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Your sponsorship for Françoise

Dear Sir or Madam,

Greetings from SOS Children's Village Gikongoro. I am sure you are eager to get updates on happenings over the year. Let me first share news about your sponsored child and then a brief update on the work of SOS Children's Villages Rwanda.



Time to prepare a bright future has come for young mothers.

Francoise is doing well. She is well organized in all that she does. Her school materials are always in a good shape. She knows how to cover her notebooks and her books. Her SOS mother Languide often cheers her and encourages other children in the family to do the same.

As you may perhaps be aware, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda started in 1979. In September this year, we celebrated our 40th anniversary. It was a remarkable day of joy, reflection and recognition. It coincided with the signing of a new, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Rwanda and SOS Children's Villages Rwanda. Thanks to this, we will continue to provide care in SOS families. New children are now arriving in different villages in Rwanda.

It is now time for interesting stories. Can you guess about what the first story looks like?
Beginning of life

All the children have rights, and this is the responsibility of children, parents and the community. 'School dropouts are now like an old story', says Judy, the family promotion and gender equity in Nyamagabe District.



A bright future is possible with savings.

Some years ago, child right for teenage mothers was unknown in this district. Lack of support and basic needs for their babies were common. The result was mainly school dropouts. There was need for parents, teachers, local leaders and the young mothers themselves to change their mind-sets.

Can you guess about the support they are receiving? Some of them went back to school and others chose to do small businesses.

Besides, their babies attend Day care program in the village. They all have received health insurance cards. 'Finally, I am back to school. I had lost all hope after giving birth', says Angelique.

'I am glad that my daughter is in good hands when I am at school', says Claudine, a 19 years old teenager. She is now doing Tailoring.

'I no longer worry about getting medical treatment when my son is sick. This is like the beginning of my life', says Alphonsine, one of the teenage mothers who got health insurance cards.

So far, some of the teenage mothers got the education support and their babies attend day care in the village. They are doing hairdressing, and tailoring. The following story will show how the village improves lives of many of young people's lives in the community.

Like father like son

Besides being a loving home for every child, the village fights child abuse and neglect through empowering families in the community. This involves sensitizing local people to adhere in saving and loan associations. Would you like to know what happened this year?

This time, young people from the community decided to take over. After making small groups imitating their parents, they submitted their requests for support to the village. Besides trainings provided by SOS staff, participants receive start-up kits including boxes, booklets, stamps and calculators to keep records.

SOS Children's Village Gikongoro glad to receive many groups composed of hundreds of young people. Once a year, they share profits. In addition, they finally they become self-employed in various activities like doing small business, farming, tailoring and welding. 'Before joining the group, having my own barber shop was like a dream. It was beyond my imagination', says Jean Pierre. His colleagues agreed with him.

Among them, some have tailoring workshops, others are motorcyclists, others are airtimes sellers, dozens of them are farmers. It is very interesting to see that some have started registering in universities, thanks to the income from their businesses.

'We are happy now. We no longer ask our parents to give us all the basic needs as it used to be before joining the group. We can pay our health insurances, school fees, clothing among other things, says Geraldine, one of the group representative. I wish you could see how they are happy of their own successes!

With your support, other young people can be self-reliant. Many thanks for your financial support. You has helped SOS Children's village Gikongoro provided families and young



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
RWANDA

people with decent lives. Note that I have changed the names in the text for data protection sake.

I finish this sponsorship letter here, thanking you once again for your support. With you, children are ever happy.

Yours sincerely



Gaspard TWAMBAZIMANA
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator