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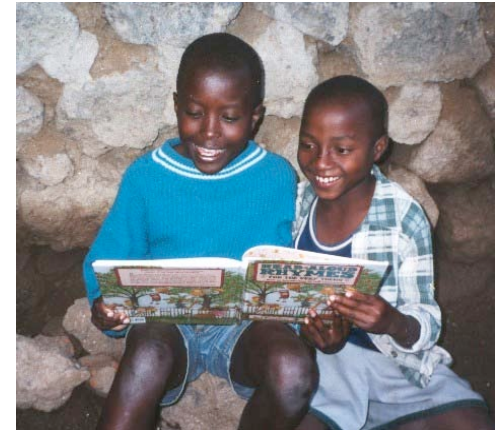
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American Friends of the Kigali Public Library
c/o Secretary Janet Labuda
337 South Pickett Street
Alexandria, VA 22304
United States
Tel: (703) 212-0912
E-mail: janetlabuda@hotmail.com

AFKPL Directors and Officers, and Staff:
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Help Build Rwanda's First Public Library



A Project of the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library

**Transforming
Tools of Destruction
into
Tools of Knowledge**

RWANDA'S FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1994, Rwanda experienced a genocide in which over 1 million Rwandans were killed. Through the establishment of this library—a sanctuary for knowledge and a forum for the free exchange of ideas—it is our hope that the tools Rwandans used to kill their neighbors will be replaced with the tools to help rebuild Rwandan society. Successful completion of this monumental effort will mark a watershed in Rwanda's history, finally providing unfettered access to a treasure trove of knowledge that has so far been unavailable to a population of over eight million people. The library will also be a monument to serve as a permanent reminder to all Rwandans and the rest of the world that the atrocities committed in 1994 will never be forgotten.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE KIGALI PUBLIC LIBRARY

The American Friends of the Kigali Public Library (AFKPL), in partnership with Marshall Scholars for the Kigali Public Library (MSKPL) and the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga, is dedicated to building Rwanda's first public library. The AFKPL is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in Washington, DC.

LIBRARY DESIGN AND LOCATION

The effort to build the Kigali Public Library has received strong support from both the Rwandan community—including Rwandan President Paul Kagame—and from the international community. The Government of Rwanda donated a wonderful plot of land within easy walking distance or a short taxi ride for the majority of the population of Kigali, Rwanda's capital. Five architectural firms participated in a competition to design the library building. The winning design is a modern structure reflecting the elegance of Rwandan art and culture and will be a landmark for years to come. The flexibility of the design will enable the library to expand as more funds become available. Rwandan Prime Minister Bernard Makuza placed the cornerstone of the library on May 11, 2001, and construction began

in October 2001. We plan to open Rwanda's first public library in 2008.

FUNDRAISING

The AFKPL is in the midst of a \$2.1 million fundraising campaign to build, equip and staff the Kigali Public Library. To date, the Kigali Public Library campaign has received pledges of over \$2 million. The library will open in the near future, but an additional \$500,000 will be necessary to ensure its long-term sustainability.



The Planned Library

The most popular fundraising efforts in Rwanda have been used book sales hosted by the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga. These have never been seen in Rwanda before. Selling donated books that are not suitable for the library's collection, these events have already raised over \$10,000. The Rwandan community is thrilled to be able to buy affordable books, and these sales help fill the book void as the library is completed.

MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Once construction is complete, and the library is staffed, stocked with books and fully equipped, the AFKPL, MSKPL, and the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga will hand the project over to a Library Management Board. Members of the Board will include the top eight Premier Donors to the library, members of the AFKPL, MSKPL, and the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga, and

representatives of the Kigali Mayor's office and the Government of Rwanda. The AFKPL, MSKPL, and Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga will provide the initial by-laws and governing structure of the library. The Board will determine the best means for raising funds to manage and sustain the library.

Because library membership will be free, the AFKPL will continue to raise funds to sustain the library and to fund additional projects such as branch and mobile libraries.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Tax deductible donations made out to: "The American Friends of the Kigali Public Library" can be mailed to:

Grace Nkubana, Treasurer
American Friends of the Kigali Public Library
10501 Smithy Court
North Potomac, Maryland 20878
United States

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library and the Kigali Public Library, please visit www.kigalilibrary.org. Please email any questions to AFKPL President Zachary Kaufman at zachary.kaufman@yale.edu.

**Help ensure lasting
peace for Rwanda's
children by building
a public library today!**