

Finally, after more than 2 years, a medical clinic at the Centre César!

It has been since a couple of months following my arrival that I have been searching for a nurse. After having visited widows in their small homes, I realized to what point many were ill. Aids, malaria and tuberculosis are prevalent, but many also suffer from pain in their backs or legs due to beatings and poor treatment during the genocide. There are others with problems with their sight due to blows received to their backs, necks, or heads, damaging their optic nerves. The children suffer from malnutrition, parasites; many suffer from tinea, a contagious disease of the scalp. All that as well as the traumas that many suffer in silence, confined with their painful memories that they do not discuss for fear of not being able to forget.

A year ago, I found a generous nurse (I could not pay her), and I hired her, she herself was a survivor. Unfortunately, she moved away after only having done three appointments with the widows. So back to my original cause, I patiently continued my search telling myself that I would surely find another rare gem.

In addition, one day, almost two years ago, I met Pierre, a young blind man who had the chance to learn how to give therapeutic massages. I then used his services on a couple of occasions (at a ridiculously low price) for the most serious cases.

During this time, destiny was preparing a nice surprise for me. On my visit to Calgary last May, during the benefit dinner, I met Dr. Janet Reynolds. She generously gave me a suitcase full of non-prescription medication that I was able to bring back. Upon my return to Kimironko, I was able to remedy headaches, backaches and colds as well as deficiencies in vitamins and calcium among the widows as well as the children. What joy to finally feel a bit useful in face of the numerous health problems in the village.

Now, as of four weeks ago, my prayers have been answered, and I have been rewarded for my patience, because the universe has sent me a doctor!!! However, Dr. Daniel, a young father, is lacking in terms of equipment, as he uses the equipment from the hospital where he practices. A generous Canadian sponsor, Mr. Tom Yearwood, spent a couple of weeks in Kimironko, visited the Centre, and offered to pay the rent for three years. He also gave a gift of some medical equipment, and consented to providing me with a budget that will allow me to give a small pay to our doctor and to our massage therapist, who both really need it, as well as to purchase some prescription medicine.

Dr. Daniel is very happy to have at his disposal some medications, creams, syrups and vitamins. He has even offered to make house calls in the village much to the delight of the elderly mothers and the workers of our small daycare. We shaved the heads of all of the children in the daycare, and each day we apply an ointment that according to Dr. Daniel will put an end to the tinea problem in a couple of weeks.

Thanks to the generosity of Canadian donors, the widows and children now receive professional care and medication without having to worry about where to find money for such things. We have confidence in the universe and know that the rest will follow...

Nicole Uwubuntu