universities through ORI scholarships.

How We Select Students

Students are selected through a competitive process that evaluates students' academic performance, language skills, motivation and vulnerability status. In 2008, 1,475 students applied, demonstrating the need and the desire for access to higher education among vulnerable Rwandan youth. Of these students, ORI conducted final-round interviews with 135 students and accepted 47 (3.1%) into the program.

Our Team

The ORI team is comprised of seven full-time staff members, five based in Kigali and two in New York. The Kigali-based team develops programs and provides student services, while the New York-based team is responsible for fundraising and communications. Dedicated, skilled volunteers in both countries provide additional support and resources.

For more information, please contact:
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Board of Directors

Founders and Co-Chairs

David "Dai" Ellis

Dai serves as the Executive Vice President of Access Programs at the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative, where he leads the Foundation's work on improving the marketplaces for global health commodities, including drugs, diagnostics, and nutritional products. A graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School, Dai worked at McKinsey & Company for several years before joining Columbia University's Center for Global Health and Economic Development, led by Dr. Jeffrey Sachs. Dai's work there took him to Rwanda, where he spent over a year as advisor to the Executive Director of the National AIDS Commission and helped launch a national HIV/AIDS prevention program.

Oliver Rothschild

Oliver is a student at the Yale University School of Medicine. Oliver previously worked in the health sector in Rwanda, first with Columbia University's Center for Global Health and Economic Development and subsequently with the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative. Before going to Rwanda, Oliver served as a scientific research assistant at Rockefeller University, and as program assistant with the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization. Oliver graduated from the University of Chicago where he studied economics and computer science.

Board Members

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Cynthia Ellis, Secretary

Board member, Numerous Boston-area nonprofits;
classical musician

Peter Ellis, Treasurer

Former Senior Litigation Partner, *Foley, Hoag, LLP*

Executive Director

Michael Brotchner

In May 2007, ORI's Board of Directors selected Michael Brotchner as the organization's first Executive Director. Prior to joining ORI, Michael was the Director of Development for the Fund for Public Schools, which secures private funding for the New York City Department of Education's reform efforts and develops public-private partnerships. At the Fund, Michael successfully led fundraising efforts that resulted in major support from a wide variety of foundations, corporations, and individuals. He also served as the Director of Development for TransFair USA, the organization that promotes and certifies Fair Trade products such as Fair Trade coffee. Michael holds an MBA from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and a BA from Wesleyan University.

Cassia van der Hoof Holstein

Director of Technology, *Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative*

David Ross

Vice President, *Bain Capital*

Ann Rothschild

Clinical social worker, private practice

Polly Ruettgers

Manager of Public Affairs, *Gilead Sciences, Inc.*

Dr. Josh Ruxin

Assistant Clinical Professor, Public Health at *Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health*; Country Director, *Millennium Village Project Rwanda*, Earth Institute's *Center for Global Health and Economic Development*; Founder, *The Access Project*.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is ORI a Rwandan or American organization?

A: ORI is incorporated as a nonprofit in the United States, and is registered in Rwanda. Fundraising and administrative support are based in the US, and programmatic activities are executed by our team in Rwanda.

Q: Are all of the students you support orphans?

A: While the majority of the students we support are single or double parent orphans, we also offer scholarships to other socially vulnerable youth. Examples include students whose parents are unable to work because of disease or psychological trauma.

Q: How much does an ORI scholarship cost?

A: In 2008, the direct cost of an ORI student's scholarship was approximately \$2,500. This includes tuition, housing, health care, language and computer skills training, and a monthly stipend that every student receives. It should be noted that this figure represents only the direct cost of the scholarship and does not include other programmatic costs such as staff salaries.

Q: Do ORI students attend university in Rwanda or in the US?

A: ORI-supported students are enrolled at Rwandan universities. The students we support are motivated by a strong desire to help build Rwanda and contribute to the country's continued development. They attend leading Rwandan universities, such as the School of Finance and Banking, the National University of Rwanda and the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology. ORI does not currently support studies outside the country.

Q: What percentage of the budget goes to overhead?

A: ORI is committed to operating with low administrative costs of approximately 20% so that funds will directly benefit the students and our program. Our extensive team of volunteers helps make this possible.

Q: Can I make a donation to support a particular activity?

A: Yes! Donors have chosen to fund a particular project, such as the creation of a computer lab or the provision of health care services. For more information about donation options, please visit the "Donate" page on our website. If you are interested in making a donation to a specific ORI activity, please email us at donate@orphansofrwanda.org.

Q: Can ORI help me adopt a child from an orphanage?

A: ORI only works with college-age students. It is not an adoption agency and does not facilitate adoptions. For more information about adoptions in Rwanda, visit the US State Department Website.

Q: How can I volunteer?

A: There are many ways to join our efforts, such as volunteering in Rwanda or helping us with fundraising in the U.S. For more information, please refer to our website's "How to Help" page or send an email to: kimberly.greenberg@orphansofrwanda.org



JULIET BUSINGYE



I lived with my parents and six siblings in Uganda when the genocide took place in Rwanda, but we moved back just after it ended in 1995. My parents moved to Uganda in 1959, leaving the rest of our family in Rwanda. When we returned to Rwanda, we found that we had lost many of our family members. All but one of my father's six brothers were killed and all of my mum's sisters and cousins died in the genocide.

After moving to Rwanda, there were more than 15 of us in our house. I lived with four of my cousins, who had survived the genocide. They were haunted by memories of how their dad was slaughtered, or how their pregnant mum was raped and killed. I was lucky to still have my mother and father, but my father became ill and unable to work due to three operations on his spinal cord. By the time I left for university, my mother was the only one looking after us. The little money that she earned was used to feed us and we would often eat beans for lunch and nothing for supper. I was taken out of school until I could make enough money to return—if I could earn 5,000 francs, I could come back and study for some time. I would normally miss school for about 4 days at a time, until we could save enough money for me to return to school.

I discovered Orphans of Rwanda through FAWE Girls School while searching for different funding opportunities for university. They said that if I received an ORI scholarship, it would pay my university fees and that I could study sciences like I had wanted. I was so happy and grateful when Orphans of Rwanda gave me the chance to continue my studies.

I am now in my second year at the Kigali Institute for Science and Technology, where I study Information and Computer Technology. I am working towards completing an International Advanced Degree in Computer Science. This certification, which is based on a curriculum developed in the UK, involves advanced work in database development, system analysis, and Web development. With my qualifications, I plan to find a job with a computer company here in Rwanda after graduation.

In addition to working to support myself and my family, I hope to start an organization that serves the women of my country. Specifically, I want to teach women about computers because so many women in our country are unfamiliar with the way technology is used in our society. As a secondary school student, I was fortunate to hear lectures from strong, successful women who inspired me to speak for myself, believe in my abilities, and overcome any obstacles that I face. I now approach my life with confidence, and I feel free of the shame and depression that many other vulnerable young Rwandans feel. I hope to motivate other young people to achieve their goals.

As I look to the future, I hope to continue to practice the leadership skills I have developed as president of the Orphans of Rwanda Student Government Association. When I meet children who have lost their parents, my advice to them is to keep being strong, without losing hope. I tell them that God loves them and that they must work in order to help themselves. I appreciate all opportunities to meet new people and learn about their perspectives on the world. One of my dreams is to travel abroad to continue my education, and I would love to take courses in Women's Studies.

NICHOLAS RUTIKANGA



I was born in Belgium on December 6, 1987. My mother was working there for Sabena Airlines as an airline hostess. I have no recollection of my father because he died in a car accident soon after my birth. When I was 2 years old, my mother and I returned to Rwanda to live with my maternal grandparents on their farm.

I recall often overhearing my mother and grandparents talking about the discrimination in Rwanda and the fact that we were hated by our Hutu neighbors. Things became more serious when thieves began to frequently invade the farm. They would order my grandfather to give them money and threaten to kill us all if he did not comply with their demands. I saw my mom being gang-raped and couldn't do anything to save her because when I tried, I was beaten so severely that I still occasionally experience pain in my side.

After a few months, my mother decided to move the three of us to Kigali, where she found a tutor to teach me at home in the evenings. He was a Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) soldier and spy, and often informed me of the domestic political situation. He was also the first teacher to get me interested in mathematics. In my second year of primary school, the president was killed and the genocide officially started. Shortly after the chaos began, a neighbor came to tell us that my tutor and his family had been killed. This friend further informed us that his acquaintances were on an *interahamwe* hit list and that my mother was alleged to be number four.

We had to flee. We spent some days hiding in the home of a European family my mother worked for, and twice we narrowly escaped being killed by the *interahamwe*. We were eventually hidden in a truck and transported to Butare, where we stayed in an abandoned house. On the third day at the house, I was spotted by three *interahamwe* soldiers. I managed to escape them, but I suffered a serious machete wound on my leg. I hid in a cove of trees for the night and the next morning I returned to my mother and brother. We fled through the small forest where I had spent the night and we walked all the way to Gikongoro, where a nurse tended to my leg and drove us on to Cyangugu. There, my mother found a Congolese man she knew who worked for Electrogaz. He had a car and took us across the border by telling the border officials that we were his family.

After only two days, however, we had to move to Burundi to find safety. While in Burundi, my brother and I resumed school and we were given financial support by the UNHCR. When war broke out in Burundi, we returned to Rwanda, where we found that my grandparents and five of my mother's seven siblings had been murdered. Shortly after we returned, my mother became very ill and she took us to Gisimba orphanage because she could not look after us. I was 12 years old, and in my fourth year of primary school. My brother and I studied hard. Because we performed so well, and because the school knew our story, we were permitted to study for free. I excelled on my primary school examinations and gained admission to a government secondary school. I chose my favorite subjects – mathematics and physics – as my principal subjects in secondary school, and I did very well on my exams.

With the support of Orphans of Rwanda, I now study civil engineering and environmental technology at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST). So far, I have particularly enjoyed my courses in computer programming, drafting, nuclear physics, and mathematics. Other courses, such as electrical engineering and fluid mechanics, help me feel connected to my dream career: aviation. Currently in Rwanda, you must be in the military to have a career in aviation and I am not interested in joining the military. So when I graduate, I hope to work as a construction engineer, perhaps by starting my own business, working on airports and houses here in Rwanda. If given the opportunity, I would also like to pursue a master's degree abroad.

While I enjoy listening to music and dancing, reading is my favorite pastime – especially scientific literature. Outside of class I am involved in a student group that promotes a drug-free lifestyle. I also still spend time with the group of St. Pierre boy scouts that I joined when I lived at Gisimba orphanage. I believe Rwanda is progressing well and I know I will contribute to its development.