



School & Project News

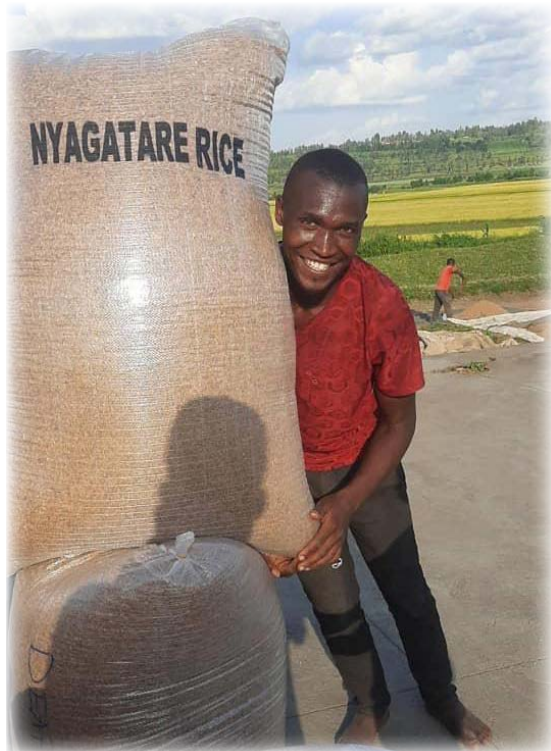


USA EDITION
September 2025

RWANDA

Bountiful harvest!

Deaf Action Ministries Rwanda's (DAMR) new self-sustainability project is proving to be very fruitful. In June, the project's first harvest produced a whopping 1.5 tons of rice! The harvested rice is stored in the warehouse of the local cooperative (called CO-DERVAM) and is waiting to be sold. The current price is RWF 505 per kilogram so we can expect revenue of around AUD700 from this harvest. Once the rice is sold, the cooperative will transfer the proceeds to DAMR's bank account.



In August, the DAMR team plans to plant rice on two lots of lands: an additional one purchased with support from Wycliffe Associates and the current land funded by DMI. Land preparation for rice cultivation on the second lot has been completed, and the rice seeding nursery is also complete. Our Field Facilitator, Fulgence, is helping to oversee the process. We are excited to see what the second harvest will yield.



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DR CONGO

The Beni school in Congo is celebrating the completion of its security wall. This is a huge milestone in the development of the school and its completion has led to boisterous celebrations and heartfelt expressions of thanks. The wall will ensure that our students are kept safe from the overflow and direct effects of war in the area. It is a great relief to all students, parents, teachers and staff.

The launching ceremony at the start of the project was held on June 3 with special guests in attendance, including DAC (Deaf Action Congo) Director Papy, DAC Secretary John Gakuru, political and administrative authorities from the Beni municipality, school authorities, teachers and students, parent representatives, the president of the Beni Deaf Association, and builders. The burgomaster thanked DAC and DMI for supporting the Beni School for the Deaf through so many projects, noting that the actions of DMI/DAC have made the Beni School for the Deaf famous in the area. He offered 5 sacs of cement to support the building of the structure.



The wall construction was completed on 26th July. The main gate was installed mid-August. The inaugural ceremony marking the completion of the wall will be held after classes open on 1st September, 2025.

DMI and DAC remain profoundly grateful to the Australian supporters who funded the building of the wall.



KENYA



Students completed their mid-term examinations in June. Their quarterly projects were showcased from each grade level as well. There were supporting classes for students who were struggling. Teachers continued to build on their professional development, participating in In-Service Training (INSET). They and the school management committee also

participated in the Faith Integration Workshop.

The school held various events to promote student engagement. This includes Girl Guides - "empowering girls for a brighter future" - establishing a sweet potato farm for healthy eating, and participating in volleyball and soccer competitions. Congratulations to the two teams heading to



the Nationals competition. We are so proud of these young male champions!

IICS was honoured to host God Ber Junior Secondary School and its staff at the school for two consecutive days for a benchmarking tour. IICS is glad that the success of their integrated program is gaining a lot of interest from government officials. It is a great milestone for the school.



IICS was one of the beneficiaries of the government initiative for 'Clean Water for Life'. This ensures that IICS has clean, treated water for its students. They received four water straws from the Ministry of Education, Kenya. The library and laboratory were also updated with new reading materials. IICS also received a new grass cutter.

PHILIPPINES

Bacolod Boarding House

14th April was a day of celebration, full of pride and excitement for two students. Realyn Villarín proudly graduated from Bacolod City National High School, marking a milestone in her academic journey. Her dedication and hard work were celebrated by her family and friends. Congratulations, Realyn, on completing Year 12!

Althea Parangan also graduated from kindergarten. Althea is a 17-year-old girl who has mental challenges and a heart of gold. Her graduation was a wonderful and joyous occasion for her and her proud family. Congratulations Althea!



Realyn



Althea



New students

As June rolled around, several exciting developments took place within the boarding house. Students were enrolled for the next grade level, and there were four new students joining from San Carlos. These students include Chrissabeth Pio, who entered Grade 11, as well as Jenesel Hentil, Cindy Florendo, and Zaren Concardas, who all begin their journey in Grade 7. The new students quickly adapted to their new environment, becoming part of the Bacolod Boarding House family. Their arrival brought a fresh energy and enthusiasm to the group, and we are excited to see them thrive in their academic pursuits and personal growth.

Bicol Deaf Action BDA Teachers' retreat



After a year of classroom work, lesson plans, teaching students and commitments to school activities, the school loves to provide some rest and recreation for its teachers to care for their mental, emotional

and social health. Every year after graduation, BDA gives its teachers an overnight stay at a resort, visiting beaches and beautiful places within the province. Most importantly, they are also given a month's vacation to spend time with their family. This year, in April the staff tour was donated by one of our Australian mission teams, led by Chris Hennequin. Staff were able to tour beyond their own province, visiting a Deaf school in Laguna and Baquío City, known as "The City of Pines", located in northern Philippines. A big thank you to Chris and his team for making this happen!

The Garden Church mission team visit BDA

In July, The Garden Church Mission team from Los Angeles returned from a week-long mission trip to Bicol Deaf Action. This was the Garden Church's first mission trip to any Deaf Action school. Seven church members, including Senior Pastor David Kim and Pastor Lois Kim (no relation) were joined by DMI international Director Andrew for 8 days of activities, teaching and some serious relationship building.



The team ran sessions for arts and crafts, baking, sports and games, and ran IT tutorials in which students had video tasks and then had to upload them online. The students were fully engaged in all these sessions yet more informal activities continued through the

afternoons and late into the evenings. After-meal discussions, card games and signing lessons produced lots of laughter and strong friendships. The mission team painted one of the classrooms and also painted the front wall of the canteen along with colorful signage to attract customers.

On the last day of the trip, the team took the whole school to a waterpark for a day of sun and fun. It was a wonderful way to conclude the week. The Garden



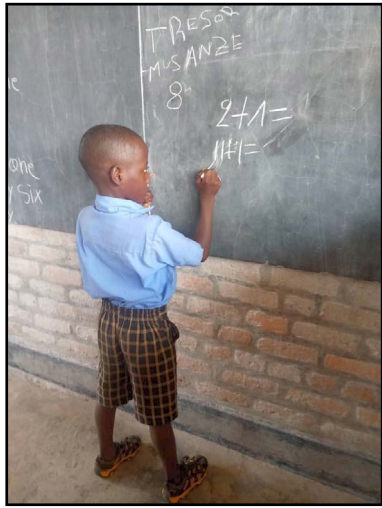
Church is looking forward to continuing its new relationship with Bicol Deaf Action for many years to come.



RWANDA

Tresor

Tresor Nsengimana is currently at home for the school holidays. He has successfully completed the 2024–2025 academic year, performed well, and passed his first year of primary school (P1). He will be promoted to Primary Two (P2) in September, 2025. The official school calendar for the 2025–2026 academic year has not yet been published. The Rwandan Ministry of Education is expected to release it in August, 2025. However, the first term will begin in September, as usual. Another positive development is that Tresor is now able to communicate well using sign language. He can introduce himself easily and enjoy basic conversation. Previously, he did not know any sign language, and it was very difficult to communicate with him.



MYANMAR



The Muir School for the Deaf started the 2025-2026 academic year peacefully with 31 students and 9 staff (7 teachers and 2 cooks). 22 students will reside at the dormitory. There are 3 new students and 4 students who

are returning to the school after a few years' absence. The children were excited to see their new classrooms and are very happy with the new furniture too. The new solar panel and battery will make life much more comfortable at the school. And the school has two new piglets in their pen!



**GIVE THE
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**We urgently need sponsors to
support these students!**



Xhairah Gonzales
(Girl) Grade 9
PHILIPPINES (Ligao)



Ramon Ramos
(Boy) Grade 3
KENYA



Sirikivuya Dono Kahindo
(Girl) Grade 2
DR CONGO (Beni)



Josiah Semper
(Boy) Grade 2
PHILIPPINES (Bacolod)

To sponsor any of these students, please go to our
website: <https://deafmin.org/student-sponsorship/>
or email: info@deafaction.org.au

BURUNDI

Sewing workshops going global?

Deaf Action Burundi has five sewing workshops which produce superb items of clothing while supporting dozens of Deaf ladies and their families. The workshops also generate an



income for local Deaf communities. We're looking at turning this local business into a global enterprise. We have the artisans in Burundi, we have acquired the services of a well-known fashion designer in Australia, and we have the support of a businessman who is keen to help us manage this expanding market. The tricky thing at this point is the transport and distribution of goods from Burundi to outlets (online as well as brick and mortar) around the world. We are talking to logistics companies now but if anyone has expertise in this field we would love to hear from you.

DR CONGO

Carpentry Workshop

At the request of DAC (Deaf Action Congo) director Papy, DMI was able to fund a carpentry workshop for unemployed Deaf men in DR Congo. Unlike recipients of the small group loan fund, these seven men will work in the carpentry workshop effectively as employees of DAC, which will oversee the program. So the men have no loan to repay, and can earn a living while ideally helping to generate extra income for the Deaf community as well.

This is a lifesaver for people whose lives have been upended by war and loss. The carpentry initiative will not only equip them with valuable skills but also enable them to contribute

meaningfully to their families and society. Financial transparency is a key aspect of the project along with demonstrating the project's sustainability. We are aiming for this to become self-sustainable within its first year of operations.



UGANDA

Students excelling

Students and staff at the Neville Muir Comprehensive School are celebrating excellent exam results from last year which have just come out. Our students performed the best among



many students from regional schools who sat the same examination papers. All of our students passed with flying colours! Our current students, after hearing about the re-

sults, were so happy they began thanking the teachers for their hard work on behalf of those students who graduated last year! They also expressed thanks to DMI for its financial support and encouragement. The city authorities delivering the exam results also spoke uplifting words to the current students and encouraged them to work hard and perform even better this year. The School has just begun its second term of the year with 121 students, 53 of those being Deaf, and 68 disabled or vulnerable.



Thanks to a generous donation from DMI Norway, the school is building a house for school director Dennis. (He had earlier given away his house to the school for its use.) There is a lot of excitement around the construction. The students are working together with the engineers and professional build-

ers to help build Dennis's house. This explains why it's being constructed so quickly!

The students have been busy with other endeavours outside the classroom as well. They have been planting maize and sweet potatoes for their own consumption next term and express gratitude to DMI supporters for looking after their well-being and health as well as their studies.

Back in the classroom, they have been working hard on their general subjects and their electives. General subjects include English, ICT, CRE and sign language. The sign language classes ensure that the hearing students are able to communicate well with those who are Deaf.

In their elective subjects the students train in design, hair-dressing, carpentry, and construction. The ongoing challenge is the lack of tools and materials to practice with. The mannequins, the girls are using to train in hairdressing also so old and used that there really isn't much hair left on them to practice with! We are working to provide more training materials for the school for this term. Anyone who would like to assist with this please give at <https://deafmin.org/donate/> and designate "NMCS".



FUNDRAISING EVENTS RAISE \$24,320.66!

A Deaf Action fundraising dinner in Sydney last month saw 73 supporters come to hear former Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson (and our own Andrew Miller on the undercard) speak and enjoy some sumptuous food and warm fellowship. Through donations on the evening, \$16,581 was raised. Our stretch-goal was \$25,000, needed to expand our farm in Ligao, Philippines as well as build a security fence around it and provide decent housing for our farm workers Lester, Noel and their families. The Garden Church in the US provided \$6,500, and the remaining \$2,000 needed was provided by our Self-sustainability fund. So the farm projects at our Ligao school are now all funded! We are very grateful to our generous donors for supporting us with this.



Trivia nights in Sydney and Melbourne have also been highly successful, drawing almost 250 people in total to raise awareness of the Deaf in developing countries and a shade under \$10,000! A lot of fun and fellowship was had along the way. Congratulations to our winning tables who took home some magnificent hampers for their efforts. Special thanks to the businesses which supported the evenings (see below). And huge thanks to Amy, Kay and Susi who worked tirelessly to make the evenings successful.



SYDNEY TRIVIA NIGHT



Please see the next page for Melbourne trivia night photos and take note of all our amazing sponsors.



Andrew Miller
International Director



Matthijs Terpstra
International Development Coordinator



Susi Tjhai
Finance Coordinator



Amy Jack
Communications Coordinator



Kay van Namen
Sponsorship & Administration Coordinator

Thank you for continuing to support our school students, teachers and self-sustainability projects.
Warm regards, Kay (Sponsorship Coordinator)



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Please note:

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susianti.tjhai@deafmin.org

USA Inquiries:



Deaf Ministries International
c/o Mrs Esther Yoo
5950 Cahill Ave
Tarzana, CA 91356



min-esther.yoo@deafmin.org

DMI Australian Office



Deaf Ministries International
P.O.Box 395, Beaconsfield,
Victoria, Australia, 3807



+61 3 5940 5431

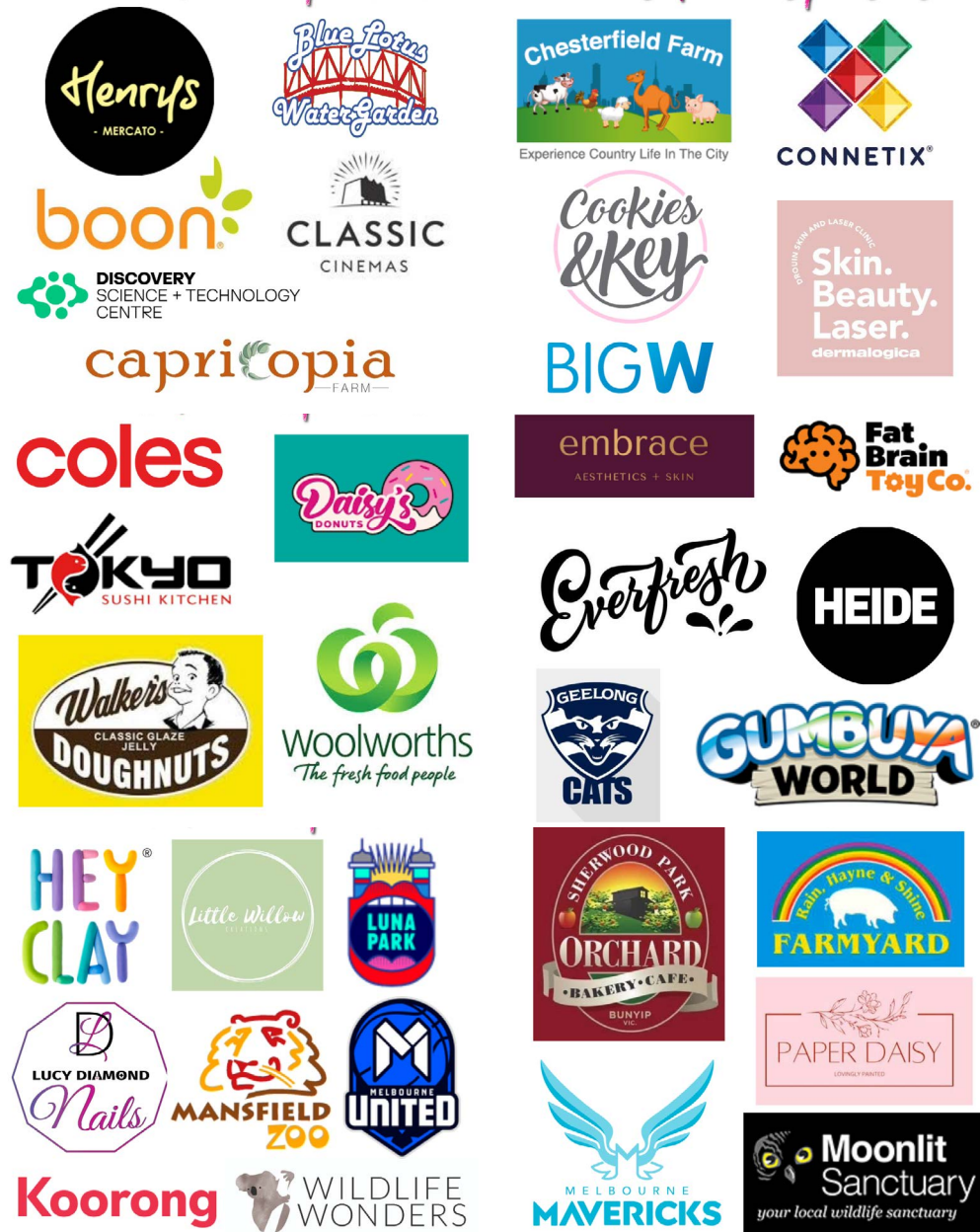


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