



POST-SECONDARY SPONSORSHIP GUIDE



WELCOME & THANK YOU



Thank you for transforming a life through sponsorship in Rwanda with Africa New Life Ministries.

This is your guide to post-secondary sponsorship, which includes information about university and vocational schools where our students attend, and how you can correspond with your sponsored student. If you have questions throughout your sponsorship please visit africanewlife.org, where you will find more information about Rwanda, Africa New Life and our sponsorship programs. Please don't hesitate to contact Africa New Life's sponsorship staff at 503.906.1590 or postsecondary@africanewlife.org.

Again, thank you for choosing to sponsor a post-secondary student. You are going above and beyond to help a student become a leader in Rwanda!



Dr. Charles Mugisha
Co-Founder & President
Africa New Life Ministries

Florence Mugisha
Co-Founder & Director of Women's Ministry
Africa New Life Ministries



Alan Hotchkiss
U.S. Executive Director
Africa New Life Ministries



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YOUR AFRICA NEW LIFE ACCOUNT

To access your Africa New Life account, visit www.africanewlife.org/myaccount.

Your Africa New Life account allows you to:

- Manage your contact and financial information
- Set up automatic donations
- Order a gift for your sponsored student
- Write to your sponsored student using our Online Letter Writing feature
- Make a one-time donation or sponsor another student

If you have any questions, you're welcome to contact us at postsecondary@africanewlife.org or 503.906.1590.

ABOUT RWANDA

The Republic of Rwanda is fondly referred to as “The Land of a Thousand Hills” by its citizens. With a variety of landscapes, Rwanda is lush from the western mountains to the eastern savannah. Situated just south of the equator in East Africa, Rwanda has a temperate climate with two rainy seasons.

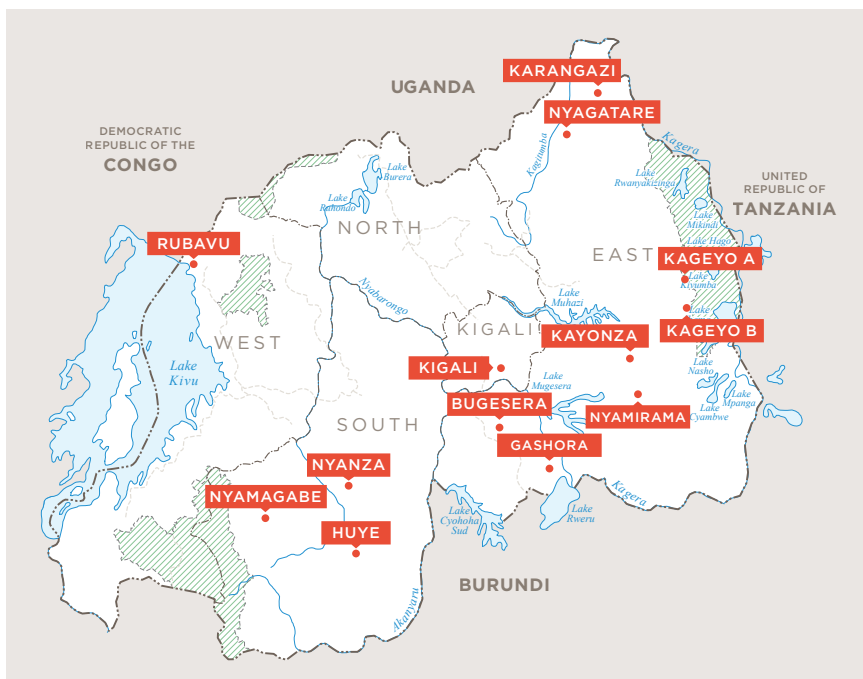
In the heart of Africa, Rwanda is landlocked by its four neighboring countries: Uganda, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Burundi. The capital city, Kigali, is centrally located. While Rwanda's land mass is roughly the size of Massachusetts, Rwanda's population is among the densest in Africa at almost 12 million. Rwanda has four official languages: Kinyarwanda, French, English, and Swahili.

Rwanda has faced complex challenges in its history. Prior to the 20th century, Rwanda was a unified nation under their king before European colonization. The colonizers established an ethnically-based hierarchy—between the Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa peoples who had originally populated Rwanda—that impacted Rwandan history in significant ways. Before Rwanda regained its independence from colonial powers in 1962, tension among Rwandans led to a series of violent events beginning in 1959 when Hutus killed more than 20,000 Tutsis. Violence and oppression continued after the Hutu majority took control over the government. Thousands of Tutsis were displaced until the 1990s when the Rwandan government facilitated a genocide against Tutsis and Hutu moderates in 1994. Approximately one million people were killed in just three months before the Rwandan Patriotic Front captured Kigali and began restoring order.

The military commander of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, Paul Kagame, continues to lead in rebuilding the nation as president of Rwanda. When the new constitution was passed in 2003, it required that 30% of parliamentary seats be filled by women. Rwanda currently models the greatest representation of women in parliament at 61%. Rwanda's future is promising and bright due to its unified leadership. Rwanda has one of the fastest growing economies in Africa with a real growth rate of 8.6% in 2018.

Approximately 75% of the labor force works in the agricultural sector, and agriculture comprises nearly 31% of the GDP in Rwanda.

Even though the people of Rwanda experienced horrific atrocities in the 20th century, they have provided the world with an example of resilience, grace, and continued healing. Today, Rwanda is among the safest countries in Africa due to restored peace and security. Genocide memorials in Rwanda exist to remember the tragedy, honor the dead, and educate Rwandans and the world to help prevent future violence.



While we believe it's important to know and understand the history of Rwanda, we ask that you exercise sensitivity by not discussing the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi with the student you sponsor.

POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS

At the end of Senior 6, the final year of secondary school, students take national exams that will determine their next steps. Based on their results, students could be eligible to attend a university, or they may continue their post-secondary education at the vocational/technical level. University scholarships are highly competitive, and only a few students qualify for government loans, which must be paid back after graduation.

After completing secondary school, students have a “gap” while they wait to learn their options for post-secondary programs. During this time, students attend our Dream Leadership Academy (DLEAD), where they receive weekly training in leadership, entrepreneurship, discipleship, biblical literacy, resume writing, and communication skills. This program is designed to help prepare students for life after secondary school.

Vocational programs typically last one and a half to two years, and students graduate with a certificate or diploma. Some of the areas of study for post-secondary vocational students include: business, catering, construction, information technology, media and tourism. Post-secondary vocational students have an Africa New Life reference code that begins with VT.

University programs typically last four years, with programs in the medical field extending up to five years. Students earn a bachelor’s degree or an advanced diploma. Many of our students attend universities in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda, but some of our students attend schools in other parts of Rwanda. Only a few students study at schools outside of Rwanda. Some of the courses (majors) our students are studying include: accounting, applied mathematics, business management, commerce, engineering, human resource management, law, marketing, medicine, and social work. Students are required to write research papers and complete internships as part of their programs. Sponsored university students have an Africa New Life reference code that begins with RCS.

Through the Esther College Scholarship Program, Africa New Life Ministries provides a college education for exceptional young women who demonstrate Christian character, leadership, and academic rigor. These women come from very poor families. Each year, approximately 15 amazing women receive this life-changing opportunity to continue their education. In addition to attending university, the women volunteer their time to improve the community where they live, receive leadership training, participate in a mentorship program, and learn basic finance management. Esther College Scholarship recipients have an Africa New Life reference code that begins with ECS.

There are multiple intakes during the academic year, so students can begin their university or post-secondary vocational program at different times throughout the year. Students are on a semester or trimester schedule, depending on their school.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Since the scoring system is vastly different in Rwanda, Africa New Life doesn’t provide sponsors with actual grades or transcripts. At least once a year, sponsors will receive a progress report with a letter from their post-secondary student, sharing more information about their experience in school. On the progress report, sponsors will be able to see what classes their sponsored student took last term and whether they passed or failed.

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS OUR STUDENTS ATTEND



Rwanda

Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA)
Africa College of Theology (ACT)
African Leadership University
Amizero Vocational Institute
Cornerstone & Luthien Advisory
East African University Rwanda (EAUR)
Institut' Catholique de Kabgayi
Institut D'enseignement Superieur De Ruhengeri (INES)
Integrated Polytechnic Regional College (IPRC)
Kavumu Vocational Institute
Kepler University
Kigali Independent University
Mount Kenya University
Protestant Institute of Arts & Social Sciences (PIASS)
University of Kigali
University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK)
University of Rwanda
University of Technology & Arts of Byumba (UTAB)
University of Tourism & Business (UTB)

SPONSORSHIP COVERS

Sponsorship rates for our post-secondary programs vary, but generally cover tuition, various academic fees at school, discipleship by Africa New Life staff, and our annual camp. Depending on a sponsor's pledge amount, students may receive an additional monthly stipend to assist with living expenses (i.e. transportation, rent, and food). Starting in 2022, newly sponsored university students will also receive a personal laptop in their second or third year, the cost of which is included in their sponsorship rate. Post-secondary vocational programs do not require that students have personal laptops, so this cost is not included in their sponsorship rates.



DISCIPLESHIP

Students who live near Kigali may attend New Life Bible Church on Sundays for a time of fellowship with other post-secondary students. A third service was added at New Life Bible Church to accommodate the growing number of these students.

Many of our post-secondary students near Kigali participate in a program each Saturday called the "House of Wisdom." Students benefit from hearing guest speakers, panels with church members, and Q&A sessions, all focused on relevant topics on Christianity and discipleship. We also have a partnership with the Equip Maxwell Leadership Institute, which trains young leaders across Africa. Maxwell staff provide Christian-based leadership training twice a year, and students who complete their training are awarded a certificate. Post-secondary students participate in our annual camp, where they enjoy workshops, group discussions, speakers, worship sessions and athletic activities.



CORRESPONDENCE

Sponsored students love to hear from their sponsors, and we believe this communication is valuable.

Students send letters with their progress reports, and we also send Christmas card photos to sponsors in December. However, if you write to your student, they will write more often. There are two simple ways to send a letter to your sponsored student:

1. WRITE ONLINE

Write a letter to your sponsored student using our Online Letter Writing feature.

You will need to log into your Africa New Life account to use this feature.

Please note: If you sponsor a student, you already have an Africa New Life account. Contact us if you need login assistance.

2. MAIL A LETTER

Write a letter to your sponsored student and mail it through the international postal system. You will send your letters directly to Rwanda. Please use this exact format written in all caps when addressing your envelope:

STUDENT NAME, REFERENCE CODE

(e.g., ISHIMWE ALPHA, RCS00167)

AFRICA NEW LIFE MINISTRIES

PO BOX 3351

KIGALI

RWANDA

For the return address, use Africa New Life's U.S. address:
7405 SW Tech Center Drive, #144, Portland, OR 97223.

Visit your local post office for the current international postage rate. Postage will vary due to the weight and size of your envelope.

Please do not send letters for your student to the U.S. office. We cannot forward mail to Rwanda.

IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T SAY IN MY LETTERS?

DO:

- Talk about your family and daily life! Be sure to include a photo of your family.
- Share about your experiences in higher education, especially if you attended college or a technical program after high school.
- Ask questions about their life. Encourage them in their studies, character, and faith.

DON'T:

- Ask about their ethnicity, the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, or politics.
- Communicate in a way which may be construed as a promise (e.g., hope to meet one day, wish they could see the U.S., etc.).
- Share personal contact information or communicate outside of letter writing through Africa New Life.



COMMUNICATION RELEASE FORM

In order to protect sponsors and students, Africa New Life requires that students in grades preschool through the Dream Leadership Academy only communicate with their sponsors via our approved channels (i.e., mailed and online letters). Social media, email, Skype, WhatsApp, etc., are not approved channels, as they can create confusing or damaging situations for students and their sponsors.

However, post-secondary students are adults and communicating with them more directly could be a positive experience for both parties, if handled appropriately. If you would like to request a communication release form to communicate with your post-secondary sponsored student via email or social media, please email postsecondary@africanewlife.org. If your student communicates any challenges with you, please encourage them to talk directly with the staff in Rwanda.



GIFTS

Although birthdays and Christmas are celebrated differently in Rwanda, sponsors are welcome to send gifts to their sponsored students through the Online Store at www.africanewlife.org/gifts.

For birthdays, we encourage post-secondary sponsors to select a gift of food for their student. Some items online are not available for post-secondary students because our Rwandan Leadership have evaluated which items are most useful to these students. A few items have annual quantity restrictions in order to avoid creating dependency. Please do not mail money or checks directly to your student.

HOW DO I KNOW MY GIFT HAS BEEN RECEIVED?

We will take a picture of your student with your gift and send it to you electronically. If you do not receive the picture within three months of your gift, please notify us at students@africanewlife.org. For gifts ordered during the Christmas season (October 15-December 31), you will receive a photo via email the following spring. If your student is studying abroad, they will receive their gift when they are home on holiday, so this will be a delayed message.

GRADUATION GIFTS

When your sponsored student graduates from their post-secondary program, you are encouraged to write them a congratulatory note. If you would like to send a graduation gift, you can choose something from our online store, or you can send a one-time cash gift of up to \$500. One-time cash gifts should be sent via check to our U.S. office with a specific memo indicating for whom the gift is intended (e.g., Graduation Gift for Mutoni Beatrice, RCS00047). Please email postsecondary@africanewlife.org if you would like to use a payment method on file for a graduation gift.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I give my sponsorship donations each month?

You can set up electronic giving when you sign up for sponsorship, or you can mail a check each month to the U.S. office: **7405 SW Tech Center Drive, #144, Portland, OR 97223**. If you send checks, Africa New Life will send giving reminders when donations are anticipated. Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs) cost about \$0.50/transaction, while credit or debit transactions can cost 3% (or as much as 5%) of the total amount given, depending on the particular credit card used.

How do I find out the answer to a specific question about my student?

You may write a letter to your student and ask direct questions. If you have an urgent question, you may email your question to postsecondary@africanewlife.org.

Can I visit my student in Rwanda?

Depending on availability you can join a team trip to Rwanda. Trips cost approximately \$2,000 plus airfare per person for an 8-day, 8-night stay in Kigali. Email missions@africanewlife.org to express your interest in going to Rwanda.

Who do I contact with questions about my donations?

Email us at students@africanewlife.org or call **503.906.1590**.

I don't understand my giving reminder. What does it mean?

Africa New Life sends Giving Reminders to sponsors who give by check so you will know how much is needed to keep your pledge current. These are emailed or mailed, depending on the preference of the sponsor.



AFRICA NEW LIFE

www.africanewlife.org

7405 SW Tech Center Drive, #144
Portland, OR 97223

students@africanewlife.org

503.906.1590 (Pacific Time)

Mon–Thurs: 8:30am to 5:00pm
Fri: 8:30am to 12:00pm