

# Shalom, Educating for Peace Newsletter, August, 2011



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## In brief

The past few months have been really busy with various peace education projects, including a program in one of our partner schools, a sports and games event and a workshop with the youth in our 'community for peace' district in Rulindo. The peace education programs over the radio continue with a focus on healing broken communities. We also held a successful fundraiser in South Africa.

## Ubupfura KidsGames

'Ubupfura' is a Kinyarwanda word that is difficult to translate but incorporates the concepts of integrity and honesty. SEP has developed manuals that educate young people in the concept of 'ubupfura', with a particular emphasis on anti-corruption.

Together with Sports Friends International Rwanda, SEP hosted a sports and games event under the theme: "Dissociate yourself from corrupt practices, be truthful and build sustainable peace in your country". Jean de Dieu Basabose trained 40 community members in the Rulindo district using the Ubupfura manual SEP has developed. At the end of July, a major sports and games event was held in which over 1000 children and 400 adults participated.

Children also had the opportunity to perform song and theatre items for the community at the closing event. We trust that the trained community members will continue to spread the message of 'ubupfura' and this event will remain in the minds and hearts of the children for years to come.

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Children march to the Ubupfura KidsGames in Rulindo.

### **Rulindo Community Peacebuilding Project**

Apart from the Ubupfura KidsGames, Jean de Dieu has continued to meet with community leaders from the Gako Cell in the Rulindo district to discuss ways in which we can transform the entire community for peace.

Read more about this initiative [here](#).

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### **Peace through Radio**

SEP remains so grateful to the Umucyo Community Radio for the opportunity to broadcast our peace education programs. From mid April until June, the radio broadcasts have elaborated on the concept of peace education as a pathway for Rwandan post-genocide society to create new and positive mindsets in order to move towards sustainable and genuine reconciliation.

From June until today, the radio broadcasts are focusing on moving a broken community towards healing and reconciliation.

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### **Schools for Peace**

A retreat for students and members of the peace club at Doctrina Vitae College was organised in the beginning of July. The students who committed to nonviolent ways of living last year during the International Peace Day celebration gathered together to review their commitment. Basabose facilitated the retreat and presented a session on anger management and positive conflict resolution.

Students developed some goals to help them remain committed to peace. This includes a quarterly retreat, organizing a peace concert, continued training in nonviolence, and events that will reach out to the broader community.

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### **Volunteer Update**

We received Natalia Welniak from Toronto, Canada in July. She helped with training students and members of the Peace Club at Doctrina Vitae, the members of the youth group in Gako cell, and contributed to training teachers in Rulindo. She also contributed to the manual for our Peace Education through Sports (PES) project. Thanks so much to Natalia for your participation in our work in Rwanda!

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### **Partnerships**

SEP and seven other organizations decided to initiate a national network for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). Charles Karangwa, a board member of SEP, represented us at this new network. He drafted the MOU of the network, which was signed on 18 July.

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Walking on stilts: One of the many fun activities at the Ubupfura KidsGames!



Hundreds of children participate in the Ubupfura KidsGame parade carrying banners with messages of peace.



Students at the Doctrina Vitae College recommit to the principles of nonviolence.

### **Upcoming events:**

We are gearing up for International Peace Day on the 21st of September where we'll be holding our annual Peace and Reconciliation through Song and Theatre (PREST) event.

Funds permitting, Jean de Dieu Basabose will be attending the Global Alliance for Ministries of Peace in Cape Town in October.

### South African Fundraiser

A team of ten South Africans walked for peace at the annual 'Walk the Talk' event in Johannesburg and raised \$1000! Walk the Talk is a charity event hosted by a major South African radio station and supported by the medical aid organization, Discovery. Some 50 000 people walked between 5 and 30km to raise money for charities. Our team walked 15km to raise money specifically for SEP. Some twenty people across the world contributed to this fundraising effort and we thank them and the team in South Africa for raising this money which will be used to further our work in Rulindo.

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### Get involved!

We urgently need funds to implement the many projects in our action plan for 2011. Donations can be made via credit card [here](#). Every donation, big and small, will make a significant difference in bringing sustainable, positive peace to Rwanda.

We would love to receive feedback, advice, input and materials from any of you who are involved with peace work!

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**We would like to thank Geoff Harris and Degli Innocenti Carolina for their generous contributions to our work!**



Volunteer, Natalia, at the Groupe Scolaire de Rusiga in Gako cell, donating a ball to the director of the school.



In July, Cori Wielenga, along with a team of young South Africans passionate about peace, walked for peace during the annual 702 Walk the Talk event held in Johannesburg. They raised \$1000 towards the Rulindo community project.

### Reflection

In an article describing the vast needs in Rwanda following genocide, Benon Kabeera and Vishanthie Sewpaul argue that peace education is one of the primary ways Rwanda can address its many challenges.

They write, "The promotion of peace education should be mandatory. In the absence of sufficiently trained social workers, in a highly resource-constrained context, teachers are best placed to address learners on issues regarding conflict and the destructive effects of violence and war, and should promote peace as the most constructive means towards peoples' well-being and development".

Taken from [Genocide and its Aftermath: The case of Rwanda](#). *International Social Work* 51(3): 324-336, 2008.

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