



Dear Stanwich School Community and Project Blessing Supporters,

On behalf of the Project Blessing Board of Directors and our friends and partners in Rwanda, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your commitment over the past ten years. Many people have asked about the status of the program. The project is alive and well, and as we prepare to take another sixteen students to Cyabatanzi in June, I cannot help but reflect on what has been a most astonishing journey.

With your initial support, we purchased land in the village of Cyabatanzi and installed a well pump so that children and families did not have to hike miles to retrieve fresh water. We completed the construction of three Kindergarten classrooms so that local children could, for the first time, attend school in their own community, without risking the dangers of long, often treacherous journeys to distant schools. We built a playground and bathrooms offering the gift of childhood and sanitation. The result of this first phase was a strengthening of the local community, with more and more families moving into the village.

In response to this growth, we worked with community leaders and added first, second and third grade classrooms and additional bathrooms. We surrounded what has been named “The Blessing School” with a protective wall and decorative gates. And with the recent addition of a soccer field and seating, we continue to see the community prosper in ways we could have only have dreamt of ten years ago!

It is not only the children and families in Rwanda that have blossomed. As important, I have witnessed our Stanwich students, year after year, make the journey and come away moved, changed and inspired. They have witnessed what the Stanwich Seven looks like when applied to a real world situation and it has prepared them to be better stewards of the world as they grow to adulthood.

As we approach our final academic year as The Stanwich School, Project Blessing has an important goal: to complete the construction through Grade Six of The Blessing School. With your help we can raise the \$35,000 (or \$25 per square foot) necessary to add fourth, fifth and sixth grade classrooms and thereby attain full primary school designation from the Ministry of Education.

We believe it will serve as a fitting bookend before transitioning the program to Greenwich Country Day School who, we are excited to announce, committed to supporting the program as part of the combination of the two schools.

Whether or not your child has traveled to Rwanda, through Fall Festivals, bake sales, bingo bashes, fashion shows and Hop-a-thons, **every Stanwich family** has contributed to the creation of The Blessing School. The Stanwich Heart will forever beat in us all and in the community surrounding a small school, in a tiny village in Rwanda. What a testament to the power of Stanwich values.

Visit our website www.projectblessing.org to donate, learn more or follow our trip.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Shaun Fletcher

Executive Director, Project Blessing