



JDC-IDP: ASYV Rwanda
Mailbox 530
132 East 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017

Anne Heyman
FOUNDER, ASYV
anne@agahozo-shalom.org

Sifa Nsengimana
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASYV
sifa@agahozo-shalom.org

William Recant Ph.D.
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT, JDC
william.recant@jdcny.org

www.agahozo-shalom.org

ASYV Progress Report: April 2008

Over the course of 2007, many milestones took place in the development of the ASYV project. These included the groundbreaking ceremony in August, the start of construction, and a meeting with President Kagame, where he confirmed that ASYV's mission was in line with the country's vision for lasting development. In addition, two key positions were filled by hiring the future heads of ASYV's Formal and Informal Educational sectors. Below is a synopsis of developments during the first quarter of 2008. For additional background information, as well as photographs and anecdotes, see the ASYV website www.agahozo-shalom.org or the JDC website www.jdc.org/nonsect_rwanda.html.

Major Accomplishments: January – April 2008

- **Visit to Israel by two ASYV Management Team members to finalize the adaptation of the Israeli model to Rwanda**
- **First draft of informal and formal curricula developed**
- **Job descriptions developed for teachers and staff at the Village**
- **Phase 1 of the building process solidified**
- **Hiring of Project Manager to oversee construction**
- **Study on alternative uses of energy commissioned**
- **Final contract signed between JDC and ICELP**
- **Interviews for -and hiring of- the two year Interim Village Director**
- **Furnishing/supplies needed for phase 1 compiled by Village Needs Committee**
- **Training in the U.S for Head of High School and Head of Informal Education**
- **Close to \$6 million raised; a further \$5.5 needed**
- **Event for first group of *bnei mitzvah* who donated their gifts to ASYV**
- **ASYV local office opened in Kigali, Rwanda**
- **JDC Board Members visit to Rwanda**

Project Implementation

ASYV staff based in Rwanda is now working out of an **office** which is well located in Kigali, with internet access to aid faster communication with New York and Israel. The office space was generously donated by a local businessperson, Eugene Nyagahene.

Budgets for the ASYV project have been fully developed along with projections up to the year 2012. Interviews are about to take place in Rwanda for the hiring of ASYV's **head of finance and human resources**.

The curriculum committee continues to work on the formation of a **rich and thorough curriculum** for the students in both formal and informal education. By the time this update goes out, we will have **developed the first draft** of both the formal and informal curricula.



JDC-IDP: ASYV Rwanda
Mailbox 530
132 East 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017

Anne Heyman
FOUNDER, ASYV
anne@agahozo-shalom.org

Sifa Nsengimana
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASYV
sifa@agahozo-shalom.org

William Recant Ph.D.
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT, JDC
william.recant@jdcny.org

As part of **finalizing the appropriate adaptation** of the Yemin Orde model to ASYV, the final employee flow chart showing all positions at the Village has been developed. In addition, **29 job descriptions** have been written for both teachers and staff at ASYV.

We have commissioned a study on **feasible energy alternatives** for ASYV. The project will examine the best methods for meeting the energy needs of ASYV in the most cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. It will also look at energy production as a possible source of sustainable income for ASYV.

Training and Expertise

ASYV is engaged in preliminary discussions with a number of institutions in Israel and the U.S who can contribute **expertise and technology** to help build the many programs we would like to develop and teach at the Village. It is anticipated that some of ASYV's educational staff will be in Israel in May, 2008 to begin training with both Yemin Orde and the Feuerstein Institute.

In February, the Head of High School and Head of Informal Education embarked on an extensive trip to the U.S as part of their training. In order to **learn from best practices and models**, they visited different models of schools and met with educational experts.

Advocacy and Promotion

While John Pierre Nkuranga, Head of Informal Education, was in the U.S, he had the opportunity to tell his **remarkable story** to a number of audiences including schools, staff at JDC and at Liquidnet, and donors to the project, thereby raising awareness of the situation in Rwanda and the project's potential.

The Rwandan government continues to acknowledge the importance of the ASYV project; while in Rwanda in early April, the 28 JDC mission delegates were guests at an exclusive function that was sponsored by a key ministry and attended by several high ranking officials, including three ministers and the governor of the national bank. JDC was thanked for its efforts in the creation of ASYV, and ASYV was **recognized as a key contributor to the development of the country**, helping Rwanda move forward on its path towards development and education.

Construction

Roads have been built and the basic foundations laid for the village. Given the high costs of building in Rwanda and the need to import the majority of the materials, construction of the Village is being carried out in phases. **The first phase**, which is currently being carried out, consists of the school, the dining hall, and 32 children's houses (see attached photos). One of these houses will serve as a temporary medical clinic. This phase is expected to be complete by December 2008, with 125 students and their caretakers taking up residence at that time.

The Rwandan government has generously donated **18,000 trees**, which will enhance the site of the Village. Discussions of a reforestation program in partnership with the Jewish



JDC-IDP: ASYV Rwanda
Mailbox 530
132 East 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017

Anne Heyman
FOUNDER, ASYV
anne@agahozo-shalom.org

Sifa Nsengimana
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASYV
sifa@agahozo-shalom.org

William Recant Ph.D.
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT, JDC
william.recant@jdcny.org

National Fund continue to move forward, with forestry experts expected to visit Rwanda in July, 2008. For further photos showing the progress of the site, see www.agahozo-shalom.org.

The delegates on the JDC mission, including JDC president Judge Ellen Heller and CEO Steve Schwager, visited the site of ASYV and were most **impressed by the pace and quality** of construction.

Fundraising

B'nei Mitzvah (12year old female and 13 year old male Jews who are expected to take on all the individual and communal rights and responsibilities set forth in the *torah*) are showing their support for ASYV and their belief in *tikkun olam* –helping others less fortunate than themselves, by pledging to donate the gifts raised from their *bar/bat mitzvah* to ASYV. The first group of these inspiring young philanthropists has donated a combined total of over \$180,000 to ASYV. They are also taking action by organizing projects in support of the Village that include: Collecting bottle caps and cans; screening the movie Hotel Rwanda and inviting friends and family to join in on a conversation afterward; speaking at a synagogue and a school, encouraging others to support the project too. These teens were honored at an event held at the home of Anne Heyman, ASYV founder, where she and ASYV's Executive Director, Sifa Nsengimana, gave an update on how these efforts have helped the village progress and become a reality. They were presented with framed certificates in recognition of their work on behalf of ASYV (see attached photo).

As of March 2008, ASYV had **raised \$ 6million in cash donations, with an additional \$400,000 in outstanding pledges**. Since the project's inception in September 2006, we have been blessed with the support of extraordinary individual, foundation and corporate partners, without whom the incredible strides we have made would not have been possible.

Looking Ahead

While the project is forging ahead due to the generosity of our supporters, a **further \$5.5 million is needed** in order to:

- Complete all essential **construction** for the village; 32 children's houses, a communal dining hall, and the school
- Hire and train all **teachers** and essential staff
- Cover all **operational** costs through our first year

ASYV plans to **open its doors** to its first residents in December of 2008. In preparation for this, the following will be undertaken:

- The Heads of Formal and Informal Education will travel to Israel in May for **training**, in order to gain a more intimate knowledge of the ICELP methods and the Yemin Orde model
- Trainers from ICELP will travel to Rwanda in July to **learn about the realities** of Rwanda so they can effectively train Rwandese staff of ASYV in Israel
- Jewish National Fund staff will travel from Israel to Rwanda in July to conduct research into the optimum **reforestation** methods to use at the Village

Restoring the Rhythm of Life



JDC-IDP: ASYV Rwanda
Mailbox 530
132 East 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017

Anne Heyman
FOUNDER, ASYV
anne@agahozo-shalom.org

Sifa Nsengimana
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASYV
sifa@agahozo-shalom.org

William Recant Ph.D.
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT, JDC
william.recant@jdcny.org

- The **first 125 orphans** to live and learn at ASYV will be identified by the end of the summer
- All teachers and staff at the Village will be **hired** by November
- Formal educators and the Principal will travel to Israel in November - December for **training** in the ICELP methodology
- The ASYV team will begin to assess different **agricultural and IT options** for the village.