

SHELTER THEM

MAY NEWSLETTER

THE STORM CAME BUT IT DIDN'T STAY



When the storm passed through Gateko this March, it didn't leave quietly.

It left behind broken homes, shaken families, and a question that lingered long after the winds had settled: what happens next?

On March 9th, a severe rainstorm with strong winds swept through the community, causing significant damage across the Shelter Them compound and surrounding homes.

Roofs were torn away. Structures were left exposed. Essential facilities, including classrooms, toilets, and livestock shelters, were heavily affected.

INTERVENTION FOR INNOCENT IMANIZABAYO



After the storm, Innocent Imanizabayo was left with nothing but the ground where his home once stood.

As soon as the report was received, we moved quickly.

Thanks to the timely arrival and generosity of Brampton Christian School, most repairs in the Shelter Them compound and nearby homes were quickly covered.

Additional individual support helped ensure rebuilding could begin without delay.

Today, Innocent and his family are in a completed home. Other families are rebuilding, and key repairs across the compound, including classrooms and roofs are now complete.

Daily life has returned steadily to normal.

**IT STARTED WITH CHICKENS,
AND SOMETHING MORE**



Over the past year, we have been asking a simple question.

How can we make sure that every child receives the nutrition they need, not just today, but consistently over time?

One of the answers has been found in something very simple: chickens

It started with just 100 chickens. A meaningful beginning, but not enough as the number of children grew.

So we thought bigger.

Today, a new chicken coop has been built, with the capacity to host up to 1,000 chickens, helping provide thousands of meals over time.

This project is part of a larger shift we are seeing across the community.

Families are working their land. Crops are being harvested. Milk is being produced and shared between children and small income-generating activities.

THEY CAME TO VISIT BUT THEY BECAME PART OF THE STORY.



When the team from Brampton Christian School arrived in Gateko, it was more than a visit.

They came to see, to learn, and to serve.

They spent time with the children, supported learning in classrooms, and walked alongside families during a time when the community was recovering from the storm.

They also played a direct role in rebuilding, helping restore homes and supporting the work happening on the ground.

In practical ways, and in quiet moments of connection, they became part of the story unfolding here.

HEARTS FOR RWANDA

A COMMUNITY TOGETHER:



Each year, our *Hearts for Rwanda* campaign reminds us what's possible when people come together.

This year, thanks to the incredible support of Lanes Retirement Living locations across Newfoundland & Labrador and many generous individuals we raised over \$10,000, helping over 200 children in Gateko Village continue to access education and care.

If this speaks to you, we'd love for you to be part of it next year.

MORE CHILDREN ARE STILL WAITING



At Shelter Them, we are currently supporting over 300 children through education, nutrition, and family support.

Each child receives more than schooling. They receive meals, care, and a community that is working to ensure they are not left behind.

But over 100 children are currently waiting for sponsorship.

Sponsorship remains one of the most important ways we provide consistent, long-term support. It allows us to plan, to build, and to continue walking alongside each child, not just for a moment, but over time.

You can be part of their story. Sponsor a child today.

AN EVENING, 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING
SHELTER THEM GALA

A Night IN
ALL White

Shelter Them's 20th Annual Charity Gala

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

6:00PM

(DOORS OPEN AT 5PM)

The Garden Mandarin
8 Clipper Court
Brampton ON, L6W 4T9

\$90 PER PERSON
PURCHASE TICKETS @
SHELTERTHEM.COM

What started as a small step has grown into something we now get to celebrate together. Children in school, families standing stronger, and a community that continues to grow year after year.

This evening means a lot to us. It's a moment to pause, to reconnect, and to remember why this work matters.

If you've been thinking about coming... this is your moment.

Reserve your seat - tickets are going quickly

<https://shelterthem.com/events/gala>

We'd love to share this evening with you.

THANK YOU!!