



September 2023

Let's Give a Shout Out to Our ECDC Caregivers!

Do you remember that favorite teacher you had in your elementary school days, that one who made you feel so warm and welcome and important every day you went to school? Well, our kids who attend the Early Childhood Development Centre in Gateko have many choices for the teacher that fills that role. It might be Betty Nyirahabineza, who manages the kitchen and makes sure that every child gets two tasty and nutritious meals each day. Or it might be Julius Twahirwa, our Education Coordinator, who has designed the play-based curriculum that makes learning so much fun. Or it could be any one of the caregivers who are helping our kids to read, and to learn numbers, and to build healthy bodies. Our ECDC is a very busy place, where over 90 children, 3 to 6 years of age, from Gateko and surround-



ing villages are building a firm foundation for a happy and productive future.



Would you like to help these caregivers do their jobs? Well, you can! You can join our ECDC Club. ECDC stands for **E**arly **C**hildhood



Development **C**entre, but it also stands for **E**very **C**hild **D**eserves a **C**hance. For just \$15 per month, you can provide all the books and toys and learning tools these youngsters need. You can provide the food that provides them with two nourishing meals each day. You can provide the cleaning supplies to ensure that these children have a clean, hygienic environment in which to learn. And you can provide the salaries for these caregivers and cooks and cleaners who provide the skills and knowledge and hope and love that enables these children to thrive. You can help these educators to transform lives!

Here's how.

Just go to our website at www.shelterthem.com and click Donate. Then select the currency you wish to use and follow the directions. Your membership is completely tax deductible, and you will receive a tax receipt each year of your membership. As a member of the Club, you will know that your money and your love are building a future and changing the lives of all these young children. It is a gift beyond measure.



Reaping ALL That They Sow

Harvest season is approaching in Rwanda as it is in North America, and this year, farmers in Gateko are more optimistic than ever, thanks in part to the assistance of Shelter Them. Although the weather for crops has not been ideal, the members of the Farming Cooperative in Gateko are expecting success because they will, for the first time, be getting the full benefit of their hard work.

In the past, they have been unable to take full advantage of their labours because they were unable to dry their crops. But this year, thanks



to financial assistance from Shelter Them, there is a brand new drying facility where they will be able to dry their beans, corn and other crops, extending their value and increasing the profits for the cooperative. The co-op members are very grateful for the assistance of Shelter Them supporters, but it is important to realize that this is not charity. Instead, we are merely assisting them to reap the full rewards for their hard work, enabling them to achieve their ultimate goal of independence and sustainability. Step by step, Shelter Them is walking beside the people of Gateko to realize that goal. That is, after all, what Shelter Them is all about!

It's Time to Celebrate in Newfoundland!

Shelter Them will be having their 7th annual dinner and auction at the Royal Canadian Legion in Spaniards Bay, NL on Saturday, October 14th. We appreciate all the support we have received in the past, and hope that once again we can count on our supporters to come out, join in the fun, savor a great meal, and enjoy the company. Jocelyne Alexandre and Josephine Murphy, the founders of Shelter Them, are so excited to be joining us again and are looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones.

Tickets are \$75 per person, and include a fabulous three course meal, catered by Skipper Ben's. We have lots of unique items this year from Africa for our auction. To get your ticket, reach out to any member of our team or contact David Jenkins at davidjenkins@shelterthem.com. If you can't come to the dinner but wish to make a donation, just go to our website at www.shelterthem.com and click on the Donate button. In either case, you will know that you are supporting an important cause, the welfare of our kids in Rwanda!

