



News Highlights

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Meet Heritier, one of Impact Hope's shining stars.

"From Conflict to Confidence"

"I escaped alone to Rwanda, carrying nothing but the memory of home," says Heritier. Heritier was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he lived peacefully until war forced him to flee at just seven years old.

His early years as a refugee were difficult and uncertain. Over time he was moved from three different refugee camps in Rwanda.

One move was the result of a devastating landslide in the camp where he was living. Each move meant starting over. It was hard for him to stay in school and remain focused, but he refused to give up.

"I studied with everything I had," he says. "My lessons became my anchor in a world that felt unsteady."

Heritier's hard work paid off. During the national examinations, Heritier earned an outstanding score. And, at this critical moment, your support of Impact Hope opened a window of opportunity for him to continue in school.

Through Impact Hope, a sponsorship for Heritier provided school fees, books, and regular meals. He was placed at Gahogo Adventist Academy. This support lifted the burden of daily survival and allowed him to focus fully on learning.



"I was no longer a refugee student struggling alone..."

Heritier's Story Continued

Impact Hope also gave Heritier a sense of belonging. Through Impact Hope, he found mentors and peers who understood his journey.

"I was no longer a refugee student struggling alone," he shares. "I became part of a community that prayed together and also expected great things from me."

This encouragement helped Heritier see himself differently. He began to believe in a future beyond survival.

Today, he is preparing for his national university exams with a clear goal: to become a lawyer and defend the innocent. "My dream is no longer far away," Heritier says. "It is a real plan, supported by the stability and encouragement Impact Hope sponsors provide."

His story is a powerful reminder of what can happen when compassion meets determination and how the right support can help a young person reclaim their future.

Elephants of Rwanda

During dry seasons, elephants use their tusks and trunks to dig deep into dry riverbeds to find underground water. After they dig, other animals like zebras, antelope, and even birds, come to drink. They're sometimes called "ecosystem engineers" because they re-shape the land in ways that help others survive.



RWANDA MISSION TRIP

Join us on a mission trip from August 3-17, 2026 in Rwanda!

Support our Summer Training Program by teaching life skills and basic trades to refugee youth.

Email: info@impact-hope.org
Or visit ImpactHope.com

Finding My Identity

My name is Alice. My story did not begin in a refugee camp but in a lively neighborhood in Goma, North Kivu. Our house was painted a soft, fading yellow, and my mother grew bright orange flowers by the door. I was the top student in my class. My father was a teacher and he kept a special shelf just for my school certificates. I dreamed of becoming successful some day.

Each afternoon I walked home with my friends, our backpacks heavy with books as we laughed and talked. The air around us smelled of charcoal fires, ripe mangoes, and the rich earth near Lake Kivu. Life was not always easy, but it was full of color and energy. I felt rooted and secure, like the strong old trees in our schoolyard.

However, that world was slowly fell apart. First came strange sounds at night that we thought were only thunderstorms. Then came the quiet, worried conversations my parents had after we children had gone to bed. One afternoon, the sky turned gray with smoke as our local market burned. We all ran. We left behind the yellow house, the orange flowers, my certificates on the shelf, and my school uniform folded neatly on a chair. Eventually we crossed a border and arrived exhausted and empty-handed at a refugee camp in Rwanda.

I was now called a refugee. That word felt like it erased who I really was. But, in that difficult season, God made a special way forward for me. Impact Hope offered me a sponsorship to Gahogo Adventist Academy. Through the support of sponsors, I was given back my identity as a student. I worked hard and excelled in school, and I also joined Impact Hope's vocational training program, where I chose cosmetology.

As I learned the craft of makeup artistry I discovered a new kind of precision. It felt like



chemistry to me, mixing colors to match a person's personality, not just their skin tone. For the first time since everything had been taken away, I felt focused, capable, and hopeful.

After graduating, I moved to Musanze, Rwanda, and slowly began building a reputation for my work. Then one unexpected moment changed everything. At a wedding, the scheduled makeup artist never arrived, and I was asked to step in. I did! The bride's joy became my best advertisement.

Today, I work in a successful makeup studio in Musanze. I no longer live as a refugee, but have a steady income earning my own living. I praise God for that!

My story shows what can happen when potential meets opportunity. Impact Hope sponsors did not just help a refugee, they invested in the student, the artist, and the entrepreneur I was always meant to be. They helped me build a bridge between my past and my future, and they gave me the confidence to step fully into the life ahead.

Center for Hope: Permaculture Impact in the Community



The Center for Hope permaculture program is having a special impact on the local community. Through this program, families in the surrounding area receive seedlings of vegetables such as beets, cabbage, onions, and carrots. These “kitchen gardens” help improve nutrition by providing fresh and healthy foods for households at risk of malnutrition.

The Center for Hope has become learning hub for local farmers. Community members visit the Center to learn how to create kitchen gardens. They also learn how greenhouses can be used productively during the growing season. Local farmers apply these new skills in their own homes and fields.

Starting this year, Impact Hope vocational students at the Center for Hope now receive a full year of training. **Your support makes it possible to empower refugee students in several trades.** The local community also benefits as students share their skills through outreach programs like the kitchen gardens. Thank you for your investment in the Center for Hope and refugee youth participants with so much potential!

Ways **YOU** Can Make an Impact

SPONSOR A STUDENT

\$50 monthly provides a safe education at a Christian boarding school and all living essentials.

DONATE

Make a monthly or one-time donation of any amount that empowers refugee youth.

FOLLOW

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 Instagram: @ImpactHope



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