

Sowing Hope at a glance

Our Mission:

Sharing God's Love and Giving Hope by Enhancing Well-being and Enabling Self-sufficiency.



sowing-hope.org

- Started in 2018 after Leslie Boettcher visited Burundi, Africa.



Leslie in Burundi

- The UN has classed Burundi as the 4th poorest country in the world. (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/hdi-by-country>)
- Struck by the physical and spiritual needs, Leslie began to find funding for projects to alleviate poverty in Burundi.
- All work in Burundi is done under the leadership of Pastor Boniface.
- In 2019, in concert with Pastor Boniface, a sewing school was launched.
- Students do a basic course for 3 months followed by an advanced course for 3 more.
- To date over 400 people have graduated from the school.
- The primary goal is to train women, but men are also admitted.
- Students pay a small sum to attend the school, but most of the funding comes from Sowing Hope here in America.
- All sessions include a devotional from the Bible.

Why a sewing school?

- Readymade clothes are rather rare.
- Demand for tailored clothing is high.
- Burundians typically have their clothing made by a seamstress or tailor.
- Starting a sewing business provides an income stream for families.
- A home business allows parents to be available to their children while working.



Sewing School

Results

- This has impacted the lives of over 400 graduates.
- Many have started home businesses with machines that require no electricity.
- Women are saying that this has been a life changing opportunity.
- Families have moved from desperate poverty to financial stability.

Finances

- Our monthly budget = \$1,400 per month.
- Monthly expenses run ~ \$400 per month for US expenses and those in Burundi.
- The largest expense is for the purchase of sowing machines upon graduation.
 - We provide funding for 2/3 of the cost
 - Graduates come up with the remaining 1/3
- Costs will vary considerably depending on the exchange rate and inflation.
- Support comes from individual donors and two churches.
- For financial support:
 - Checks to Sowing Hope, 5304 SW Erickson Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon 97005
 - By card through our website: <https://sowing-hope.org/donations/>

Future Plans

- Women who feel they lack the skills to sew would like to start a rice farming project near Bujumbura. Estimated startup cost = ~\$2,400
- Pastor Boniface says that he has received requests to start another school in a nearby village. We don't have startup costs currently.
- We have the possibility of connecting with another circle of churches in Burundi which has expressed interest in another sowing school. This is something we wish to explore.
- Leslie and Tim hope to travel to Burundi in August to explore the new opportunities and consult with Pastor Boniface. Cost = Uncertain.



Pastor Boniface at Graduation



Graduate at work from home