

Welcome to the First edition of 2025!

Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters,

Happy New Year, we at Friends of Handicap in Rwanda (FHR) are excited to bring you our first newsletter of 2025. January marks not just the beginning of a new year but also a time to reflect on our achievements, challenges overcome, and the path ahead as we continue our mission of empowerment and support.



Our School Family is Growing!

After a short holiday break, our school is full of life again! Since January 2nd, 2025, students have been returning, excited to reconnect with friends, teachers, and their learning journey. Seeing their smiling faces and eagerness to learn reminds us why we do what we do!

We're incredibly grateful for how much our school has grown over the years, and it's all thanks to the love and support from people like you. As we start this new year, we're excited to share some updates:

This year, at Umutara Deaf School we have a total of 334 students across different levels:

- Nursery: 80 Students
- Primary: 99 Students
- Vocational Courses: 155 Students

Kayonza Deaf Blind Centre:

- Deaf Blind: 8 Students
- Deaf with low vision: 15 Students



A new year means new opportunities, and at Friends of Handicap in Rwanda (FHR), we have many exciting projects and programs ahead! We can't do this alone—we need your support to keep making a difference. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of so many last years, we were able to continue our work, and we invite you to stand with us again in 2025.



Our key programs remain at the heart of what we do: Child Education Sponsorship, Special Needs Education, Disability Awareness, Language & Communication Tools, Church Accessibility Program.



Click to watch the Together We Rise 2024 Video

One of our biggest focus areas this year is Kayonza Deafblind School. Educating children who are both deaf and blind requires specialized resources, training, and dedicated support. Unfortunately, Rwanda still lacks experts in this field, making it even more urgent to strengthen this program. If you or your organization can support in any way—whether through donations, expertise, or advocacy—your help will make a world of difference!

We love welcoming volunteers, whether in person here in Rwanda or remotely from anywhere in the world. If you're interested in getting involved, let's talk! Send us an email, and we'll be happy to discuss ways you can contribute.

As a small, Rwanda-based nonprofit, we don't have international offices or staff, which makes it challenging to reach more people. But YOU can help! A simple word about FHR—through conversations, letters, social media, or sharing our resources—can help spread awareness and bring more people into this movement. We have materials ready for you to use, so feel free to reach out!

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Ways you can get involved



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BUY A CLASS WHITE BOARD

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BECOME VOLUNTEER

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VISIT RWANDA

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HELP US BUILD OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

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Our Vision

Creating a community in which people with disabilities can grow their talents, share the love of God, and build a future full of opportunities.

Our Mission Statement

Empowering people with disabilities through educational programs, vocational training, and community outreach.

Our Values



We are
Christian



Humility



Diversity



Committed to
the Handicap



Integrity



Accountability

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