imbabazi insider

Volume 4 : Issue 2 July – September 2013

a place where you will receive all the love & care a mother would give.

the insider gets a makeover.

With so many changes happening at Imbabazi, we thought...why not our newsletter too! With new sections highlighting our farm, tourism, visitors, and community, we're still sharing the same great content & same inside look into all the happenings on the farm and foundation. We're excited to launch the new look!

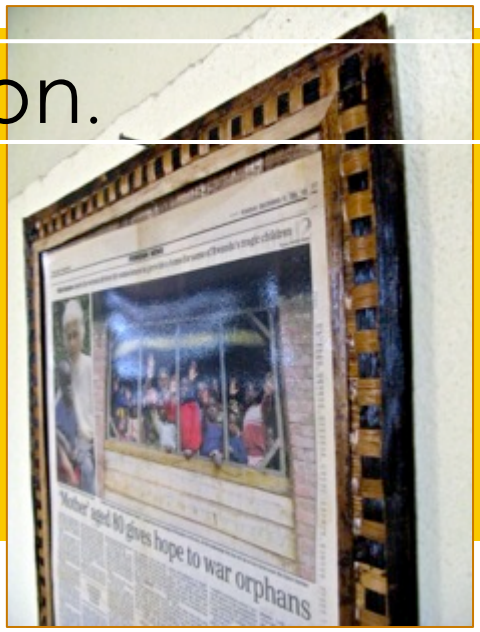
Inside this Issue:

- First Medical Clinic to visit Imbabazi
- Fresh mushrooms on their way
- Sneak Peak into the upcoming Roz Carr Cultural Center

feature story:

continuing the dedication.

As a way to honor her legacy and truly tell her story, Imbabazi is excited to announce some new additions to the Roz Carr Cultural Center! Our new museum, dedicated to the life of Roz and her friendship with Dian Fossey, is a great addition to Imbabazi and truly depicts a life full of culture and compassion that visitors can experience here!



story continued on page 4!

on the up and up.

Everyone at Imbabazi has been anxiously and excitedly awaiting the day we would finally be able to start planting our mushrooms again!

It has been a longtime goal of ours to harvest mushrooms and we were deeply disappointed when we had to temporarily cease production back in January. Thanks to the continued support and determination of our donors to make this industry sustainable and successful, we are finally in business again!

There is definitely a market for mushrooms here in Rwanda and we're excited to be a part of it! Over the past year, Imbabazi's agriculture production has grown rapidly and this is just one more way to keep the farm sustainable.

We learned that growing mushrooms elevated from the ground and in a specially designed 'house' has a better success rate than other methods. We hired local carpenters to build the house and elevated growing boxes, thereby providing income to the community as well.

Kigali Farms, our mushroom supplier, came this September to host an intensive training for our staff highlighting the benefits of growing and harvesting mushrooms. We continued the training during a session in the mushroom house where the entire staff learned how to properly plant, nurture and grow, and harvest the mushroom crop.

Thanks to the training, we saw just how important the mushroom business really is. We learned everything from pest prevention to the anti-aging and beauty secrets that mushrooms provide! Not only are they a healthy addition in our everyday diet, but they are also an readily available source of nutrition that the smallest of home harvesters can benefit from. Imbabazi hopes to convey this message to the local community and spread awareness of just how significant mushrooms can be in our lives!

mother nature's gift.

Water is one of the most precious resources in the world, but particularly in Africa where access to water can be a serious issue. In the past, we have always captured rainwater as a means of having a consistent supply of water; however, until now we have lacked the resources to efficiently distribute this water to facilities at Imbabazi, such as sinks, toilets and showers. Thanks to funding we recently received to address this issue, we have now installed a water pumping system that allows us to pump rainwater from five centrally located 25,000-liter cisterns throughout our entire compound. Not only will these mean functioning facilities for our new preschool, community center and for visitors, but it will also mean easier access to water for our livestock, flowers and agricultural activities. What a precious gift!

growing and growing.

This past July we harvested potatoes and are continuing to expand agricultural activities here at Imbabazi! Our potato harvests are exciting, not only because of the potatoes we can sell to different markets, but also because we are able to employ so many people from the local community during times of planting and harvest!

We've continued our floral production as normal, selling bouquets to different businesses and individuals throughout Kigali and Gisenyi, and we recently expanded the popular agapanthus fields to be able to harvest more of those beautiful blossoms!

continued from the front page...

Photos that highlight different points in Roz's life are featured throughout the entire museum with specific and unique descriptions detailing her time in Rwanda. It also showcases the many honors, awards, and achievements Roz received throughout her life, a walk through the original pyrethrum growing and harvesting process, even original pieces from Roz's own home at Imbabazi! A special room is dedicated to Dian Fossey's work in gorilla research, and we are honored to include some original and truly talented pieces of art from the students who participated in the Through the Eyes of Children (TTEC) program.

This past summer, the staff at Imbabazi has worked hard to get the museum ready for visitors, but the beauty of the Center would not have been possible without the generous donations and support from our dear friends.

Track lighting was installed and beautifully handcrafted frames were made to enhance the photos and biographical timeline featured throughout the building.

Madame Rosamond Carr has touched many lives throughout her life in Rwanda. For those who met her, and even those who didn't, it is obvious that her legacy continues to impact people all over the world. The Roz Carr Cultural Center hopes to showcase just how great an impact she has had. Thank you for enabling our efforts.

JOIN US! The Grand Opening of the Roz Carr Cultural Center will be during our Annual Roz Carr Memorial Day celebration in November. After that it will be open to all visitors and included with regular tour admission! Please contact us for more information.

seeing a need.

Imbabazi sits more than 7km from any main road, high in the hills of Mudende village. Special medical treatment is a vital need in our community, and yet, one of the hardest to come by. Visiting Orphans, long-time friends of Imbabazi, coordinated a team of doctors and dentists to visit in July. Traveling from California, 16 experienced medical professionals were setting up clinics throughout Rwanda and graciously offered to visit our nearby Health Center. They were welcomed by hundreds of people waiting in line needing treatment, and the team didn't hesitate for a second. They immediately went to work and were thankfully able to care for about 100 patients that day. "Many of the problems addressed involved issues with malnutrition and dehydration, unclean water, and past emotional and physical trauma," Doctor Jerry Limb said after seeing the need. "Our hearts were ready to serve this community."

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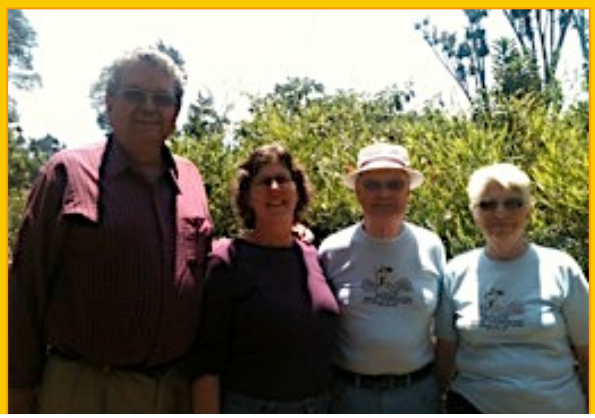
visitors

Along with the medical team, Visiting Orphans coordinated another team to visit this summer and enjoy a relaxing day in our garden! We love welcoming visitors from all over the world!

Even some friends of Roz who hadn't seen the farm in twenty years stopped in to say HI on Roz's birthday!



planting seeds.

This past September, Imbabazi was proud to help bring more awareness of the agricultural opportunities in Rwanda by hosting a field trip from a nearby secondary school. Local teachers brought about thirty students to learn all about the farm ~ everything from flowers to livestock. One boy in particular was especially interested and very willing to share his dreams about becoming a successful agronomist.

Since a boy, Eric dreamed of one day becoming an astronaut. He went to school. He studied hard. Everything was in order…until one day, his eyes were opened and his dreams rocked when, at 14 years old, he saw the impact of what a farm can do for people in Rwanda. The seed was planted and it's been growing ever since.

Eric's goal when he completes his studies is to own his own farm, raising pigs to produce fertilizer and to provide income. He's drawn to the land, but what was so interesting about Eric is that he sincerely knew, and deeply believes, that being a farmer has a legacy of its own. He wants to further his education so he can keep the agriculture industry thriving, using the land and crops to prevent pollution, but also to provide medicines that would help people survive.

This twenty-one year old student, rich in personality and character, has inspirations that derive from the photography of land, reading books, American music, and conversations with people. When asked about his favorite part about this industry, with a big grin, he jumped at the chance to say, "Manufacturing lotions that plants produce!! And beans. And potatoes, of course." Of course…

FOLLOW UP:

You read in the last issue of *the insider* about the reunification program Imbabazi has been a part of. We're happy to report our children are doing great and are continuing their education, thanks to continued support from our dear friends and donors. We'll be featuring special updates in the next issue, so stay tuned!

meet semahane.

One of our veteran gardeners at Imbabazi, Semahane has worked on the plantation since 1972 when Madame Roz gave him a job. What he calls "an opportunity." Because of her, he said, he was able to provide so much for his family and his love for flowers has only grown over the years.

At 62 years old, Semahane comes to work on the farm everyday because he's simply captivated by the flowers. Loyal to the agapanthus, he said that it's because they've been here for him since the beginning, that it's his responsibility to nurture them until he no longer can.

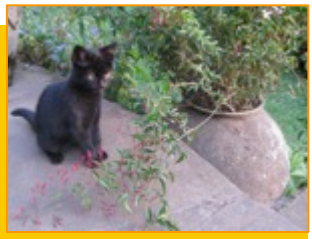
Semahane watched the students with a bright light in his eye during their field trip. It was at the same age that he developed his passion for flowers. And when asked what advice he could give the future agronomists, he said, "My life. It's like a flower. They've been with me since the beginning, loyal and true. And I don't want to see the flowers stop growing when I go, so it's important that someone continue the legacy…"

fresh faces.

Amanda joins our on-the-ground team from Nashville, Tennessee. Amanda's experience is in a variety of different non-profits and her passion lies in creatively working alongside the children of the community to carry out and continue Roz's legacy. Having visited Rwanda once before, she was excited to get back to stay and be a part of the new changes at Imbabazi!

and meet Sazi!

Our pets have always been a part of the Imbabazi Family and we are so excited to welcome Sazi, our new kitten, to the team! A spunky personality, full of life and curiosity, she's been a ball of fun to have around!



happiest of birthdays.

Not only were we able to honor Roz and her 101st birthday this year, our on-the-ground girls each celebrated their birthdays this past August, too! Happy Birthday Ashley & Amanda!

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

E: imbabazi@imbabazi.org * FB: facebook.com/imbabazirwanda * T: @the_imbabazi