Dear Friends,

It’s hard to believe that a decade ago, the vision of the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village became a reality. In the last ten years, working together as a global community, we have created a home, a family, and opportunities for more than 1,000 kids whose futures otherwise looked limited and bleak. Today, these young men and women are part of an ever-growing family, supported by a network of fiercely dedicated educators, caregivers, mentors and supporters who have come together to change our kids’ futures and that of their nation.

Through ASYV’s holistic and nurturing model, hundreds of Rwanda’s most desperate young people have overcome the tragedies of the past, emerging from the Village resilient, self-confident, and poised to achieve their dreams of going to university, starting businesses and becoming leaders in their home communities.

In this annual report, we invite you to join us in celebrating some of the people who make the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village possible every single day. On these pages, you will learn how ASYV’s programmatic strategies transform our kids, and you will meet some of the staff and volunteers who live and work in our beautiful and beloved village. They are just a few of the thousands of individuals who make up a remarkable extended family, one which continues to educate, heal and love a generation of Rwanda’s most vulnerable youth.

Milestones and anniversaries compel us to reflect on and celebrate how far we’ve come. At ASYV, they also inspire us to look to the future, to our next ten years and beyond. As we continue on this journey together, we look forward to sharing the further refinement of our strategies. What we’ve all accomplished this far is no less than extraordinary.

Thank you for believing in our mission, for being part of our extended family, and for helping us make transformative change in Rwanda these past ten years, and in the years to come.

With gratitude,

Laurie Toll Franz
Chair, Board of Directors

Jean-Claude Nkukiyimfura
Executive Director

Over the past decade, the ASYV community has nurtured the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village from a vision into a thriving home for hundreds of Rwanda’s most vulnerable youth. We thank each and every one of our friends and supporters for the role you have played in making this dream a reality.
A NEW BEGINNING

In ASYV’s recent incoming classes:

57% of students come from backgrounds of extreme poverty with no access to health care or clean water.

25% report a history of abuse and depression.

75% do not feel adequately accepted and cared for by the people around them.

Because of ASYV’s holistic and nurturing model, hundreds of Rwanda’s most desperate young people have overcome the tragedies of the past, emerging from the Village resilient, self-confident, and poised to achieve incredible things like going to university, starting their own businesses, and becoming leaders in their home communities.
FAMILY

Key to ASYV’s holistic approach to healing is a loving family environment, and our Mamas form the bedrock of this family model. Living and working in every student residence, they fill a void in our students’ hearts. By caring for our students’ wellbeing, they give our kids the security and stability they need to grow.

“This family gives me love, care, everything I need.”

~ Herve
student at ASYV

Family Mamas come to ASYV from all over Rwanda. These women are genocide survivors, many of whom lost their families in the 1994 violence. Mamas commit to nurturing a family of students for all four years that they are in the Village.

“Mama gives me advice in everyday life and helps me to have confidence.”

~ Marie-Claire
student at ASYV

Alumni reconnect at ASYV’s inaugural Family Reunion and Mentorship Day.
EDUCATION

Students at ASYV benefit from an unparalleled education. Unlike most schools in Rwanda, our Liquidnet Family High School is committed to providing a student-centered learning experience. By encouraging critical thinking instead of rote memorization, we transform our kids into capable problem solvers ready to lead wherever life takes them.

98% of our Class of 2016 graduates passed Rwanda’s national exam. By passing at a rate 10% higher than the national average of 88%, a figure which includes all Rwandan youth, not just the most vulnerable, our students have demonstrated that everyone has the potential to succeed when given the right support.

“Students need healing in their hearts first before they can think critically. Whenever they are asked what they love about their educators, their first response is ‘our educators love us.’ This to me stands out as the driving force of their success.”

~ Julius Kaboyo
English Language and Literature teacher
Our primary responsibility at ASYV is to heal and empower our students. Many of our kids come to us traumatized and malnourished. By investing in their physical and mental health, and by supplying three nutritious meals every single day, we enable them to overcome the past and reach for their dreams.

“When our students are well fed, they grow up physically and mentally. I enjoy my job. What I enjoy most is that the Village gives me the freedom to go the extra mile. I live a happy and significant life.”

~ Hiram Nsengiyumva
Head chef at the Edmond J. Safra Community Center

The Barry Segal Health & Wellness Center delivers the best in both health care and health education. While treating chronic conditions like HIV and depression, ASYV’s nurses and social workers also teach our students how to make informed and self-affirming decisions by leading workshops focused on such topics as sex education and stress management.
ENRICHMENT

Encompassing a variety of extracurricular activities, ASYV’s enrichment programs allow our students to discover themselves by exploring newfound talents in science, athletics, and the arts. Ranging from student-run clubs to public service opportunities, enrichment programs teach our kids that they each have something to offer.

"Over only four short years you see not only a physical transformation in our students, but also an emotional and intellectual one. Students start out timid, questioning their actions and interactions, but you see them break out of their shells, picking up new skills and serving as leaders across campus."

~ Lauren Gross
ASYV Fellow

SERVICE AT ASYV

Community service, referred to in the Village by the Hebrew term Tikkun Olam, is a key facet of ASYV’s enrichment programming and is interwoven into many aspects of Village life.

- Weekly Tikkun Olam programming gives our students the opportunity to lend support to the Village’s surrounding community. Projects have included building homes, renovating classrooms, and teaching English to local schoolkids.

- English-speaking volunteer Fellows, known to our students as ‘cousins’, live in the Village for an extended period and serve as an embodiment of Tikkun Olam. By fostering our students’ leadership and language skills, and by expanding their understanding of the world beyond Rwanda, the Fellows bring our kids new perspectives.

- Service-learning groups, made up of volunteers from youth groups, high schools, and universities, offer their own service to the Village. Bringing their unique ideas and worldview to our kids, they dedicate their efforts to hands-on work in the Village kitchen, on the farm, and in enrichment programming.
ASYV’s holistic programming transforms vulnerable youth into resilient change-makers who take on leadership roles in clubs and youth organizations, as class representatives at their universities, and in their home communities. With a healed heart, these young people pay it forward across Rwanda and around the world.

98% of graduates have expressed feeling more confident and equipped for a happy and successful future than when they entered the Village’s gates for the first time.

90% of recent graduates have volunteered in their communities, separately from government-led service.

Graduates, we were not born to be common, we were born to be comets. Light up the world with your luminous light.

Graduates, with our deep commitment to our communities, we all reflect the purpose of the school founding, but more importantly we possess the very hopes and dreams of our nation.

~ Ornelia Rwanziza in her valedictory speech to the Class of 2016
WHERE THE MONEY GOES

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

WHERE THE DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS...

THE INTRAVARI (HERO) SOCIETY

We are proud to recognize donors who have invested more than $1,000,000 in ASYV and our students’ futures.

Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation
Mark Geland, Gelfand Family Charitable Trust
Anne Heyman and Seth Merrin
Liquidnet Holdings, Inc.
Elizabeth and Emanuel Stern
Dolly and Barry Segal, Segal Family Foundation
Laurie Toll Franz and Jeffrey Franz

$100,000+
Commings Foundation, Inc.
Edmond J. Safra Foundation
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Trudy and Robert Gottesman
Liquidnet Holdings, Inc.
Seth Merrin
Dolly and Barry Segal
Segal Family Foundation
The Anne Heyman & Seth Merrin Family Foundation
Laura Toll Franz and Jeffrey Franz
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Sandrin and Howard Hoffen
Irons Family Foundation
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Phil Kish, Kish Family Foundation

$10,000-$24,999
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Father and Moobe Bernstein
Ulrich and Joseph Citron
Alisa and Daniel Debroff
Susan and John Elmes
Susan and Edward Falk
Peter Feinberg
Jenny Halis
Harris Aird, LLC
Dana and Franco Harris
Kathy and Michael Harris

$5,000-$9,999

$1,000-$4,999

$500-$1,000

$100-$500

WITH THE DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS...

The Liquidnet Family

Liquidnet is a NYC-based financial technology company operating a global trading network for institutional investors. Founded by Seth Merrin, the company has an active corporate impact program called Liquidnet For Good, which is dedicated to applying the company’s expertise to make a positive impact around the world. At the heart and soul of Liquidnet For Good is the company’s unique partnership with the Village. Through a volunteer network called the Liquidnet Family, Liquidnet employees and family members helped Anne Heyman launch the Village and continue to sustain it today. Each year a team of employees from Liquidnet offices around the world travels to Rwanda to put their skills to work. Back at the office, employees help raise money and awareness for ASYV through “Race for Rwanda” fundraising events. In appreciation, the school at ASYV is named the Liquidnet Family High School (LFNHS).

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We would also like to thank the many generous supporters of Annie’s Night, who collectively raised over $500,000 to support A3V.
OUR MISSION

To enable orphaned and vulnerable youth to realize their maximum potential by providing them with a safe and secure living environment, health care, education and necessary life skills. Education and service are used to model and create socially responsible citizens in Rwanda and around the world.

OUR MODEL

- A LOVING FAMILY
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH & WELLNESS
- ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

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