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Funded by DANIDA & DMCDD

## Bi-annual Newsletter

### Overview

Christian Mercy Ministries (CMM) is a faith nonprofit making organization based in Rwanda especially in the eastern province (Gatsibo District). It was founded by Mrs. Jackiline Hansen (in 1999) a Rwandan diaspora. Later she was joined by a group of Christians and other individuals, with an aim of fostering education and community development at large. This project has so far assisted more than 602 children and adults both directly and indirectly. CMM has signed a Partnership agreement with KIT and Ark Church. Here in Rwanda CMM has signed agreement with True Vine church, World Relief, cooperation letter with Gatsibo district and Rugarama primary school.



### Vision

To exhibit true love and mercy to our neighbors (matt 19:19) so that they may access basic needs. CMM was inspired by God to impact faith, hope and charity that each person is given opportunity to discover love of God in their lives. (1corinthians 13:13)

### Mission

Christian mercy ministries (CMM) are to work together with its partners to create positive attitudes policies and practices that will promote care and support programs of the needy society.



***Pre-school's children in Ntende***

Here are the Pre-school's children in Ntende village, some of kids are graduating to primary one, but still is a challenge of long distance to school, children used to take a short cut , but now is blocked by water floods. The whole valley turned to a lake



***Mukashyaka Jeanine 23 years old, an orphan and a single mother of two children.***

If it wasn't this school, my child wouldn't have seen a blackboard at time am an orphan and a single mother of two. Due to what I went through when I was young and ended up having children that I never planned for.

"When my child was picked to benefit from the free education at this school, it relieved me from the stress of thoughts and nightmare about my children going to follow my footsteps of not going to school" Mukashyaka Jeanine 23 years old is a single mother of two children. She has been doing this and that, but all in vain until CMM thought it wise to help her and her children.

I have no specific job that I can count on my survival but when my children goes to school I get no doubt that at one point my children will change my life style.



***Dancila Mutega 35, one of the parents***

Gone are the days of walking Kilometers to get a school.

There are times I think of what young children went through before this school was built here. No wonder some of them would make an excuse of the long distance which would result into some of them drop out or not even minding going there at all.

Dancila Mutega 35 is amongst other parents that benefited from the school that was meant for young children who are ready to start their education journey. If I may recall, children used to walk at least up to 10km away from home to school but today it's just at the door step. The school is providing breakfast for all children that attend this school. It was always a problem to parents wondering if they can afford everyday breakfast but God work in his miraculous way we have now a school that is accommodating almost 100 children including orphans and vulnerable in this village but if possible whoever is concerned should think of its enlargement so that if they are done with nursery school they can enroll in primary at the same school. I attribute the good performance of my child and other to the management of the school that is supporting them in different ways.



**Mr. Martin Ruzigamanzi, education office in Rugarama sector**

play house, it is as well academic school . The school was founded in 2011 after identifying the gap of few or no schools in Rugarama. The school came as a solution to many parents who wouldn't afford to send their children to schools because there were far from their home areas and they would not afford transportation said Mr. Martin Ruzigamanzi, education office in Rugarama. The existence of this school has added much in the education sector including teachers trainings and local leaders in supporting education.

It was after this school in this area that children started their nursery education; many parents would wait for their children to turn seven years to send them to primary school because they were not able to walk that long distance between their homes and school.

As young as they are, children are able to construct English sentences which is unusual to many primary students here, he added.

The management of the school should think of how they can increase the number of students and they go to primary level as well because they are doing a wonderful job of educating the future leaders of our country.

The pre- school known as Elezer is really a help and it came on the right time to save many, Elezer is not just a



***The CMM youth empowerment club***

CMM youth empowerment club training held in Ntende village. This has made the youth more competent, they are now aware of their rights most of them are now able to claim their rights. Our youth became more aware of their responsibility in reaching their destiny



***Steven Karegeya a member of youth club***

Steven Karegeya is one of the youths who is testifying what he benefited ever since he joined the youth club at the CMM and now going to church. When you are in isolation most of the

time you think negatively on different things but when you join other people things start to change.

Most of time I would spend time at home or just at the village centre but ever since I joined this club my life is a changed chapter of what it used to be. I gained some competence and I can think and prepare of my future I thank God for CMM to be in this village .



***Teachers from Rugarama primary school and local leaders from Ntende village in training.***

The training has increased the cooperation between CMM and its stakeholders in Rugarama sector and it has built awareness of joint responsibilities as teachers and leaders in their role to support child education especially CMM children beneficiaries.



***The Christian Mercy church service***

The Lord God has saved many souls through the Christian Mercy church. So many people joined us and after becoming a big number, we formed a church. The Christian Mercy church is the fast growing church in this area and she is now among the biggest churches in Gastibo district.



***The renovated CMM church from the contribution of Mrs. Jackiline Hansen.***

The church is used both on Sunday and in all weekdays. She (Church) is used for Meetings and practices of different gospel groups. We started fellowshipping in 2011 as team of volunteers with aim of praying for the project activities, our partners and other issues related to CMM.





***Mr. Jean Bosco Mugemana leader of Christian Mercy Church***

The Lord Jesus Christ has saved many souls through Christian Mercy church. Only a group of ten volunteers started coming here at CMM place for prayers, but as the group's desired Unexpectedly a big number of people started to join us and we started to experience the hunger and thirsty for the Word of God, people's souls were seeking a spiritual refugee and we welcomed every one of them into the group. From a group of ten we grew to two hundred, the CMM community house could not even accommodate us. Thank God that today we have the CCM church. Within the last few month, we made an outreach that touched many souls of Ntende people says MR Jean Bosco Mugemana leader of Christian Mercy Church

According to Mr. Mugemana, the church didn't not only touch the souls and left behind the body, we have been training people how they can take a good care of themselves since even our God is an organized

Lord. Our body being the temple of God we have to walk out talk, this has helped the church to draw many people to the throne of God.

People have been testifying how their lives have changed but the most encountered testimonies are people who have been drunkards and people who are infected with HIV/AIDS how they used to live and the new experience of life they are enjoying today. He added It is visualized that the Church has great impact to the community where by many people turns from bad behaviors, like drunkenness, and it has good impact on reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and crimes are being minimized. Glory be to Our Lord Jesus Christ for all of the work that is being done in Ntende village.



***Mr. Augustine Ngirabatware a widower and a father of five and living with HIV/AIDS***

From a weekly saving of 500 frw it has changed my life style says Ngirabatware.

Mr. Augustine Ngirabatware a widower and a father of five his life was in bad

state not until he met God sent people to encourage him on how he can change his life style and live a positive life with HIV/AIDS

In 2007 we started collecting 200 frw but after sometime madam Oliver came to us and she gave advice on the best way to do it. The first thing she taught us was to trust in our Lord and our savior, since even our God encourages people to work, Oliver encouraged the member of Humura association to form a group of saving 500-2500frw weekly and loaning among ourselves and be able to solve our problems in this way, we are benefiting than we used before.

Under the loan system the group lent me 30.000 rwf

Which I used to buy sorghum and bean seeds which I planted and after harvesting I managed to repay back the loan and the interest.

Our savings group also gave me money that helped

Me the time I was sick and not only me, another

Group of seven people from our group were also given that money too. Currently we have about 1,000,000rwf in our case and we will share the money in December

This group has helped us to meet and share different ideas as we have in people with different life experiences and not only that some are counselors So we are no longer isolated because of God's love, my life today would have been different from what I am

today."Ngirabatware being one of the beneficiaries he is also infected with HIV Aids.

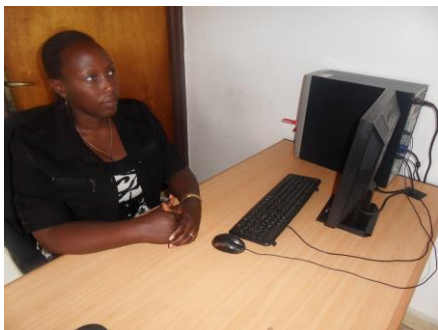
He used to drink local alcohol and beers and he wasn't concerned in any way about his future and his family.

I would wake up just thinking where I will get someone to buy me a beer since I wasn't working it meant to move around the centre befriending people so that they can buy me one. He narrates.

I thank God that today I am able to work for my family and God bless these people who helped me if I may say they picked me near my grave yard.

#### **Facts about HIV/AIDS in Africa.**

*Sub-Saharan Africa is more heavily affected by HIV and AIDS than any other region of the world. An estimated 22.9 million people are living with HIV in the region - around two thirds of the global total.<sup>1</sup> In 2010 around 1.2 million people died from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and 1.9 million people became infected with HIV. Since the beginning of the epidemic 14.8 million children have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. (UNAIDS (2010)*



***Mrs. Umwali Oliver the coordinator for CMM***

CMM is a nonprofit Christian organization based in Rwanda. The primary objective of CMM is to promote education, community development and capacity building initiatives that achieve sustainable development and bring spiritual and social strength to every segment of society.

In addressing the needs of these populations 'we work with the government, volunteer and other stakeholders.

CMM started as a small Christian based organization helping needy and helpless children in Ntende village with little contribution from few people and volunteers, but as per now we have managed to expand our support to a large group of beneficiaries we started with provision of scholastic materials to primary school children, now we have established community house that accommodate pre-school classes ,office and conducting different trainings in the village also a church where people meet for fellowship.

"We are highly appreciating and always recognize our funders DANIDA & DMCCD (Danish Mission Council Development Department) and our partners KIT (Church integration Ministry) based in Denmark and Mrs. Jackiline Hansen for supporting this project

All of our efforts and their prospects for success are greatly deemed from our esteemed funders and CMM volunteers, CMM members, the government officials and other stake holders.

We are striving to sustain and build on the remarkable success and these are exciting times for CMM and its stakeholders to continue building and developing the Rwandan community.



***Mrs. Mbabazi Pelagie from newtimes Rwanda together with children.***

"These children are communicative and happy, which is abnormal for kids from rural areas. It has been a privilege to voluntarily interview people in CMM. This project seems to differ from other social projects. It has united people of this village, everyone I talked to seems to be appreciative, but with a sense of ownership, this is thoughtful" said Mrs. Mbabazi Pelagie.





**Hans Henrik Lund - KIT**

### ***CMM gives hope for hundreds***

Christian Mercy Ministries, CMM, is an outstanding NGO in Rwanda which is doing a difference in hundreds of peoples future life possibilities. CMM differs from other NGOs in the way it originated. Neither was it western Ngo or governmental programs which took the initiative. CMM were initiated by a Rwandan living in Denmark, visiting her family after genocide. She saw poverty, death, sickness and destruction everywhere and was moved to do something but it.

Years letter a small group of young enthusiastic members joined CMM, as they all felt burden toward the destruction and disaster in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. Each one could contribute with their small abilities, receive little support from individuals, visited and helped needy children and dreamed for the better.

This small seed has developed to a good partnership both within Rwanda and Denmark. The cooperation with KIT, Church Integrations Ministry, CMM succeeded to start a relief and

development project in Ntende village, Eastern province.

The results are after one year outstanding and CMM have helped hundreds of children to nursery school, primary school and further education. They have built a community house in the village and have started new community projects for the development of the village and surrounding areas. A HIV program and the small start of microfinance loans have given better life and hope for the neediest.

This project in Ntende has many possibilities and growth potential to even neighboring villages. As representing KIT, I am proud of this project and admire the energy of the CMM staff. Also a big thanks to DMCDR who is supporting the project, but CMM need more partners to expand, will you be one of them?



**Ulrik Jacobsen**  
***Project consultant, Education***

The goal of the project in Ntende Village in Rwanda is to support pre-school education for 50-300 children between 3-7 years, and to support 120-400 children in primary school to stay in school and improve their educational performance. The project offers direct education to pre-school children, scholastic material and homework support to children attending the nearby primary school. The school is placed in a renovated building in Ntende Village, and the building is also used as office facilities for CMM, community meetings, HIV/AIDS counseling, youth clubs and other activities in the afternoon and in the evening. Drainage facilities and a water tank that collects water from the roof have been added to the building, and the compound also hosts a playground for children. DMCDD has supported the project with funds from Danida and the project will be implemented from 2011-2014. The community in Ntende is very much involved in the project due to the commitment of CMM and its volunteers, and CMM has also established a very good working

relationship with the nearby primary school. DMCDD is very pleased that the children in Ntende can have a good start in their education, and for the encouragement and assistance that CMM provide to the children so they can improve their educational performance.



**Jackiline Hansen the founder of CMM**

I have always had a compassion for the vulnerable and poor children, perhaps because many of them live in the same way as I did as a child in Rwanda. I can identify myself in many of these children and I know under how difficult conditions they live.

I believe that when God puts love and compassion in our hearts for some people, he will also give us an opportunity to support and help them. In cooperation with KIT and financial support from DMCDD and DANIDA we now have the opportunity to help many children in school and to help women in need. This has given them a hope for the future.

There is still a long way to go, so I encourage you all to pray for these children and for the women who need help. It's not enough just to give a child a big hug and a smile, it is also necessary to support on a practical level. You may spend your vacation and help as a volunteer at CMM school. There is great need of help to people with HIV / AIDS and Bible teaching and counseling.

If there is someone who can teach music there is also a need for this. Your efforts may be crucial for these people.

Your support will be received with great gratitude!

For the financial support you may transfer any amount on KIT's account in Danske Bank  
Reg.nr. 3201 Konto.nr. 3201 363780 mark the payment "Children in Rwanda"

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