



For immediate release

SURF develops partnership with Foundation Rwanda to provide educational support to children of the genocide

(New York – December 2008) SURF is developing a new partnership with Foundation Rwanda, a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organisation established by photojournalist Jonathan Torgovnik and filmmaker Jules Shell to provide funding for the secondary school education of children born from rape during the 1994 genocide and to link their mothers to psychological and medical support services.

The initial partnership will fund the secondary school education of 150 children through SURF's partners AVEGA and Solace Ministries starting in January 2009. This is just a fraction of the estimated 20,000 children born out of sexual violence during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda that Foundation Rwanda is striving to support.

The support the children will receive will include tuition fees, as well as the cost of books, pens, uniforms, shoes and transportation. The project will empower the children, transform their lives socially and economically through access to education, and enable them to meet basic needs and over time to become more self-reliant. Through building their self-esteem, knowledge and skills, the project will also play a vital role in securing the children's rights.

To learn more about Foundation Rwanda, please visit www.foundationrwanda.org. To watch a new online video of the testimonies of the women who inspired the programme, *Intended Consequences*, then visit www.mediastorm.org/0024.htm.

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