from our Executive Director

I was delighted to be appointed to this important role a few months ago. This is a time of exciting changes at Imbabazi as we make the transition from running an orphanage to managing diverse activities for the benefit of our children and the local community. It is already clear to me that there is so much potential at Imbabazi – the land and resources which we inherited from Roz, our loyal and hard-working staff, the links with our children as they grow into mature adults, and of course you, our donors, supporters and friends. On behalf of everyone at Imbabazi, I want to thank you all for continuing your much-appreciated support for our activities. I hope that you will continue to accompany us as we move ahead with some exciting new projects to help the children and community which meant so much to Roz.

Welcome Graeme!

A former British diplomat, Graeme has a long experience of Rwanda and other African countries and served as his country’s Ambassador in both Rwanda and Burundi for the period 1998-2001. Later he worked as a volunteer for the Anglican Church in Rwanda, based in Cyangugu. Graeme also knows Imbabazi well, having met Roz Carr on several occasions in the period 1998-2000 when both she and the Imbabazi Orphanage were based in Gisenyi. For the past few years Graeme has worked with various NGOs in Africa but is delighted now to be living and working again in the country which he regards as his second home, Rwanda.

continuing to succeed.

This past term, we were so happy to see two of our children graduate from secondary school! Faida Ingabire and Gatembu Bahati are currently awaiting their final exam results and next year will hopefully join the thirteen Imbabazi children who have gone to continue their education at University. Meanwhile, Imbabazi has been continuing to fund 29 of our children and offer family support as part of our reunification process—a recent Rwandan government policy which reunifies children into their extended families and communities.

Benjamin Mvunabandi, excelling in secondary school as well, was excited to start his internship at the local Pfunda Tea Company near Gisenyi. Since reunification started, our children have been doing exceptionally well in school and we’re always so proud to hear of their academic successes.
remembering Roz.

November is always a special time of year when we dedicate a day to the remarkable life of Rosamond Carr. This year’s Memorial Day, hosted by the children of Imbabazi, was a beautiful display of the significant impact one woman had on the community that loved her. Friends were greeted with hugs, and children reunited through smiles and tears.

The memorial started with a march from the former orphanage that included the children, members of the community, staff at Imbabazi, and many other visitors and friends whom Roz had touched. Everyone gathered around her grave for a special dedication and prayer. During the program, children stood and gave testimonies that talked about growing up with Roz; inspiring comments were made by our Executive Director and Director; even the current Head of Sector spoke eloquently about the significant role Roz played in the community and how he was inspired by her work here in Rwanda. We finished the day with Roz’s favorite traditional dancing performances that had the audience cheering in great memory. It was so evident on this Memorial Day that Roz’s impact is still touching people’s lives today.

a look ahead...

In addition to Graeme joining the team, we were also happy to welcome Kristi Jendry earlier this fall. Kristi, a long time friend of Imbabazi is continuing to work on the launch of the Museum, which will be a beautiful dedication to the life of Roz Carr. 2014 brings a year of excitement as not only will we open the museum, we also anticipate opening a new pre-school at Imbabazi, a local shop that will provide essential needs to the community for affordable prices, as well as many expansions to our existing agricultural production.

As always, follow us on facebook and twitter for all the latest happenings at Imbabazi!
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