

## OUR MISSION

Orphans of Rwanda, Inc. (ORI) is dedicated to helping orphans and other socially vulnerable young people in Rwanda pursue a university education and ultimately become leaders in fostering economic development and social reconciliation. ORI provides holistic support—including tuition, housing, health care and a range of supplemental training programs—to ensure that its students are prepared to excel.



## ORI Honors Its First Graduates

*Left: New university graduate Dieudonné receives honors at an all-student meeting*

In January 2009, we recognized the achievements of the first four Orphans of Rwanda scholars to receive university degrees.

Dieudonné Kayiranga received a degree in civil engineering and environmental technology from the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology. Kevin Alphonse Kalisa, Yvette Nyinawumuntu and Jean-Baptiste Habyarimana all graduated from the Université Libre de Kigali. Yvette received a degree in sociology and now works as the Secretary General of the National Federation of Handicapped Persons. We're extremely proud of the achievements of Kevin, Yvette, Jean-Baptiste and Dieudonné, who serve as role models for all of our students.

## ORI Featured in Miller-McCune Magazine

The March/April edition of Miller-McCune magazine featured the work of Orphans of Rwanda, highlighting the stories of some of our students. Writer Colleen Shaddox interviewed our team in Rwanda as well as several ORI students, and spoke with co-founders Dai Ellis and Oliver Rothschild.

One of the students interviewed was Kevin Alphonse Kalisa, who appeared on the magazine's cover. Newly graduated from university, Kevin was one of many ORI students whose life was transformed after receiving an ORI scholarship. Kevin believes he is extraordinarily fortunate to have had the opportunity to obtain a university education, and he now feels an obligation to serve others. He returns frequently to Gisimba Memorial Center, an orphanage in Kigali where he grew up, and tutors the children there. With his new law degree, he plans to advocate for vulnerable youth. "I was the one," Kevin explains in the article, referring to his ability to obtain a university education. "And now I promise to do the best thing and assist others who are in danger."

*To read the rest of Kevin's story, see the complete article, available on our homepage at [www.orphansofrwanda.org](http://www.orphansofrwanda.org).*





*Left to Right:  
Yves Ndashimye,  
Valens Rutazihana  
and Emmanuel  
Mukomeza*

## ORI Students Thrive in Internship Opportunities

Three Orphans of Rwanda students—Yves Ndashimye, Emmanuel Mukomeza and Valens Rutazihana—are currently working as management interns at Indego Africa, an organization that empowers Rwandan women by helping them sell their handmade baskets abroad. These students, all of whom attend the School of Finance and Banking, have had a significant impact on Indego’s work. Yves and Valens are responsible for conducting weekly management training for the women, and Emmanuel leads computer and accounting workshops. According to Megan O’Connor, Indego’s in-country coordinator, “They are doing a wonderful job working with the women in our program. I have already seen noticeable improvements from their work, most notably in the women’s accounting skills and in the development of a better organizational system.”

### In Their Own Words

Kimberly Greenberg, ORI’s Development & Communications Associate, spoke with Yves, Emmanuel and Valens about their experiences.

**KG: Can you explain how Indego Africa works?**

Emmanuel: Indego Africa has several cooperatives around Rwanda and it is free for women to join. Once a woman joins a cooperative, she goes through training and can begin making products like baskets. The women share the profits and use them to pay school fees for their children. Many genocide survivors use their income to help orphans in their communities.

**KG: What are your responsibilities at Indego Africa?**

Valens: We train women every Thursday and, after each training session, we discuss life issues with the women. For example, if a woman is ill and does not want to go to a hospital because she is afraid, we will encourage her to go to the hospital and take care of herself. We solve problems together. The women are comfortable with us and we use our knowledge to help them.

**KG: How have your experiences working with the women affected your own lives?**

Yves: We have gained experience and new skills while helping improve the lives of others. I have especially improved my management skills, and I believe this experience will help me when I apply for jobs after I graduate.

Emmanuel: Also, because we are Rwandese, we have a cultural tradition that makes us want to help others, because we have already become courageous in our own lives. We are motivated because we know that we can achieve what we want in our lives. We want the women to improve the quality of their lives, and we try to teach them that it is better to be united.

Valens: I enjoy working with the women. After finishing my studies, I hope to work with poor people to improve their economic well-being. I would also like to create my own organization.

#### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Seraphine Wibabara

Seraphine Wibabara found out about ORI when her friends encouraged her to send in an application. After her acceptance into ORI, Seraphine began her studies at the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, where she studies agro-forestry. Seraphine chose to study forestry in high school because she lived in Bugesera, a region where droughts and soil problems were common. Seraphine plans to put her knowledge to good use by addressing environmental problems in Bugesera after she graduates.



### New Student Government President

Third-year ORI student Rebecca Uwimana won this year's election for President of the Student Government Association. Rebecca takes the reins from her predecessor (and housemate) Julliet Busingye. A student at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), Rebecca studies computer science and currently interns at the Rwanda Association of University Women. The ORI team looks forward to another great year of work by the student government under Rebecca's leadership.



### Invest in Rwanda's Future Leaders Today!

- To donate online: go to [www.orphansofrwanda.org](http://www.orphansofrwanda.org) and click *Donate Now*
- To give by credit card: call the ORI office at 917-558-9022
- To mail a contribution: send your check, made out to Orphans of Rwanda, to: Orphans of Rwanda, Inc. 16 Highland Street Cambridge, MA 02138

## ORI Receives its First Multi-Year Grant

In January 2009, the Sophie Emerson Schmidt Charitable Fund announced its decision to support ORI with a generous three-year grant. The grant will fund student scholarships for the next three years and will have a tremendous impact on our work. Students, staff and Board members at ORI are extremely grateful to the Fund for its long-term investment in the futures of our students.

*Right: First-year National University of Rwanda students at their group house in Butare.*



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## New Addition to the ORI Team



**Yvette Ruzibiza, Director of Career Development**

Yvette studied management at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology and went on to work at the Novotel, one of Rwanda's best hotels, where she directed the hotel's marketing efforts. At the Novotel, she managed the sales force, restructured the sales department and was named Employee of the Year. Before joining ORI, she worked at the International Fund for Agricultural Development.