

A Quiet Revolution in Rwanda - New Hope Technical School

Myrna Lapres
November 19, 2025



Coach Myrna, November 19, 2025
www.coachmyrna.org/

A Quiet Revolution in Rwanda - New Hope Technical Institute

Do you know what you were doing on April 7, 1994? Most of us probably have no idea. Since it is the date of my youngest son's birth, I was probably making preparations for a party to celebrate his second birthday. I am sure that I had little awareness of the downing of the plane that carried Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana that triggered one of the most tragic events in human history—the Rwandan Genocide. It was a systematic massacre conducted for the purpose of ethnic cleansing—neighbors killing neighbors, even their own family members simply because they belonged to a different ethnic group. In just one hundred days, around one hundred million people lost their lives. I recently had the privilege of visiting the country to see the work that **Women's Federation for World Peace** has been doing there for the past 30 years. What I found is a quiet revolution taking place that is bringing healing and hope to Rwanda.

Women's Federation for World Peace or WFWP is an international organization that has as its vision: ***Women working together to realize one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.*** As a member since it was founded in 1992, one of the projects that the North America branch supports financially is the Schools of Africa Project. In the early 1990s, WFWP Japan launched international cooperation activities by Japanese overseas volunteers to serve all over the world. They started schools, supported opportunities of education for those in need, and created opportunities for women and girls to build a promising future.

I had the honor of being part of a small group of WFWP members to visit the New Hope Technical School and see what our donations are supporting. This was the first time that a group representing North America was able to visit the school. In Rwanda, I met one of these volunteers, Marie Nozaki who went there in January 1995 together with nine other Japanese volunteers. The country was beginning to recover under the de facto leadership of Paul Kagame, former commander of the Rwanda Patriotic Front which is credited with ending the genocide. He has been the president of Rwanda from 2000 until today.

Marie told us that many men had been killed or fled the country, resulting a population of 70% women. They asked themselves, "How can these women — who had always lived under a male-dominated system — survive and rebuild their lives?" Believing that helping women gain practical skills would be the key to empowering them economically and beginning to restore their dignity. In 1996, they began a small sewing class with just a few students and two years later New Hope Technical Vocational School was established in 1998.

During this time, Marie met Georgette Umubyeyi, a Rwandan genocide survivor who had lost twelve of her family members during the attacks. She and her brother are the only remaining family members. Georgette has been the WFWP President in Rwanda for the past 30 years. Together with many others, Marie and Georgette are growing the school to create support, hope, and stability in the lives of those who attend.

After a visit to the home of one of the students who receives a scholarship to attend New Hope, I felt overwhelmed with the enormity of the challenges still

facing many in Rwanda. We brought some gifts of food staples but it felt like a drop in the bucket in such a humble environment where 8-10 people lived in a small three room structures crowded together on a hillside, water is fetched at a communal pump, and students walk 30-60 minutes each way in order to get to school.

I asked Moriko Hori, WFP International President who was accompanying us during our stay how does she manage the feeling of not being able to do enough. Her answer was--be the voice to share this with others, share the hope and vision that is changing lives. I ask you to consider supporting the fundraiser that my WFP N. California chapter is hosting this month. Our goal is \$5000 and the funds we raise will support New Hope Technical Institute in offering an expanded lunch program to ensure they are well-fed, healthier, and more motivated to excel in their studies and for hiring instructors with advanced expertise and experience to support the students after graduation.

I will be giving the sermon at my local church this Sunday, November 23, 10 am PT/1 pm ET. Please join to hear more:

us02web.zoom.us/join/US023eAs8Sc2cxysAgNI7IA#/registration

To support the fundraiser (through December 15): www.wfp.us/norcal-soa

See some clips from our visit to Rwanda: www.facebook.com/wfpusa

For more on the Schools of Africa project:

www.wfp.us/schools-of-africa

To learn about the Kigali Genocide Memorial that became the birthplace of peace education in Rwanda, kgm.rw/ For many Rwandans, visiting this place is where they can feel close to their family members that were lost during the genocide.





To purchase my book on

Amazon: www.amazon.com/gp/product/B09L7KS5VH

If you already purchased my book, I would love for you to leave a review.

www.amazon.com/review/create-review/?ie=UTF8&channel=glance-detail&asin=B09LGWWXVZ

If you would like to know more about what I offer as a coach, please visit my website: www.coachmyrna.org/

Find out more about creating better connections with Safe Conversations www.coachmyrna.org/create-connection.html





WFPW NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

“SWEET TREATS” &
MORE
BENEFIT FOR THE SCHOOLS OF AFRICA

WFPW Northern California is holding the annual Benefit for the Schools of Africa on Sunday, November 23, 2025. This year’s fundraiser, “Sweet Treats” & More, will help maintain 10 schools in 8 countries in Africa to provide educational opportunities and a promising future for thousands of people. Donate here to give urgent support to these schools.

We will offer holiday desserts, pies, cakes and boxes of homemade cookies in appreciation of those who make a donation of \$25 or more to the schools.

Desserts can be picked up from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Bay Area Family Church, 2305 Washington Avenue, San Leandro.

The last day to donate for the WFPW NorCal Annual Benefit is December 15, 2025

Learn more about the [Schools of Africa Project](#).

Choose Your Gift

Help Us Reach Our Goal!

\$331.75

achieved

\$5,000.00

goal

One Time

Ongoing

\$100

\$50

\$25

\$10

Other

Multiply your impact. Make it Monthly!

☒ Add a little extra to help with fees (\$3)

Give \$103

VISA

Powered by bloomerang



SCHOOLS OF AFRICA



SUPPORT EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AFRICA!



Yes! I'd like to give to Schools of Africa!

☒ Recurring

☐ One Time

Give Monthly ▾

\$100

\$200

\$500

\$50

\$25

Other

Greatest Impact

Thanks for giving Monthly! Your steady support helps us meet ongoing needs and plan for the future.

Your gift starts today. Cancel anytime.

[Customize Dates](#)

☒ Add a little extra to help with fees (\$3) ?

☒ Give \$103/month



Powered by **bloomerang**



SCHOOLS SERVED: 6 SCHOOLS IN 5 COUNTRIES

TOTAL RAISED: \$687,000+

DID YOU KNOW...UNESCO reports 59 million primary age children are out of school, with 54% in Africa.

Schools of Africa Project: In the early 90s, WFWP Japan launched international cooperation activities by Japanese overseas volunteers to serve all over the world. With willing hearts, these women went to nations with the greatest need and to neighborhoods in every corner of the world. They started schools, supported opportunities of education for those in need, and created opportunities for women and girls to build a promising future.

Inspired by their dedication, WFWP USA initiated the "Schools of Africa" project in 2001 to financially support 9 schools in 8 African countries founded by those faithful volunteers.

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Since 2001, WFWP USA has sent over \$687,000 to these schools, which have empowered 24,000+ African graduates through education since 1994, and continues to enroll nearly 2,000 per year thanks to your support!

"When we give and forget, true love flourishes." - Mother Moon, Founder of WFWP

2025 UPDATES

The schools continue with their missions to provide quality education to boys and girls, men and women, to empower their dreams and make a brighter future possible. Please click below for the most recent reports and updates from the schools, including what your donations have made possible in 2024 and current needs which will be funded this year.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT!

YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT!



STUDENT AT ONE HOPE LITERACY CLASS

"When I entered this school, I did not know anything. But since I started studying here in school I can write my name and I know numbers very well. It has made a big difference in my life."



PARENT AT HANDOW SECONDARY SCHOOL

"What I appreciate is the individual attention my child gets thanks to the commitment teachers are putting at our beloved school. My child is learning the love of learning."



GRADUATE OF SUN OF MOZAMBIQUE

"I came from a family where nobody had gone to University before but the story of my family changed when I started going to Sun of Mozambique Secondary School."



STUDENT AT PEACE HANA SCHOOL

"I love this school because the sport scholarship helps me to realize my football dream. I have played and won trophies for the school and I strongly believe that through this career I will take care of my family in the future."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



LIBERIA

Peace Hana School since 1998

Initially, Peace Hana was established to equip economically disadvantaged children from 3-6 years old with reading and writing skills and extracurricular courses. Later in 2002, the school was expanded to become an elementary school. There are currently 98 students enrolled. [FIND OUT MORE](#)



GUINEA BISSAU

Sunac Elementary School since 2003

Despite political and social instability in Guinea Bissau, Sunac offers classes regularly throughout the year, making the school zone a safe place for children to grow. Also, the school has a high female enrollment rate. Sunac has been able to reach 587 graduates since 2003. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

SECONDARY SCHOOLS



MOZAMBIQUE

Sun of Mozambique Secondary School since 1995

After a civil war in 1992, the country lacked resources and infrastructure for quality education. Sun of Mozambique offers quality education at a low fee. In addition to this, the school also provides scholarship programs to deserving students, and a library and computer lab facilities. The school has earned a worthy reputation, impacting the lives of 12,444 graduates, many of whom have gone to attend university. [FIND OUT MORE](#)



KENYA

Handow Secondary School since 1998

Handow is located in a poor neighborhood village far away from the capital with limited electricity and running water. Since its establishment, the school has successfully educated 2,130 graduates. With continuous support from WFP, the school became accredited as a public school and later implemented a tuition-free policy in 2008. Donations have been utilized in the construction of the school's infrastructure and providing school supplies to the students. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

ADULT EDUCATION



RWANDA

New Hope Technical Institute since 1998 and New Hope Professional Training Center since 2023

The institute was founded to help women and ex-soldiers after the Rwandan genocide become financially independent by equipping them with skills in culinary arts, dressmaking, and hairdressing. This has not only brought a sense of independence amongst the 2,501 graduates, but also a sense that they are loved and valued. In 2023, construction was completed on the New Hope Professional Training Center for graduates of the New Hope Technical Institute. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

[WFP Leader Resources](#)

[Become a WFP Member](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Search

