



February 2007

Step Up! Fundraiser - 2006

The Step Up! fundraiser on November third was a huge success. Over 200 people joined the celebration of our second year of existence and to help the women of Rwanda. Ambassador Joyce Leader spoke on the topic of "Conflict, Women and Human Security: The Step Up! Contribution to Lasting Peace in Rwanda."



Ambassador Joyce Leader

Ambassador Leader was the Deputy Chief of Mission in Kigali when the genocide broke out. Her position gave her insight into conflict leading up to the genocide in 1994 that were of great interest to the attendees. She also praised Step Up! for its grassroots efforts to promote economic self-sufficiency in the ABASA women and stated that aid "from the bottom up" is the most effective way of creating change.

Through the silent auction, ticket sales, card sales and donations, over \$8000 was added to the Step Up bank account. We are grateful to all of you who participated and gave so generously.

In January, the board met and voted to allocate \$6000 to start a beekeeping project with the ABASA women in Butare. (ABASA is a Rwandan word meaning "we are all the same") The women are all survivors of extreme sexual violence and struggle to survive with subsistence agriculture. The provision of 30 beehives and a year's training and guidance in the management of hives and the gathering of honey will begin almost immediately. We will also use \$1000 for a second year's rent of a building to facilitate the small business of sewing school uniforms.

November/December trip

Dr. Barbara Bauer returned to Rwanda on November 28th to continue the training mission Step Up started in April. In conjunction with Solace Ministries (solaceusa.org) and the Tinsley Foundation (RwandaGirlsSchool.org), Dr. Bauer and four other volunteers trained 65 participants in Introduction to Trauma Psychology. At first, it was thought that only women would be attending, however 14 men enthusiastically joined in. Most of the women were genocide widows who were working as outreach counselors through Solace Ministries to help other widows.

STEP UP!

American Association for Rwandan Women
1214 Steelhead Ct, Ste 3B - Columbia, MO 65203
www.StepUpRwandaWomen.org



Dr. Barbara Bauer teaching in Kigali

Orphans

Many Rwandan children, who are now teens, were orphaned during the genocide. Plus, there is a second wave of orphans. Many women who were raped and deliberately infected with AIDS are now dying, leaving their children on their own. In Rwanda, it is estimated that there are 36,000 child-headed households where the oldest person is between 11 and 15.

Schools

A school principal spoke with Dr. Bauer and talked about how even primary school children, who were not alive during the genocide, are showing signs of trauma. They may be withdrawn, have difficulty with attendance and learning, report nightmares and sleep disturbances and show signs of anxiety and distress. From studies of the children of the Holocaust survivors, we know that symptoms of trauma may be transmitted down through the generations. Step Up's mission of improving mental health availability is vitally needed. Your tax deductible contributions are applied 100% to help the genocide survivors.



Dr. Béa Gallimore (on right) with guest at the November 3rd Step Up! fundraiser

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 30th

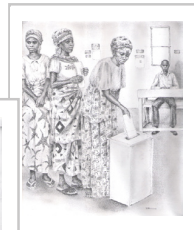
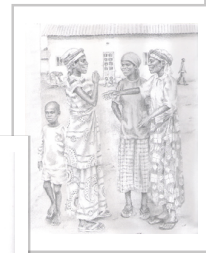
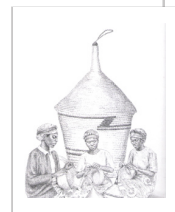
Nadage Uwase and Dr. Barbara Bauer will be speaking on the campus of Missouri State University about the genocide and its aftermath.

Friday, April 6th

Memorial Union S304, 7pm -9pm. An information session will be held about the events leading up to, during and after the genocide. Hosted by STAND Mizzou Students Anti-Genocide Coalition and the African Students Association.

Sunday, April 15th

Preview of the documentary Mothers' Courage. To be held from 2pm-5pm at the Black Cultural Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Free and open to the public. Panel discussion will follow the viewing of the film. Refreshments will be offered. This event is sponsored by Step Up! and the Unitarian Universalist Church Social Action Committee. Parking available at the Virginia Ave garage.



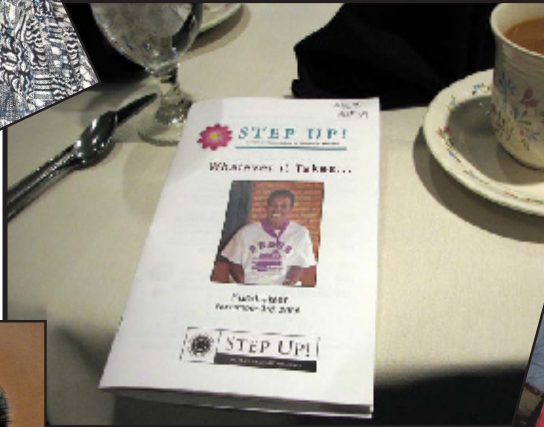
You can purchase these cards and many other items at any of our Step Up! sponsored events.



STEP UP!

STEPUPRWANDAWOMEN.ORG

Fundraiser November 3rd 2006



Upcoming Trips to Rwanda

Dr. Barbara Bauer will be returning to Kigali, Rwanda in May to continue trauma counseling training. Each of her training sessions have enrollments which continue to grow, and the attendees always ask when she will be back to provide them more training. During her two week stay she will also be checking in with the ABASA women who received the beehives that were funded by the November fundraiser. She will provide us a report of her trip at our May meeting.

In July, Bea Gallimore will return to Butare, Rwanda with Dr. Barbara Bauer. During this trip Bea will be meeting with the ABASA women and seeing for herself how the beehive project is going and what further steps need to be taken to make these women financially independent. There will also be a meeting with the mayor of Butare to discuss the counseling center land which he so kindly donated to Step Up!. Bea and Barbara will report back to us about their trip allowing us to plan for prioritizing our projects.

If you plan on being in the Columbia area and would like to attend one of our meetings, please call us at (573)445-5820 and we will let you know the date and time of our next meeting.

STEP UP!

We encourage you to join Step Up! to bring hope to the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. Your donation will help us to build and maintain the Rwanda counseling center to assist women survivors of rape and other gender-based violence. The center will be called *Nsanga*, which means "come to me" and it will be a place for hope and healing.



Young woman with child



Dr. Bauer teaching in November 2006



November training



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