

# THE RWANDA SCHOOL PROJECT

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*Robin Strickler, Principal*  
*Libby Bullock, President*  
*Burl Waits, Vice President*  
*Jane Saari, Secretary*

*Karl Smith, Treasurer*  
*Robert Sheburne*  
*Joy Petty*

September 5, 2009

## *What is The Rwanda School Project?*

In 1994, Rwanda was engulfed in a genocide in which 800,000 people were killed in 90 days under a Nazi-like regime. The world stood by.

Today, Rwanda's government has expressed a need for secondary education, citing it as one of the top five priorities in the next ten years, but lacking the needed funds. There is a call for leadership by young people with strong critical thinking skills, sound academic and moral training, good science and math ability and a good understanding of teamwork and self-discipline.

The Lutheran Church of Rwanda is working with local congregations to rebuild communities. We are establishing a Junior-Senior High School opening in 2009 in Rwamagana (eastern Rwanda) for girls and boys, with classes in English. Total size will be small, with about 450 students.

The school will strive to maintain a diverse population of students and teachers who represent both Rwanda's population and the international community and both high and low income. Some students may continue to university but those who wish to finish their education with a high school diploma or trade school will also be encouraged.

## **Contact Information**

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The Rwanda School Project founder Robin Strickler and her husband, Rev. John Rutsindintwarane, a Lutheran pastor and General Secretary of the Lutheran Church in Rwanda. They live in Kibungo in eastern Rwanda. Robin has an M.A. in English and 20 years of teaching and administrative experience.

Visit us at:

[www.rwandaschoolproject.org](http://www.rwandaschoolproject.org)

*A decade ago it was dangerous just to exist. Now they have a chance to build a better future.*

## *The Rwanda School Project*

### *Based on Expeditionary Learning, some features include:*

1. small adult-student groups that build strong student-student and student-staff relationships
2. cross-disciplinary “expeditions” which require problem-solving, individual and group work, rigorous evaluation
3. emphasis on physical health habits as well as academic skills
4. appreciation of the natural world and experiences in nature
5. community service that is built into curriculum in expeditions
6. diversity (cultural, economic, religious) that helps students to appreciate a world with social differences
7. evaluation of social skills (teamwork, leadership, sense of fairness, kindness to others, perseverance, etc.)

See [www.elob.org](http://www.elob.org) for more details.

### *Environmental sustainability is part of being socially responsible.*

Because Southeastern Rwanda is not served with water or electricity infrastructure and because erosion and careful water use are significant concerns, it behooves us to develop independent and self-sustaining systems. Our building design includes water catchment systems, solar power, passive lighting, and permaculture gardens, which will serve both as food supplement and agricultural “lab”. This leads to our curriculum, which will focus heavily on concepts of sustainability and careers which relate to sustainable development. Graduates will be prepared to lead Rwandan communities in sustainable projects.

### *Quick Rwanda facts*

1. Population: about 9 million
2. Size: similar to Maryland
3. Borders: Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Congo
4. Capital: Kigali
5. Geography and Climate: mountainous (4000 to 8000 feet), mid-80’s in the daytime and mid-50’s at night
6. Official Languages: Kinyarwanda, French, English
7. Religions: Christian – 93%, Muslim – 5%, Other – 2%

## *The Rwamagana Lutheran School*

The Ministry of Education in Rwanda (MINEDUC) has expressed a need for secondary education, citing it as one of the top five priorities in the next ten years. There is a call for leadership by young people with strong critical thinking skills, sound academic and moral training, good science and math ability and a good understanding of teamwork and self-discipline.

The Lutheran Church of Rwanda and The Rwanda School Project will open a Secondary School in January of 2009 in Rwamagana for girls and boys, with classes in English.

The school will strive to maintain a diverse population of students and teachers who represent both Rwanda's population and the international community and both high and low income.

### *Rwamagana Lutheran School Governing Board*

Augustine Rutamu, President, Kigali  
Liberathe Irmbona, Kibungo  
Stephen Thambikeni, Kigali  
Francine Nyirandoreyaho, Rwamagana  
Peach Musoni, Kigali

### *School Staff*

Robin Strickler, Head of School; she is a missionary of the ELCA and her salary is paid by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Dr. Elaine Kasimatis, math professor at California State University, in Rwanda for a year volunteering to help in setting up the school. She is our Academic Coordinator.

Moses Mufua, Administrative Coordinator for the Rwamagana Lutheran School.

John Haliambutu, English teacher for the Rwamagana Lutheran School.

### *Contributions*

The Rwanda School Project has 501C3 status, so all contributions are tax deductible.

Contributions can be made by sending a check to:

The Rwanda School Project  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1300 St. Francis Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Credit card contributions can be made online at

[www.rwandaschoolproject.org](http://www.rwandaschoolproject.org)

At the left, click on the "You Can Help" link and then go to the secure link

**DONATE NOW**

In January of 2009, we will open with our first class of 60 seventh graders.