

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

To volunteer, please contact us at: 763-545-2828 or info@rcpusa.org
RCPUSA could use your skills either here or if you are visiting Kenya.

To give a monetary donation, please submit checks to:
Rabondo Community Project, USA
PO Box 27954
Minneapolis, MN 55427

PayPal is available:
www.rcpusa.org
Click 'Donate - Volunteer' tab towards the top of the page.

Find us on Facebook: 
www.facebook.com/rcpusa
RCP is finally on Facebook!
See photos taken by our sponsored students and read about things that are happening in Rabondo.

Short on cash and time?
If tougher times have you left you short on cash and not travelling these days, please consider donating your unused frequent flyer miles. It takes 85,000 mile for Timon to visit Rabondo every year to view the progress of our projects.

The Rabondo Community Project USA is a 501(c) (3) organization and gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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The talented Thimble Bees Sewing Group of Wayzata Community Church with just some of the 95 kits they created.



The pads are both practical and beautiful!



Primary School Girls

Greetings from RCPUSA!

It's that time again! We are excited to update you on what is happening at Rabondo Community Project (RCPUSA) thanks to the continued generosity of supporters like you.

Priority #1: Caring for our orphans and at-risk students

There continues to be many needs at the village but our top priority remains taking care of the welfare of over 30 children, ages 7-22, who are orphaned or at-risk. The money that is raised not only goes to help the needy children attending Rabondo school, but some of the children who do not have homes to live are enrolled in a nearby boarding school where their needs can be met by staff trained to handle the challenges facing these children.

An important goal of RCPUSA is to eliminate barriers that interfere with the ability to receive equal access to education. Some of the girls and young women are not able to attend school on a continuous basis because of their monthly menstrual cycles. They miss several days a month of school and fall further behind in their studies. We are thankful to the Thimble Bees group of women at Wayzata Community Church in Minnesota who recently designed and handmade a donation of washable and reusable sanitary pads for our girls (see photos on back).

Previously we were able to provide similar pads through our partnership with LunaPads at a reduced cost of \$30 per kit. The girls find them easy to use and a "blessing". Your tax deductible donation can be made to help provide for our girls.

Our International Student begins third year in Minnesota

Sheillah, one of our students, came from a deeply impoverished family in Rabondo Village. She has been here in Minnesota for 2 years and recently started her first year of high school. She continues to excel academically, has made lots of friends and adjusted to the changing climate, especially the cold weather and snow during the winter. Sheillah enjoys communicating with her friends in Rabondo, encouraging them to "study and work hard in school". She has inspired them to want to finish high school and go to college.

Her International Student Program relies on the support that you have given to RCPUSA for her study program. Your donation is tax deductible.

Donor Spotlight: Host Families

Sharing Our Vision Since the Beginning

As you know, our donor spotlight in previous years featured individual donors whose contributions have greatly impacted the work we do. However; this year, families who have volunteered to host a student from Rabondo Village have taken the spot. *We are most grateful to the host families* in Minnesota who have opened their homes and their hearts welcoming Sheillah to be a part of their families, along with making certain she gets to and from school, to her afterschool activities and enjoying her birthdays and holidays. Contributions are needed to continue to underwrite the cost of proving this ongoing support to the host family for Sheillah's physical needs and education.

It can be quite a challenge to find not only the funds but a host families that will take on the parental role and assure the homework is done and all the many other parenting responsibilities. We have found families that share with us the need and promise of a better tomorrow.



Sheillah with her current host family , the McNeills

Safe water is key to life

The water well is completed but we are still needing to construct a tower to the distribution points in the project site (primary and secondary schools, health clinic, student transition home, staff living quarters and a kiosk available for use by villagers). In addition, funds will be needed to build a fence to secure the water system and to replace the temporary pump and attach an electric meter.

The benefits of available, safe water cannot be understated. Safe water will also reduce, if not eliminate, water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid, in this community. With your generous help, we will be able to completely finish this project that will allow the students and the villagers of Rabondo to be free of the burden of fetching water and be able to focus on creating a better life for themselves and their community.

Father John E Forliti's Soul A Gift of Hope

We are deeply grateful to Father John Forliti in celebration of his 50th anniversary of ordination as a priest, he had his generous friends direct their donations and gifts to the cost of completing the RCPUSA dining hall. We are excited to report that the kitchen and dining facility is nearing completion and will open in the near future.

This accomplishment has brought a great deal of excitement and a sense of hope to the people of Rabondo Village and their children. In addition to providing a modern kitchen and dining space, this facility will cater for other functions and activities that weren't possible before.



The Kitchen and Dining Hall: Nearing Completion



Old Kitchen

Current Gifts

Every year we make the hard decision to send out our annual newsletter. While we want to keep everyone informed of our progress, the cost for producing and sending out the newsletter is considerable. With this in mind, RCPUSA hopes that we can count on you and your financial support.

Student Testimonial: Linet A Obuya

Please take a moment to read a letter from one of our orphaned students in the care of RCPUSA. We are so proud of her accomplishments! This could not have been achieved without the support of our generous donors.

My name is Linet A. Obuya, living in the Rabondo Village. I am 16 years old and attending the 10th grade in high school. I was an only child, born in Tanzania. My father passed away when I was 3 years old and my mother passed away when I was 7 years old. I was left to my grandparents who were quite elderly and unable to care for me.

I moved to Kenya with my aunt in Rabondo Village when I was 10 years old. My widowed aunt had 3 children of her own, as well as 2 orphans to care for. She really had no means to care for me either. Her home was very small and crowded. We all slept on the floor with one blanket to share. We had one meal per day. During the day, I either cared for the children while she scavenged for food or I fetched water and firewood for all of us.

I did leave my aunt's home, worrying about fending for myself but hoping for a more meaningful life. That's when I found the RCPUSA transition house and joined the other kids there. What a relief to have my basic needs met and be able to attend school.

I am on track with my education and attending high school. I love to read and help with the chores when needed. I am hopeful and joyous about having a school, a home, my own bed, consistent meals and even people who care. I am so grateful for RCPUSA, all that they are

about and for all of the children getting help too. I was so happy to hear from the Project Coordinator of RCPUSA, Timon Bondo, that a well wisher has offered to pay my school fees this year and I will worry about next year when the time comes. I now have hope and see myself with a bright future. I would like to graduate and then continue to learn a lifelong skill or even go to college.

I therefore would like to thank the RCPUSA donors for their generous contribution to the project, including the Thimble Bees so I don't have to skip any classes. I am very fortunate to have your time and resources. Without your help I wouldn't have come this far. And to those who are still willing to stretch their hands of donation to this project, please do so and be a savior.



Student: Linet A Obuya

School Room and Supplies

RCPUSA has raised money in the local community to help fund the building of a school in a small village of Kenya. Currently the students are sitting on the floor during the school day and using their laps as desks. We are requesting your support for additional funds to supply chairs, tables and desks for the 240 children and to finish the flooring and electricity.



Current Classroom for 240 Children