

Dining Hall



# RABONDO

A VILLAGE IN KENYA

20th Anniversary Newsletter

November 2018

## A message from Timon Bondo

Greetings from RCPUSA!

This is a very special year for us – we are celebrating our 20th anniversary of service to the people of Rabondo community and beyond. Our 20th Anniversary newsletter gives an overview of our work and achievements. Rabondo is a relatively small subsistent farming community, in Migori county southwest of Kenya, in a largely rural area, distant from major centers.



It is indeed exciting to look back to the state of affairs obtained in the Rabondo community since 1996. When I visited in 1996, I found a community that was in despair, lacking basic services such as education, health care, electricity, safe water, and sanitation. There were no viable roads for motorized vehicles. People were hit hard by the onslaught of HIV/AIDS in an alarming way. People of productive age were affected by this disease, and many children were left orphans and at times had to fend for themselves. The only school had crumbled and was scheduled to be closed by the government.

Twenty years later, the community is dramatically changed because of the action we took. In order to “repair” the community, Rabondo Community Project USA (RCPUSA) was founded as a non-profit to mobilize resources to meet these challenges. These problems were so many, it was hard to focus on just a single one – though we started with constructing a primary school which was built in 1999. Prior to reviving the school and building classrooms, children were having classes outdoors at the whim of the weather and harsh conditions such as rain, wind, dust, and other disruptions.



# Our Vision for the Next 20 Years...

## Educational Opportunities

RCPUSA focused its initial efforts to providing education to the children of Rabondo as a way to encourage the young and empower the community as a whole. I believed that education would help prevent HIV/AIDS infection that was then prevalent in the community. After building a primary school, children could attend classes in an actual classroom as opposed to the outdoors as they had been having for quite some time. The students would be taught how the disease was transmitted, how to respect themselves and to plan for their future. The school would offer a place to focus on studies and help children getting into the mindset of learning.



One way we promote education for girls is by providing sanitary products so they can stay in school all month long. Your ongoing donations keep this program going and these girls in school.

In Kenya most secondary schools are boarding schools. These boarding schools were expensive, and the children of Rabondo could not afford them. We then decided to construct a day secondary school in the community to absorb the children graduating from the primary school. We raised money to build a day secondary school where children could attend school from their homes. In January 2003, a brand new day secondary school was opened at Rabondo with 140 students enrolled.

This school was named St. Timon's Rabondo Secondary Day School, and has an enrollment of 386 students today. Including this year's graduating class of 89 students, since its inception some 765 boys and girls have received diplomas. The reputation of the school draws applicants from beyond the local community. Many graduates have become plumbers, carpenters, and electricians, while others acquired college degrees and are employed as teachers, engineers, accountants, social workers, finance officers, police officers, Information Technology professionals and medical practitioners. Many hold jobs outside of the community. Before, the community did not see the value of girl's education. St. Timon's School admits both boys and girls, giving students (boys and girls) equal opportunity to pursue an education.

## WAYS TO DONATE AND PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

### 3 Ways To Donate:

#### 1. BY MAIL

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

#### 2. ONLINE

Online Donaton:  
Go to [RCPUSA.org](http://RCPUSA.org)  
Click "Donate"  
Follow the on-screen instructions

#### 3. IN PERSON

To volunteer, please contact us at:  
763-545-2828 or [info@rcpusa.org](mailto:info@rcpusa.org)  
RCPUSA could use you on our team!

#### Short on time and cash?

If tougher times have you left you short on cash and you are not planning on traveling these days, please consider donating your unused frequent flyer miles. Timon flies to visit Rabondo every year to view the progress of our projects.

#### Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/rcpusa](http://www.facebook.com/rcpusa)  
Watch for upcoming events, and see photos of the children whose lives you are impacting with your generous donations.

**For more detailed information about our current needs, including a complete pricing breakdown, visit [www.rcpusa.org](http://www.rcpusa.org). While there, you can also check out a full list of our accomplishments over the 20 years of your generous donations.**

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**All donations are tax deductible**

Rabondo Community Project USA Inc. (RCPUSA),  
a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization aimed at improving the life the quality of life in Rabondo through education and community involvement.

## Safe Water

Bringing safe water to the Rabondo community has been a major achievement. Drilling of the more than 300-foot-deep well, near the secondary school, was completed in 2010. Prior to this, students at the school would waste learning time walking for miles in order to fetch water. The well supplies safe water and serves the three RCPUSA affiliated institutions – primary school, high school and the health clinic. This has helped us overcome water borne diseases which had been a menace in the area. It also makes clean water available to members of the community. Our goal is to build a water tower that will connect water to where it is needed such as the primary school, medical clinic, and several distribution points within the schools and water kiosks for residents of the community. Connected with this is the need to construct a viable source of power. Currently we rely on public electricity, which is intermittent and sometimes disappears for around a week, and we need a solar powered system.



## Impact

The building of the schools, clinic, and bringing water and electricity to the community has spawned many businesses within the vicinity and transformed the economy of Rabondo. The area around the Rabondo campus now boasts of many shops that provide products and services to the villagers. The RCPUSA affiliated institutions provide direct employment to teachers, carpenters, cooks, masons, electricians, plumbers, nurses, roofers, and security guards, to name a few. These workers end up spending the money earned from their employment to empower the community, thus generating direct and indirect employment to others such as small farmers.



## Health Care

In 2006, RCPUSA decided to improve health access to the community by building a new facility with a provision for a maternity ward. Though small, it is the only health facility that caters not only to the students but also to residents of the community and the surrounding area. Despite its size the clinic has been instrumental in bringing medical care to the community. Its maternity section is especially effective in saving the lives of mothers and children. RCPUSA's goal is to upgrade the dispensary to a larger public health center, which will require more support.

## Our Mission

"Our mission is to empower the community through education and cooperative efforts. I am very pleased that the efforts of RCPUSA has created hope where there was despair. Everyone recognizes that the character of the community has changed. People feel proud to be from Rabondo. Our efforts have harnessed the power of community and volunteerism. In particular, I'm glad I found it a responsibility not to turn my back on Rabondo after my visit in 1996."

- Timon Bondo

## Our Donors

All these achievements have been made possible because of the support we have received from you, our donors for the last 20 years. Looking back, I think we HAVE been able to make a difference for the people of Rabondo and beyond. Knowing this gives me immense satisfaction because the lives of economically deprived families can be so very difficult.

Thank you! We invite you to continue your support.  
As always, your donation will continue to be wisely used.

## 20th Anniversary Event



We thank all guests who joined us at the St. Louis Park Recreational Center on Sunday, Sept. 29th for our 20th Anniversary celebration and fundraiser. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped and supported us during the event. We also thank businesses and organizations that sponsored the event or gave donations of items used at the event. Thank you to all of our supporters who helped make everything such a success!



## Mile Stones

- 1998** Rabondo Community Project USA Inc. is founded by Timon Bondo. RCPUSA is a non-profit organization aimed at improving the quality of life in the Rabondo community through education and community involvement.
- 2003** St. Timon's Rabondo Secondary Day School opened to provide opportunity for children graduation from primary school to continue their education within the community.
- 2005** The first secondary school students graduate from St. Timon's Rabondo Secondary School
- 2008** Health clinic built and community connected with electricity for the first time from over 10 miles away
- 2010** Drilling of the safe water well completed