



September, 2021

Shelter Them Founders Walk the Talk

Would you like to help to build a house in Gateko? You can, by supporting Shelter Them founders, Josephine Murphy and Jocelyne Alexandre, as they walk from Hamilton Mountain to the CN Tower in Toronto. They are making the trek on Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10, to raise funds to build five more homes in Gateko village, where we have already built 5 houses.

This event is just one way that Shelter Them is working to achieve the goals we set out in our newsletter of February, 2021, which you can still read on our website. We saw the need to move our beneficiaries



from the capital city of Kigali, with its soaring cost of living and lack of affordable housing, to the rural village of Gateko. In Gateko, the cost of living is much more affordable, there is a bustling Early Childhood Development Centre for preschool aged children and a good primary and secondary school. There is a local medical clinic, and the parents of our children can find regular employment in our farming and sewing cooperatives. But none of these advantages matter without safe, sanitary, and stable housing. These new homes provide our families with that support as they integrate into the Gateko community. It is for this reason that Jo and Jo will walk the walk!

Can you support Jo and Jo on this important cause? Their goal for the walk is to raise \$10,000 to build one more home.

And you can help to achieve the goal. There are several ways you can donate. One way you can donate is to click on this link: <https://www.globalgiving.org/fundraisers/37098/>. It will take you to the project we have been running through Global Giving, a non-profit that helps charities like ours to raise money for worthwhile projects around the world. Global Giving is not a Canadian charity, so if you want to receive a Canadian tax receipt for your donation, you can donate through etransfer directly to Shelter Them or by going to our website, www.shelterthem.com and follow the instructions. Or you can write a cheque and mail it to the address on the website. Please indicate that you would like the donation to go towards the walk.

They say that to understand another person, you need to walk a mile in their shoes. Well, Jo and Jo are going to take that walk for us, but they would really appreciate your support. You go girls!

Would You Like to Help a Rwandan Child? Sponsorship Is Your Solution!

Sponsorship is at the heart of all we do at Shelter Them. We currently have 106 Rwandan children sponsored by 213 sponsors. Think about that! Over 200 people have chosen to have a personal relationship with one boy or girl on the other side of the world. Those sponsors have absolutely changed the lives of those children, giving them hope for a brighter, happier, productive, and sustainable future. Hope is a gift beyond measure. And those sponsors have received an invaluable gift in return – the gratitude and love of those children who they have sponsored.

But the need continues. As Shelter Them continues to grow, so too does the need. Every day our staff in Rwanda, in Gateko village, encounter more children in need. Children whose future could be transformed by sponsorship. So, we have decided to let you meet two girls who have recently been sponsored. Let us introduce you to Benita Gisubizo and her younger sister, Aline Mutoniwase, who live with their mother, Dancilla. When Dancilla got married, she was living in a rented house with her husband, but when Aline was born, the girls' alcoholic father abandoned the family. They lived for a time with Dancilla's parents, who are also poor and could not support them. The girls lived in a tiny house that was formerly a shop, and Dancilla works at any odd jobs she can find to support her daughters. As you can see in the photo below, Benita and Aline are enrolled in the Early Childhood Development Centre, which they love, where they receive two nutritious meals each day. Hope has enabled them to thrive. Sponsorship has done that!



Benita admits to being a little shy, but she loves playing jump rope and the colour blue. She hopes one day to become a teacher at a school just like hers. Aline's favourite colour is pink, and she like to play hide and seek with the other kids. She hopes one day to be a leader. Sponsorship has given Aline and her sister the hope to be able to realize their dreams. For \$40 per month, you could help to provide total care for a child just like these girls, including shelter, food, medical care, and education. Many of our children need only one sponsor, but for others whose need is greater, like Benita and Aline, two sponsors are needed to be fully sponsored. Over 90% of all sponsorship donations go directly to the shelter, nutrition, health care and education of our sponsored children.

Do you think you could help to support a child like Benita or Aline? Here is a photo of just some of those children who are waiting for a sponsor just like theirs. If you can help, please go to our website, www.shelterthem.com to learn more about sponsorship. There you will find many other children, just like Benita and Aline, who are waiting for sponsors. If you still have any questions, you can contact David Jenkins, our sponsorship coordinator, at davidjenkins@shelterthem.com. The need is great, but so are the love and compassion of our Shelter Them supporters. You can change a life today! Give the gift of hope!



COVID Update from Rwanda

We have excellent news from Rwanda! So far, not one of the children in our care has contracted the COVID virus. One of the adult caregivers in our Early Childhood Centre in Gateko did test positive, but she went into isolation and is now free of the disease. We need to thank all our staff in Rwanda for the care and protection they show our kids. Everyone in contact with our kids is masked, and there have been rigid protocols in the ECDC for handwashing. During the COVID shutdown, Shelter Them staff delivered radio sets to secondary school students so they could continue their education through lessons delivered over radio and television. In retrospect, the decision to move most of our operations to Gateko, in rural Bugesera province, has proved fortunate, because most COVID cases have occurred in the capital city of Kigali. But we need to be grateful that Rwanda is doing so well under difficult circumstances. Currently, the country's vaccination rate is 13%, and 90% in Kigali, where most COVID cases have occurred. This is outstanding, especially when we consider that the vaccination rates for Rwanda's neighbours hover around 1%. So, even though COVID has caused disruptions to their education, Shelter Them kids are in good hands. This is excellent news indeed!



Newfoundlanders – Circle the Date There's a Party in Spaniard's Bay!

Please join us for the 5th Annual Shelter Them Dinner and Auction. It takes place on Friday, October 16 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Spaniard's Bay. The fun begins at 6:00 pm. You will enjoy a delicious three-course meal and have a chance to bid on some one-of-a-kind treasures in the silent auction. Fun and laughter are guaranteed – a great chance to reconnect with friends after far too long. Newfoundlanders are always a welcoming bunch, and they would be glad to see visitors from the mainland as well. In fact, Josephine Murphy and Jocelyne Alexandre, the founders of Shelter Them, will travel from Ontario to join in the fun. All are welcome! For tickets, reach out to David Jenkins at davidjenkins@shelterthem.com or Daphne Wells at daphnewells@hotmail.com. The cost is \$75 per person. Come out to Spaniard's Bay on October 16 and have a great time for a great cause!

100 Days of Change



A big thank you goes out to all our supporters who donated during the 100 Days of Change. By collecting and donating their spare change through the 100 days the program ran, donors raised about \$4900. All of it will go towards our efforts to improve the lives of our families in Gateko village. Shelter Them could not continue our work in Rwanda without the loyal and continuing generosity and kindness of our supporters. Thank you all so very much! If anyone missed out on the chance to contribute and would like to donate to the cause, please do so on our website at www.shelterthem.com.