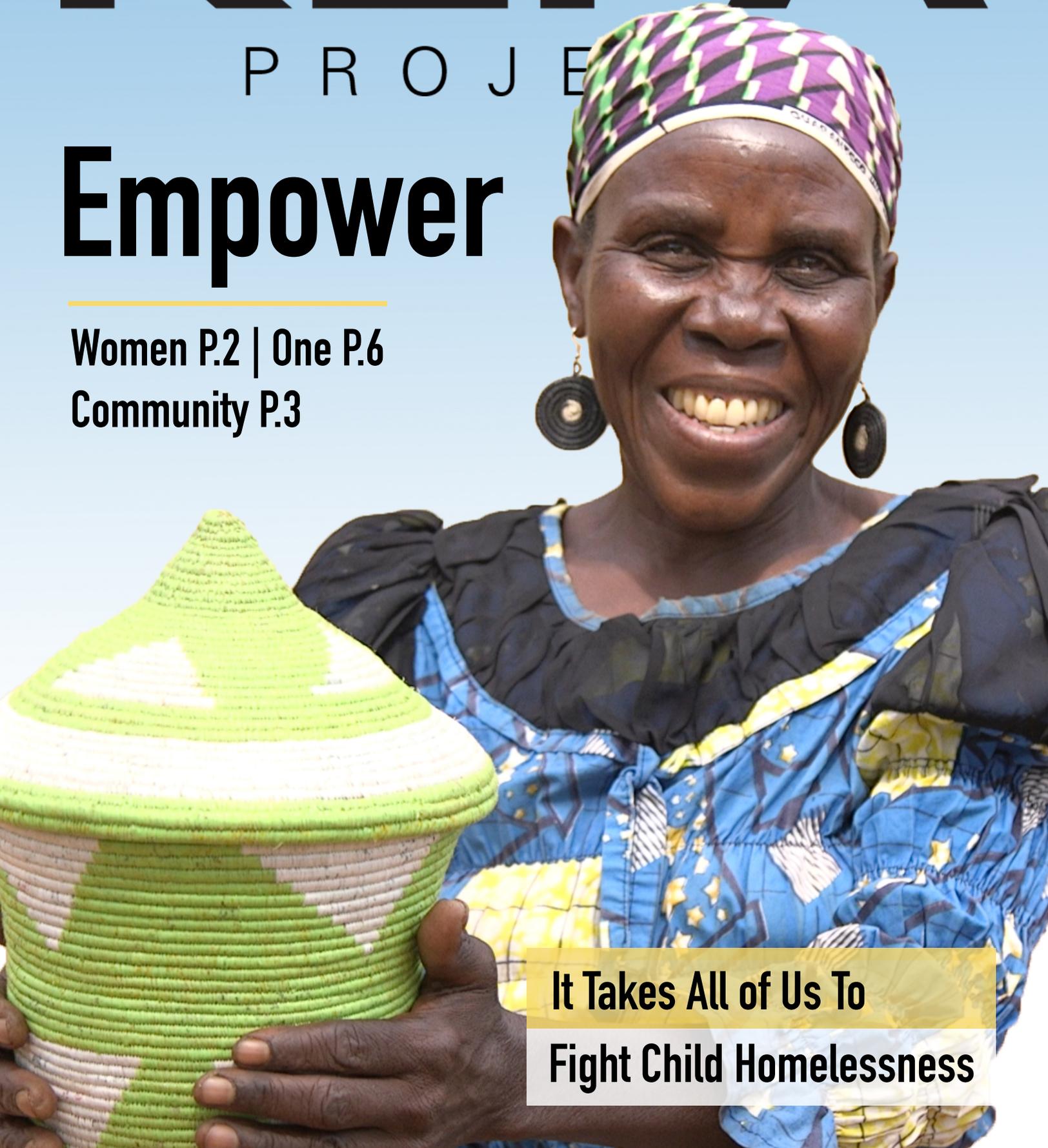


# KEEFA

P R O J E C T

## Empower

Women P.2 | One P.6  
Community P.3



**It Takes All of Us To  
Fight Child Homelessness**

# THE FOLLOW-THROUGH

Thanks to your generous support our mothers' co-op launched early this year. Check out what's being created:

## 1 Marketable Skills



The women in the co-op have learned how to weave tote bags out of repurposed plastic. They are also learning how to make strong traditional baskets out of grass and thread, as well as basic marketing and business skills.

## 2 Loving Community



Many of the women felt isolated before the co-op, but now have formed a community where each of them can feel valuable and welcome. With this trust, we can host trainings on tough topics like reproductive health.

## 3 Family Development



Our staff hosts weekly devotions that teach how much God loves the women and their children. From this foundation, parenting classes are held on topics such as safely disciplining children.

## What's next?

The mothers are finishing up two more months of training to hone their skills. They will then open three different shops in the three locations where they live. The shops will sell the women's products, as well as common household products to increase revenue streams.

We will continue meeting with the women to provide Bible studies, health trainings, business skills trainings, and parenting classes. We will also work to connect the mothers with local government officials and churches.



You can purchase products from the co-op at [www.love.org](http://www.love.org)

100% of your purchase is invested in the co-op. Allowing women to determine the future of their families.

# Being The Change

by Brian Beckman

It was a bright, sunny Saturday and the academy athletes had woken up early. Their teammates from the neighborhood were intermixed amongst them. Their laughter filled the otherwise still air.

In the middle of their circle lay shovels, hoes, and machetes. They picked them up and walked in a pack through the streets. In four hours, they would be told that they were a miracle.

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s leave poverty.



“What happened today was a miracle for me.”

In December of last year, our academy athletes went to a winter camp put on by a group of acrobats. The camp was near the place where many of our kids had once lived on the streets. The primary purpose of the camp was to keep kids who would otherwise be on the streets busy and away from drugs.

Our kids initially watched from the edges of the camp, unsure of being away from the bubble of the Kefa academy. But it wasn't long before the chants, dancing, and joy drew them in. Amidst the painting, tumbling, rollerblading, and soccer, our kids formed friendships with the other campers. Midway through the camp, our kids were invited to go to where some of the campers lived to drink porridge with them.

The house was small and could barely fit all of the kids who would otherwise have been sleeping on the streets. The furnishings were sparse. One of our

kids came to us afterwards and asked, “Have you seen their house?”

“Yes we have.”

“They don't have mattresses, but they are so happy,” he said. “You see me? I have nice clothes. The next time I get an allowance to buy clothes from Kefa, can I buy them a mattress instead of buying myself clothes?”

We agreed that that was a great idea, but maybe we should sit with them and discuss what their greatest needs were. Per his request, we agreed to not reveal what he had asked to anyone else.

It was a moment that brought tears to our eyes. A moment where a young man who was once told he was worthless, was given an opportunity, and decided to use it to help someone else.

But it also was a reminder of a refrain that we have

often heard from our kids and others in their communities: *If only I was rich, I could help others.*

Our goal is to teach our kids that no matter what you have or don't have, you can help someone else. So we sat down with our kids and posed a challenge to them: What can you do now to make someone else's life better?

Their first idea was to share food with others. A great idea, but again it required money. Finally, we settled on an idea together: We would ask the local government to suggest who in the community was struggling and might need projects done that they could not do by themselves.

So that's how we found ourselves with tools in hand on that early Sunday morning. The boys walked to the home of a single mother. They had big plans: Finish building a kitchen and clear out the overgrown yard.

Now let me tell you a little about building in Rwanda. Buildings are primarily made out of clay. To make the clay, first you have to till the hard ground with a hoe. You then lug fifty-pound jerry cans of water and pour them onto the broken clay. Then you stomp in the clay, mixing it together into a mud. You fill buckets with this mud and carry it to your building. Finally, you throw the clay onto the bricks (made in a similar process) and smooth it out. It is not easy work!

Our boys dove right in. Everyone took turns and did the job that fit their age. The older boys did the heavier lifting. Anytime the boys started to tire, someone would yell out, "Morale!" And the boys would begin to sing and dance as they

worked.

Within four hours, the boys had finished building the kitchen and cleaned the entire yard. They gathered together with the mother and prayed over her. They then gave her the opportunity to say something. She began to speak, but her voice broke. She openly wept.

Finally she said, "What happened today was a miracle for me. I could never have imagined this."

The next month, the boys were able to repair a rundown house and rebuild a kitchen for another single mother who has two adult sons with mental disabilities.

The woman fell to her knees and praised God. She had been praying for someone to help her for years.



From the very beginning, we have prayed that our kids would do greater things than us. If we want to see child homelessness end, it will take all of us building one another up and using all of our skills to help one another.

We see it when one of our graduates comes back to the academy to teach computer skills or when a graduate asks if he can teach the word of God to his younger brothers. We see it when kids, who were homeless only a year ago, rebuild houses in their community.

We all have something to offer.

Together we can be the change. ✈️

## New At The Academy



### Computer Classes

Academy graduate Billgates is teaching computer classes to our current academy kids. They are learning basic computer skills to prepare for learning to code in the future.



### Family Time

Our athletes are now grouped together in smaller 'family units.' Each family has a family head and the group works together to solve problems on their own while learning how to be leaders.



### HB3 Library

With the help of our friends at Beautiful Together, we have opened the Howell Brown III Library within our academy. The library was founded in honor of Howell Brown III, who lived in Durham, NC and loved our kids. He passed away from cancer last year at the age of 13. The library is open to kids in the surrounding community.



When The Kefa Project's team Together Force FC started, a boy from the team told Remy, "I have seen you playing with banana leaf soccer balls and you are really good." He invited Remy to join his team.

Remy was hesitant at first because he did not think a team would accept someone like him. But after some time, he decided to join.

The first training was tough. He was completely exhausted and decided to go home to rest. At home, he collapsed into a chair and immediately fell asleep. From that moment, he realized he couldn't go out on the streets, use drugs, and also have the energy to train. He never went back out onto the streets.

He soon found that the team was not just about soccer, but creating a loving

# In Living Water

When you ask him about his goats, his entire face lights up. "It delights me to take care of them. When the goats need something to eat, I feed them. To see them healthy makes me proud."

It wasn't always this way. A few years back Remy had fallen in with a rough crowd. He spent his time drinking, using drugs, and gambling in seedy pool halls. He left his mother's house and slept on the streets. He felt like someone who didn't have a personality, like he wasn't human. "I was ready to start physically hurting people," he says. "I had nothing."

## Remy's Story



Remy's teammates and coach created a community around Remy that helped him quit drugs and return to live at home.



To provide for himself, Remy forged for mushrooms that he sold at local markets.

community. A team that welcomed him. They prayed together. They visited each other outside of training.

“They would come and encourage me and tell me, ‘You are doing so well in life, keep it up.’ It made me feel strong.”

His coach, Eric, would talk Remy through difficult situations in his life. They would talk about Remy’s future and how he could make choices that would make his life better. Eric became Remy’s biggest advocate.

After joining the team, Remy came up with the idea of starting a small business so that he could provide for himself and stay busy outside of soccer. He started forging in the forest to find mushrooms to sell in local markets.

He started saving 500 FRW per week (\$0.58) from his sales. Eventually he used his savings to buy a baby chick. As he saved more, he bought more chicks, one by one, until he had close to twenty.

He then sold the chickens and to buy a bike, two goats, and to build a small house next to his mother’s house.

Every morning, Remy wakes up at one in the morning. He rides his bike

down the mountain that he lives on to a well where he collects water. If he wants to ride his bike back up the mountain, he fills eight jerry cans. If he wants to push his bike, he fills ten jerry cans. Each jerry can weighs approximately 50 pounds for a total of 400-500 pounds on his bike.

“It’s easy,” he says with a laugh. “Because now I have done it so many times.”

He sells the water to people in his neighborhood so that they can wash, cook, and have clean water to drink. He is able to meet all of his physical needs with the money he makes from the jerry can sales.

“When you are with a good group, you will change too.”

The most beloved thing he saved for was his goats. After selling his water, he returns home to care for his goats. Getting water is a job, but the goats remind him of how far he has come - that he can be responsible not only

for himself, but for the lives of others.

He has joined a group that meets to pray and share one another’s struggles. When one has financial issues, they all contribute to help each other.

He still has friends that are on the streets. He says they are becoming more and more evil. They are used as an example to everyone in the community as to what not to become.

“If I could give advice to my friends still on the streets, I would tell them to leave their bad habits behind and join my football team. When you are with a good group, you will change too.”

His neighbors talk in disbelief about how much he has changed, but Remy doesn’t think much about what his life would have been like if he had stayed on the streets. He is too busy with his water business, his goats, and training with his team.

He is focused on his future. He summarizes what all of this has meant:

“Now I am able to contribute to the well being of others.”

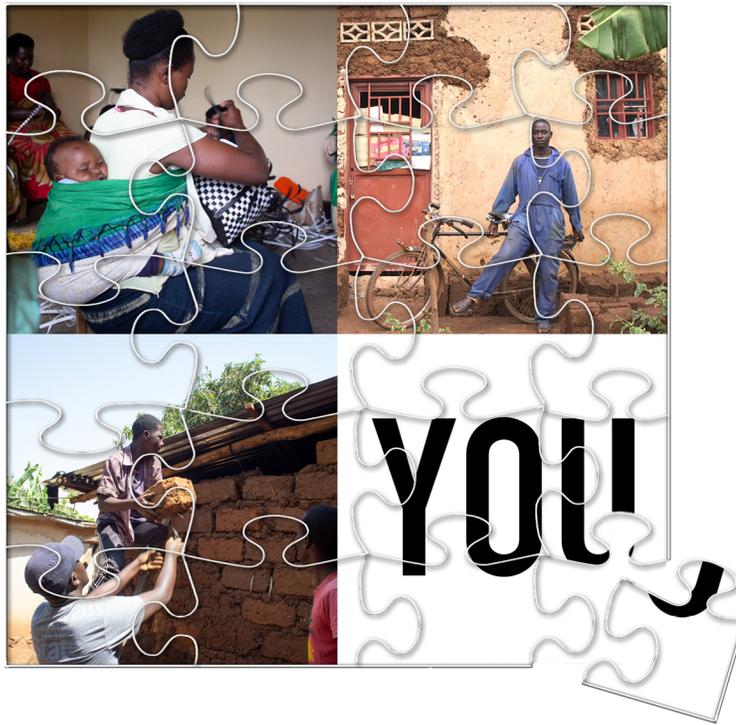


Remy invested his money from selling mushrooms to purchase chickens that he could raise and sell.



Remy invested his money from selling chickens to purchase goats and a bicycle to transport water.

**Get  
Involved**



**This has been a year of incredible expansion in programs offered to fight child homelessness and build community.**

**But we need your help. We are currently projecting to be \$50,000 short of our annual budget. It is our most ambitious goal yet, but one that allows us to have a lasting impact.**

**\$200,000/\$250,000**

Projected Revenue / Projected Budget

**Would you consider making a special donation at [www.kefaproject.org](http://www.kefaproject.org) or by sending in the enclosed response card?**

**Your donation will allow us to keep our programs running for our academy athletes, parents, and communities without interruption.**