

## César Professional Training Centre

After two and a half years of operation, the Centre César has successfully put in place work groups that generate income for the widows of the village of Kimoronko, we have managed to get sponsors for all elementary school and many high school students, as well as opening a daycare centre for the preschool aged children.

The time has now come to help the youth who have not had the opportunity to complete their education due to financial hardship. Given the high rate of unemployment in Rwanda, and the lack of practical skills for the young, they are left without employment and without hope for the future. We have therefore embarked on a project of professional training for them.

From a total population of 742 people in the village to which we provide assistance, we count more than 50 young women and men between the ages of 17 and 27. Each year, this number increases from those who complete their high school, and are not able to attend university due to a lack of financial means.

Courses on automobile mechanics constitute the first project. Already nine boys and one girl are in their first month of apprenticeship. Their teacher is a certified mechanic, and offers a course that is dynamic and practical. We purchased an old truck to use the motor as an important element in their learning.

Two young people have agreed to give a personal account:

**Sanakalisa Protégène**, 23 years old, completed his high school education in 2006. The only survivor, he lost his mother, his father, three brothers and two sisters. At the time the genocide started, he was on vacation at his uncle's home, and they were forced to take refuge in a Catholic church. Every two to three days, they took away some of the refugees and brought them to Gisenyi to be killed. One day, it was to be his turn, but by the grace of God, he fell from the truck. He hid in some bushes, and in the woods, and finally was taken by soldiers and placed in an orphanage. His cousin found him, and since then he has lived with her and her two children aged 17 and 11. She has a small job as a social worker. Without the means to go to university, he looked for work, without success. He wishes one day to build a small house on his father's land, to find a wife, and to have a life of his own and prove that there is a survivor living on this parcel of land. He dreamed of learning to drive and becoming a chauffeur, but he did not have the means to do that either. The mechanics course gives him an opportunity to one day realize his dream, and to put forth his best effort to achieve it.



**Misago Patrick**, 22 years old, finished high school in 2006. He lost his father, his mother, and his six brothers. He hid in the bushes and woods, changing location each day, eating vegetables that he could find in gardens at night: manioc, sweet potatoes, carrots, sugar cane... Later, he found his older sister, and after that, his younger sister. They lived together as a family of orphans. His older sister found small jobs from time to time as a housekeeper, and he received a few francs from friends once in a while. After his studies, he could not find work because he did not have money to notarize his school marks or to travel outside the village. The mechanics course is not easy, but because it opens up possibilities for his future, he does the best he can because he wants to be able to

contribute to the well being of his family members that remain, and give them a better life. For this, he works with all his heart.

We are happy to offer them this glimmer of hope, this training that will permit them to aspire to an eventual state of independence and assure them of a better future for themselves and for the children that they may eventually have.