



ANNUAL REPORT

MARTIAL ARTS FOR JUSTICE



We headed into 2019 with lots of enthusiasm because of the progress made in 2018. Last year we secured our charitable status and then late 2018 we did our first big training session with Avega, invited to teach ERT to their 35 therapists who are scattered across the country and care directly for all their member widows.

For the year 2019, we travelled to Rwanda 2x with the first time in March when i did a special training session as a pilot for Girl Guides Rwanda, they would make a good future partner. The second visit to Rwanda was in October 2019 as we did our first pilot in Rusizi district for 20 beneficiaries as well as training 30 total people over 2 weeks with a new organization called ARCT, in Kigali, who are a domestic counselling NGO, again another possible good future partner.



Our Achievements

Greetings justice champions and thank you for your support for the mission of Martial Arts for Justice. Each small step we take brings us closer to our goal of a world where violence and oppression are a rare thing that we can bring relief to.

I am pleased to share with you some key highlights of our work this past year.

in March of 2019 I headed to Rwanda with some plans but as I often do with some aspects of the trip unknown. This has been a common theme leaving the door open for God to surprise me with various connections and unexpected blessings. This time in March was spent meeting a lot with Avega discussing next steps, remember at this time we had only completed the therapist training a few months ago and had not done any widow group training yet. We were still very much in the get to know each other mode and building trust. These meetings did lead to our first MOU agreement with AVEGA. (see pic to the right with me and Kalisa - ex director of Avega Agahozo)

Our pilot training with Girl Guides Rwanda proved as effective as all previous trainings and they would make a good future partner to solve the country's gender violence crisis.



2019 was a break out year as we delivered training to 20 Girl Guides in March and then trained 50 new widows in October

IN October of 2019 we made our first trip to the town of Kemembe which is located right on the Congo border in south west Rwanda. Because of the way the genocide and fighting played out, many of the perpetrators fled through this area and therefore this was one region that the people suffered the most from the violence. This would be the first time for ERT to be delivered here and they had assembled 10 widows and 10 social workers for us. Keep in mind even the younger generation suffered their share from the genocide since it was just 26 years ago. The 1 week training was a huge success and we look forward to returning soon and hopefully ready for a larger project!



We thank you for your continued support.

Contact

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In late October we began a project with a new Rwandan NGO called ARCT. They are a group that supports and connects therapists and carries out trauma work in all kinds of sectors in the country. They are very professional and are an ideal partner for us. I designed this project to focus on training some experienced therapists the same time as beneficiaries. The plan was decided that we would take 10 therapists and have them train with us for 2 weeks, and same time we would change the beneficiaries at 10 each week. The first week our beneficiaries were teen mothers. Teen pregnancy in the country is almost epidemic due to gender violence especially with youth. These are generally sexual assaults and also you will find girls being severely vulnerable when they have been previously assaulted. Imagine a young girl being assaulted at say age 10, then never having the ability to heal that trauma, she would then continue to be victimized over and over again if healing doesn't happen. This week with the youth was a huge success. The 2nd week, we hosted 10 genocide widows with the same amazing results, it is so heartwarming to see the freedom and healing come across their face.



This photo to the left
Notice the
smile and
engagement
of the
woman
training with
Zura