

March 8th at Centre César – Unique and unforgettable evening

It is the celebration of International Women's Day in its most profound meaning, here at Centre César in Kimironko. We are five volunteers from Canada (five Bazungu) and five Rwandese mothers hosted by Maman Nicole, our light for all of us, in order to enjoy a dinner of sharing, loving, happiness, and gratefulness. So eleven women, three languages, two nationalities, but only one unity linked by unconditional love and God's grace. The testimonies given by these women of courage to their "angels from God" are very hard to describe in words. That said, I have to do my best at attempting to transmit their emotions and gratitude, in order to share the joy we had that evening with the ones we love, and at the same time grant a wish they expressed.

When Maman Nicole found these women over three years ago already, they were in great physical/material suffering; no food, no work, no money, illnesses... but most importantly in psychological suffering; immense sadness. Nicole listened to them and loved them without judging, and she took them under her wing in order to give them hope for a better future. Today, they are not all at the same level, but they are all 100% better since they are no



longer sad and miserable, they believe in their future as well as their kid's future. They have hope and happiness, even if they still have very little money. All this thanks to Maman Nicole, our light and anchor, who attracts loving and generous volunteers to the Centre in order to continuously progress towards self-sufficiency of the widows and Centre César.

These women of courage are thanking God and are asking him to not only bless us, but also bless all the ones we love and they wish that we continue sharing our love with other women/populations in need! Well, useless to say that we are all very emotionally touched, but the beauty of it is that we are receiving as much, if not more, than we are giving by supporting these mothers, just in a different way.

Thanks to women's strength and unity all around the world, and happy International Women's Day from Centre César.

Hélène Cyr
Volunteer at Centre César