

## It is on the road where those who wish to travel meet

Centre César is in its 6th year of operations... When I decided to come to Rwanda to live with the widows and orphans survivors of the genocide, it was to be for 2 or 3 years. Today, I find it hard to believe I have been living in Kimironko for more than 6 years!

The community of widows in the village of Imena has become my second family in my second country. The courage and dynamism of these women and young people are a motor of energy for me. The challenges we met, the difficulties we shared, and the successes we celebrated, have given a most inspiring sense to my second life.



Little did I know, when I made that decision, of everything it implied but mostly, I was far from knowing about the impressive number of extraordinary people I would meet on my road. Men, women, and students who were looking to help and did it by giving their time and their love. In 6 years, we have had the help of more than 100 adult volunteers here in Kimironko, as well as over a hundred volunteer students. All these people that met on the Ubuntu (humanity) road have bonded with each other, with people and youth here. A good example is Rachel and Mayur, who organized the visit of students from Louis-Riel, Gabrielle-Roy and Réal-Bérard colleges from Manitoba. By building small wooden bridges in front of the widow's houses, they automatically built bridges between Rwanda and Canada. They have exchanged ideas with young people here on culture, life in general, and their respective vision of the future.

This road, we take it at different times of our lives, with our own personal baggage of life experiences. We are amazed at all the relationships that are being created among people of different ages. These bonds would not have occurred, if we had not taken this particular road. Myriam has spent 10 months here, set up the daycare and the learning program, and gave training to the care givers. Sheldon has helped youth by organizing sports, guiding discussion groups, and being of service for so many here.



There are also all the people who financially support us. It is because of them that we were able to go from a small rented house in 2005 to the purchase of a land and the building of a real training community Center in 2010. We do not forget the extraordinary people that never came to Rwanda, that do not know the country, its difficulties and challenges. Even without witnessing them, they believe in our cause and spend a lot of energy organising awareness and fundraising events.

We have not reached the end of the road to self sufficiency, but we travel it together in friendship, faith and determination.

*Maman Nicole*