



March 20, 2015

***Beacon of Hope for Widows, Vulnerable  
Women and Children (BHWVC)***  
*Lueur d'Espoir pour les Veuves, les Femmes Vulnérables et les Enfants*  
(ASBL)

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## **Beacon of Hope News Letter**

**Dear friends,**



Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This time I will write specifically about the ministry of trauma counseling that you are involved in through Beacon of Hope. I would like you to meet five teenage girls (photo on left) and hear about how your donations have been changing their lives. The girls have four things in common: All of them are orphans, they are 14 years old, all of them are in year six (last year of primary education) and

two months ago the head teacher wanted to send all of them away from school. The first girl (from left to right) is Mawazo. She lives in Bogoro and comes from the ethnic group that slaughtered the people of Bogoro. Her step father was a member of the militia that killed hundreds of people of Bogoro. He died a couple of years. Every week-end she goes back to her community and comes back on Monday morning to school. A lot people believe that she is a witch. Second from left is Grace. Her mother died about 5 years ago and she is still very bitter about it. She cries whenever the word mother is said. She is often unhappy and won't obey her teacher. Third is Patience. She is from the same group as Mawazo and they travel together to the camp of internally displaced people. She has behavior problem too. The fourth girl is Manyiki. Her name means "maybe". Her father died when she was a baby so never met her. Her mother does not tell her anything about any relative of her late father. She is always unhappy and does not obey rules. Her mother left home two months ago and has no contact with her. The last girl is Daniella. No one knows if her father still a live or not for he

has not been seen for many years. She lives with her mother's family but her mother does not live with them. She is violent and fights nearly every day at school.

Early January the head teacher sent me a notice that he was going to send the five girls away from school due to unacceptable behaviours. I pleaded with him to give me a couple of months to turn the girls around. Since then our team has been working extensively with girls and visit them every week-end talk and pray with them. We have discovered that the five girls are profoundly unhappy and often attack other children or simply do not listen to the teacher. For a month now then girls have opened up to me and their behaviour has seriously improved. Now teachers are happy with them so the decision to send them away from school has been cancelled.



*A neighbour explains to Bagamba how hard it is for Manyiki to live with a drunkard sep-father.*

### **Praises**

We thank God for your commitment to serve orphans in the DRC through Beacon of Hope. Your support makes it possible for us to visit and offer trauma counseling service to suffering children and also pay school fees for them. Without your help these girls would have been sent away from school. May the name of the Lord be praised.

### **Prayers needs**

These girls still have miles to go as far as trauma issues are concerned. Please support them in prayers as they try to become ordinary teenager girls. Also pray for Beacon of Hope volunteers for God's guidance and capacity to listen and show compassion to the girls. Secondary school costs over 100\$ a year and Beacon of Hope cannot afford to support the girls for secondary education. Please pray that God would guide them and keep them close to himself as their education ends there in July this year.

In the name of Lord

Bagamba B. Araali