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RUSHAGA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Will You Help Us Rebuild the Rushaga Community School?



Presented by
Mi Bella Mondo
In Partnership With
Global Peace Media

Mi BELLA M  **ONDO**
MY BEAUTIFUL WORLD

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Executive Summary

Mi Bella Mondo, in partnership with Global Peace Media as our fiscal sponsor, is raising \$50,000 to rebuild Rushaga Community School in Uganda. Global Peace Media, established in 1993, has decades of experience supporting education projects globally and provides fiscal oversight for this initiative.

Rushaga Community School educates over 250 students aged 4 to 17, including 80 Batwa children, orphans, and children from nearby villages who would otherwise lack access to education. The school's deteriorating infrastructure, dirt floors infested with parasites, crumbling walls, leaking roofs, and broken doors and windows threaten children's health and safety every day.

This initiative combines infrastructure rehabilitation with human capital development, creating long-lasting impact through physical upgrades and skills transfer to the local community. We will provide safe classrooms, durable tile floors, secure doors and windows, proper furniture, and improved sanitation facilities. We will also employ approximately 20-30 local workers during construction, introduce sustainable sports and education programs, and educate locals in income-generating skills.

This project directly benefits the Rushaga Community School and more than 250 students. Mi Bella Mondo works with the school's director and committee to ensure local ownership, sustainable impact, and lasting change for the children of Rushaga.



Background & Context

About Rushaga Community School

Local families started the Rushaga Community School because government schools were far away, especially during rainstorms, when roads become impassable. The school was founded by Twessime Silver, who owns Nshongi Camp and Lodge and co-founded the Bwindi Conservation for Generations Foundation. Silver wanted to ensure children from farming families and underserved communities had a place to learn close to home.

Today, the school serves:

- Over 250 total students (ages 4-17)
- 80 Batwa children, many from families displaced when Bwindi Impenetrable Forest was designated a protected park
- Orphaned and vulnerable children who reside in the school's dormitories
- Children from nearby villages who would otherwise have no access to education

Without this school, many of these children would not have access to education at all.

The Challenge

The school buildings are deteriorating, and it is putting kids at risk:

- Dirt floors with broken cement attract parasites that infect children through their bare feet. Broken glass and sharp debris cause injuries and infections.
- Cracked walls and leaking roofs expose students to rain and falling debris.
- Broken doors and windows can't protect kids, teachers, or supplies from weather, theft, or wildlife.
- Many students share broken desks or sit on the unsafe floor.
- Poor hand-washing facilities and limited access to water lead to preventable illness.

These conditions threaten children's health and safety every day. Kids can't learn when they're worried about getting hurt or sick. Attendance drops during the rainy season when the buildings are at their worst.

Who is Leading This?

The school is run by the Director and the School Committee, made up of parents, teachers, and community leaders. They guide day-to-day operations, look after student welfare, and plan for the future. They are deeply involved in this rebuild project, providing local oversight, connecting with families, and ensuring the new facilities are well cared for long after construction is complete.

What We Are Doing

We're rebuilding the Rushaga Community School to create safe, healthy learning spaces for 250 children.

Here's what that means:

- Get rid of broken glass and parasite-infected floors, and rebuild crumbling walls and leaking roofs.
- Install durable tile floors, repair doors and windows, and provide kids with proper desks.
- Build classrooms that keep kids safe from rain, debris, and injury.
- Make sure the buildings support year-round education.

Beyond the Buildings

While the school rebuild is our primary focus, this project also supports efforts to boost community impact.

- Sports and recreation programs aimed at improving students' physical health and teamwork.
- Develop women's skills in crafts, financial literacy, and health education, which aims to enhance household economic stability.
- Community education initiatives to promote wider learning and growth.
- The local workforce will provide jobs and skills training to about 20 to 30 community members during construction.

These additional programs use the volunteer team and project schedule to boost positive impact. However, the main goal remains the same: providing children with a safe school building where they can learn and grow.

Looking Ahead

We want to build something that lasts, a school where children can learn without fear, teachers can teach effectively, and families can trust their kids are safe. Beyond just fixing buildings, we're creating a community hub where local ownership ensures the school is maintained and cared for by future generations.

Project Scope & Budget

Project Scope	Budget
Classroom Structural Repair and Rebuild <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace crumbling walls in 11 classrooms • Repair and rebuild leaking and unstable roofs • Ensure structural integrity and weatherproofing • Materials: locally-sourced timber, iron sheets, cement, etc. • Local workforce: 8-10 community members employed for 8-10 weeks 	\$22,500
Tile Floor Installation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install durable tile flooring in all classrooms • Eliminate dirt floors, mud accumulation, entry points for parasites, and sharp debris hazards. • Create clean, stable, hygienic surfaces • Local workforce: 4-6 skilled masons plus 6-8 laborers for 6 weeks 	\$9,000
Doors, Windows & Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install secure doors and weather-resistant windows • Improve indoor climate control and material security • Local workforce: 2 carpenters for 3-4 weeks 	\$2,500
Student & Teacher Furniture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacture 130 student desks and benches (seating 160 students) • Provide 12 teacher desks and chairs • Local workforce: 3-4 woodworkers for 5-6 weeks 	\$3,500
Interior Finishing & Painting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint all classroom interiors with mold-resistant paint • Install new blackboards/whiteboards • Apply waterproofing treatments • Local workforce: 4-5 painters for 2-3 weeks 	\$1,500
Sanitation & Hygiene Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and upgrade hand-washing stations • Install additional water access points • Local workforce: 2-3 community members for facility installation 	\$1,000

Project Scope & Budget (Cont.)

Project Scope	Budget
<p>Community Programs & Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball and sports programs for students (equipment, coaching materials) • Women’s skills training (financial literacy, income-generating crafts, health education) • Community education programs and materials, books, notebooks, writing supplies, and teaching aids • Materials transport from Kisoro to Rushaga • Local coordination and logistics 	\$2,400
<p>Volunteer Coordination & In-Country Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-country transportation for the US-based volunteer team • Volunteer accommodation and meals during project duration • Translation and coordination support • Safety and logistics for volunteer activities • Local volunteer management and scheduling 	\$4,000
<p>Local Project Management Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire and train two young Ugandan women as Assistant Project Manager and project coordinator. • Hands-on training in project management, budgeting, reporting, and community coordination • Build local capacity under the project manager’s supervision for project continuity • Monthly stipends for a 4-month duration • Local workforce: 2 community members 	\$1,100
<p>Fiscal Sponsorship & Administrative Oversight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes 501(c)(3) tax-deductible processing, financial oversight, and international grant management provided by Global Peace Media. 	\$2,500
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$50,000

Donor Recognition

We are deeply grateful to every supporter who joins us in rebuilding the Rushaga Community School. To recognize this generosity, we have created meaningful ways to honor our donors' dedication to education and community growth.

All donors (any amount): Each donor's name will be listed on the school's donor recognition plaque.

\$250 - Desk Sponsor: Donors at this level sponsor a desk for one child. A small plaque on the desk will display your name, and you will receive a thank-you letter or drawing from the child.

\$1,000 - Major Donor: Sponsors five desks for five children and receives an individual recognition plaque at the school entrance, a thank-you video from students, and recognition on the Mi Bella Mondo website.

\$5,000 - Adopt-A-Classroom Sponsor: Classroom sponsors have the special opportunity to name one of the 11 classrooms (for example, "The Martinez Family Classroom"). You will receive a dedicated plaque with the sponsor's name on the classroom wall, before-and-after photos of your classroom, a thank-you video from students, annual updates from your classroom, and recognition on the Mi Bella Mondo website. Only 11 classroom sponsorships are available.

\$10,000 - Founding Benefactor: Our Founding Benefactors have the privilege of naming a major space: the Library, Computer Lab, Dining Hall, Dormitory, or Administration Building. With only 5 naming opportunities available, these visionary supporters receive a large commemorative plaque at the space entrance, all benefits from the \$5,000 tier, an invitation to the school opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony, quarterly impact updates with photos and stories, a personal photo album documenting the rebuild, and a featured story and recognition on Mi Bella Mondo for your impact.

All donations can be made in honor or memory of a loved one, and donors may choose to be recognized by name or stay anonymous.

These recognition opportunities are more than just tokens of appreciation; they foster meaningful connections between our donors and the children and community they help transform. Through plaques, updates, and ongoing communication, donors become enduring partners in shaping the future of education at Rushaga Community School.

Implementation Strategy

PHASE 1

Planning &
Mobilization

PHASE 2

Structural
Repairs &
Reconstruction

PHASE 3

Finishing &
Furnishing

PHASE 4

Program
Launch &
Volunteer
Activities

PHASE 5

Documentation
& Handover

Phase 1: Planning & Mobilization (Weeks 1-2)

- Finalize detailed work plans with BCGF and local builders
- Procure materials and establish secure storage
- Recruit and orient the local workforce (an estimated 20-30 community members employed throughout the project).
- Recruit and screen the volunteer team
- Establish financial tracking and reporting systems

Phase 2: Structural Repairs & Reconstruction (Weeks 3-10)

- Roof repairs and wall reconstruction
- Floor installation with proper drainage
- Door and window installation
- Ongoing documentation and progress reporting

Phase 3: Finishing & Furnishing (Weeks 11-14)

- Interior painting and finishing work
- Furniture installation
- Sanitation facility upgrades
- Educational materials distribution

Phase 4: Program Launch & Volunteer Activities (Weeks 12-18)

- Sports program initiation
- Women's empowerment training begins
- Community education sessions
- Skills transfer to local teachers and community leaders

Phase 5: Documentation & Handover (Weeks 18-20)

- Final inspections and quality checks
- Comprehensive photo and video documentation
- Financial reconciliation and final reporting
- Community celebration and official handover
- Sustainability planning with school leadership

Project Management, Administration & Contingency

Project Management: Overall project coordination, budget management, donor communication, partnership coordination, and quality control with complete financial transparency.

Local Capacity Building: Hire and train two young Ugandan women as Assistant Project Manager and Project Coordinator, building local capacity for sustainable oversight and creating professional development opportunities.

Logistics & Contingency: Materials transport from Kisoro to Rushaga, local coordination, storage security, and contingency funds for unexpected costs, emergency repairs, or weather delays.

Project Management & Accountability

Who's managing this?

Cristy Sharma will manage this project, overseeing everything from budgets and quality checks to donor communications. Cristy's responsibilities include:

Financial Management: Oversee all project funds with full transparency, maintain detailed expense records with receipts, monitor spending in real time, handle payments to local contractors and workers, deliver regular financial reports to GPM and donors, and submit a final comprehensive financial report.

Project Oversight: Coordinate with the Rushaga Community School director, the committee, and local community leaders; supervise construction quality and timelines; manage volunteer recruitment and activities; ensure safety protocols are followed; and address challenges as they arise.

Communications & Reporting: Provide progress reports and updates with photos, student and teacher stories, and written reports throughout the project, and a final impact report with detailed documentation.

Partnership Coordination: Mi Bella Mondo leads the project implementation, and Global Peace Media provides financial oversight. The Rushaga Community School Director and Committee work closely together throughout for community coordination and engagement. Once construction is complete, the school leadership and community take over full responsibility for the facilities' operation and maintenance, with support for building sustainable long-term relationships.

Volunteer Management

Mi Bella Mondo will bring experienced volunteers from the U.S. to work alongside community members, promoting skills transfer, cultural exchange, and local capacity-building while maintaining community leadership and ownership.

Construction & Documentation Team (1-2 volunteers, 3-4 weeks): Support with painting and finishing touches, assist with furniture assembly, record construction progress through photos and videos, gather stories from students and teachers, and prepare donor reports and the final project video.

Sports Coach (1 volunteer, 3-4 weeks): Teach baseball and soccer fundamentals, train local teachers to sustain programs after departure, and organize youth sports tournaments that promote teamwork and healthy competition.

Women's Empowerment Instructor (1 volunteer, 3-4 weeks): Teach income-generating crafts such as sewing and basket weaving, provide financial literacy lessons on budgeting and microenterprise concepts, and facilitate health education on women's health, hygiene, nutrition, and gender equality.

All volunteers get pre-departure orientation, safety protocols, clear role descriptions, local support, and housing during placement.

Local Workforce & Community Participation

Creating Local Jobs: This project prioritizes local employment by hiring 20-30 community members at various stages, including construction workers, skilled masons, carpenters, woodworkers, painters, sanitation installers, and project management support.

Local Procurement: All materials are sourced from Kisoro and regional suppliers whenever possible; furniture is crafted by local woodworkers; and building materials come from Ugandan suppliers, supporting local businesses and artisans throughout.

Skills Transfer: Local workers acquire skills in construction techniques, quality standards, sustainable maintenance practices, program management, sports coaching, youth development, and facilitation of women's empowerment.

Community Engagement: The project maintains strong community involvement through regular meetings with school administration, parents, and community leaders; transparent progress updates and feedback sessions; parent volunteer opportunities for non-technical tasks; and student participation in suitable activities such as painting, planting, and celebrations.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

Tracking Progress: We will document construction with photos at each phase, conduct quality inspections at key milestones, and hold community feedback sessions throughout the project.

Financial Accountability: All receipts and invoices will be scanned and stored, bank statements will be maintained, and regular financial summaries will be provided to GPM and donors.

What You'll See: You will receive written progress reports with photos, video updates at key milestones, and a final comprehensive report that includes complete financial accounting, before-and-after photos, student and teacher stories, community impact assessment, sustainability plan, and lessons learned.

Measuring Success: We will monitor classrooms reconstructed, students with appropriate desks, local workers hired, women completing training, children participating in sports programs, community satisfaction ratings, and improvements in student attendance.

Sustainability & Long-Term Impact

Immediate (Year 1): 250 students learn in safe, dignified classrooms free from parasite infections caused by dirt floors or injuries from broken glass. Attendance increases during the rainy season, and teachers can effectively instruct in a stable environment.

Medium-Term (Years 2-3): Sports programs continue with trained local teachers. Women earn income from newly learned crafts. Community health improves through hygiene education. Fewer children drop out, and academic performance improves.

Long-Term (Years 4+): Build stronger community resilience through education. Create better economic opportunities for educated youth. Empower women to contribute to household income. Serve as a model for community-led school development with sustainable maintenance practices that keep facilities in good condition.

Making It Last

Finances: We will train school leadership in fundamental financial management, explore income-generating activities such as a school garden or a small shop, build relationships with additional donors for ongoing support, and document best practices for future funding proposals.

Programs: Local teachers will be trained to continue sports programs. We will establish a women's cooperative for ongoing crafts and income generation, create parent committees for school maintenance, and foster strong community ownership of the facilities.

Upkeep: School staff will receive basic maintenance training. A maintenance fund will be created from small community contributions. We will set up an annual facility assessment and minor repair schedule and maintain relationships with local builders for future needs.

Why This Partnership Works

Mi Bella Mondo (MBM): Mi Bella Mondo connects people with our beautiful world and empowers the communities that protect it. This is a direct community support initiative that aligns with MBM's core belief: we believe conservation flourishes when people thrive. Supporting youth, women, and communities through education, cultural heritage preservation, and sustainable development. Education is fundamental to that belief. MBM is committed to transparency, accountability, and community-led solutions.

Global Peace Media (GPM): GPM, our partner serving as a fiscal sponsor with extensive experience supporting education initiatives globally, offers a reputable platform for donor engagement while aligning with the values of peace, education, and human dignity.

Bwindi Conservation for Generations Foundation (BCGF): BCGF fosters strong community relationships and maintains a long-term presence that encourages sustainability.

Rushaga Community School Leadership: Local ownership by the School Director and School Committee ensures that the rebuilt facilities are well cared for, maintained, and aligned with the community's long-term educational goals. This approach guarantees cultural relevance, accountability to families, and sustainability beyond the project's completion.

This partnership combines international support, local leadership, volunteer involvement, and financial responsibility to foster meaningful, lasting change.

Contact Information

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