Capacitar Rwanda Celebrates 10th Anniversary—Patricia Mathes Cane, PhD, Capacitar Founder/Director

A joyful celebration of Capacitar Rwanda's accomplishments was held in Kigali in June, attended by 55 men and women from many regions. Song, dance, reflections on Capacitar Rwanda's history, organizational reports, anniversary cake and a celebratory luncheon all contributed to the festivity led by Rwanda founder Antoinette Gasibirege SH.

Since 2006, over 10,350 people have been trained by Capacitar Rwanda's teams in 10 districts of the country. More than 30 partner organizations and 155 vulnerable groups have benefited from the trauma healing and self-care tools. Trainings have included participants from a wide variety of organizations: widows and survivors of the genocide, National University of Rwanda Clinical Psychology Department, Hope and Homes for Children, COTRAF working with civil society; Diocesan Justice Commission, staff of a center for deaf children, hospital staffs, religious, teachers, school children, teachers of the Department of Nursing Science and Physiotherapy, Rwanda Women's Network working with survivors of rape, organizations working to empower single mothers, SOS Village mothers, National University Social Work Department, HIV groups, cooperatives, and many others.

At the celebration people who have benefited from learning Capacitar methods gave their testimonies. Many spoke of how Capacitar changed their lives giving them effective tools to heal the trauma of the genocide and ways to work with anger and depression. Trocaire Rwanda Director Dony Mazingaizo described how “trauma transformation is a key element for peace and development. Peace and healing are connected. Healing the self is a prerequisite for healthy participation in society.” Trocaire, the Catholic Development Agency of Ireland, has funded Capacitar Rwanda since 2006. Trocaire recognizes the impact of Capacitar's trauma healing and women's empowerment work in the country.
Capacitar Outreach 2016

Capacitar in North Kivu, DR Congo

Since 1996, a succession of wars and ongoing violence have impacted the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Province of North Kivu, in particular, has suffered greatly from conflict, massive displacement of populations, the breakup of families, the burning of homes, corruption, injustice and HIV/AIDS. As a result, most people in the region deal with despair, depression, hopelessness and PTSD symptoms.

In this context Sr. Ingrid Janisch ISB, brought Capacitar to North Kivu in 2013, with the collaboration of two young men of Goma, Prince and Daniel Mbonekube. Sr. Antoinette Gasibirege SH, Director of Capacitar Rwanda, and Dr. Genevieve van Waesberghe MMM, accompanied Ingrid and the team with trainings to form Capacitar multipliers and trainers. In two and a half years Capacitar North Kivu has developed outreach in the areas of education, protection of children, health and pastoral work. Trainings have included participants from many areas: teachers and children representing 32 schools in the Goma area, HIV/AIDS groups, centers for nutrition and maternal health, prisoners from the central Goma prison, orphan and childcare centers, religious, psychologists, and mental health centers. To date over 3,532 persons have been trained to use Capacitar tools.

In June, a joyful celebration of Capacitar North Kivu was held at the Rwanda/Congo border, with song, dance and presentations. One of the team composed a song especially for the occasion, “Capacitar Has Changed Our Lives!” Many team members shared how they were able to live with peace after all they had suffered. Elie, a teacher in Goma, shared his dream to teach Capacitar skills to all the schools in the region so that children can live with hope for the future.

Capacitar Multipliers in South Sudan

Sister Barbara Paleczny, SSND, of Solidarity with South Sudan taught twenty trainees in Bor, Jonglei State, for Catholic Relief Services (CRS). With supervision this group then prepared twenty group leaders who will each lead two groups of twenty in DUK County. Capacitar healing and wellness education will be multiplied and integrated in seven sectors: farming, fishing, water and sanitation, healing from trauma, emergency response and risk reduction, and nutrition. This pilot project will be offered in thirteen counties and eventually will reach all states in South Sudan. CRS will meet with representatives from the SS Council of Churches, Reconcile, Solidarity with South Sudan and Religious Communities to decide methods to be used and plans for implementing healing work throughout South Sudan. CRS is convinced of the practical and effective approach of Capacitar.

In Old Fangak, 75 teachers completed Year I of a 4-year government teacher in-service program. This is one of 14 emergency locations where Capacitar was taught daily by 1000 teachers. Barbara taught and supervised the teachers for a month before they went out to teach unqualified teachers. Barbara also supervised some teachers in the ‘deep field’ remote areas.

DR Congo: Capacitar North Kivu team and members celebrating two years of outreach in areas of conflict with Capacitar Rwanda and Capacitar International.

South Sudan: Teachers learning Capacitar methods in a training program.
Capacitar Trainings in Africa

Dr. Genevieve van Waesberghe, MMM, Capacitar trainer for Africa, has worked in many countries with communities impacted by war, violence and human rights abuses. Genevieve's Capacitar outreach has included work in: Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, DR Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. She has offered trainings to child soldiers, girls impacted by trafficking and early arranged marriages, military, police, UN Peacekeepers, teachers, social workers, mental health workers, medical personnel, and many others. One warden in a prison after learning Capacitar skills said that he now can respect the prisoners. Another man who had nightmares for 10 years said he now can sleep with the use of the Holds.

Rotary-Funded Capacitar Training in Tucson, Arizona

Sharyn Chesser, Maria Elena McElroy and Rotarians successfully launched the Wellness Education for Children Project in Pima County, Arizona. The training was led by Capacitar Founder/Director Pat Cane and sponsored by Catalina (Tucson) Rotary Club and the Rotary Foundation D5500. Forty professionals from 16 different agencies received full-tuition scholarships, notebooks, Capacitar publications and refreshments. Community partners included Dr. Mary Koithan of the University of Arizona College of Nursing who provided CEU's, and the Tucson Boys and Girls Club that furnished the training space. Excitement and inspiration flowed as study groups were formed and beginning next steps were born, including a Facebook page.

This unique project has the capacity to touch the lives of children from before birth through early twenties and serve the professionals including nurses, social workers, child development specialists/educators, speech pathologists, nurse practitioners, counselors, lactation consultants, physical therapists occupational therapists, and mental health specialists. Pat Cane will return to Tucson for Modules 2-4 and local Capacitar practitioners plus Rotarians will continue supporting the group through March 2017.
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July 2016: 10th Anniversary Celebration—Capacitar Middle East Network
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2016: Sep 4-8 Nov 5-9
Japan Advanced Formation Eiko Maki, CSJ ekocoj@comcast.net
2016: Sep 4-8 Nov 5-9
Korean Center for Nonviolent Communication Katherine Singer nvc@kcrvc.org
2017: Aug 3-9 Trainings and workshops
Argentina Los Cerezos, Susana Díaz, Santa Fies isocerezos@gmail.com
2017: July 21-30 retreat, workshops and trainings
Afghanistan Borderfree Afghan Peace Volunteers Dr. Hakim Young, MD borderfree@mail2world.com
2017: Feb 17-27 Oct 12-24 Workshops and trainings
Guatemala Centro de Paz Barbara Ford, Sr. Virginia Seering, SC vseering@gmail.com
2017 Workshops & Trainings: Jan 9-16 Mar 14-20 Aug 22-28 Nov 26-24
Capacitar 30th Anniversary Global Conference
August 6-8, 2018, La Casa de Maria, Santa Barbara, CA

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Dear Friends,

Greetings to you from Africa. Capacitar Special Projects Coordinator Joan Condon and I have been visiting teams in Rwanda and the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. These are two sites where Capacitar's outreach has touched the lives of thousands of people who have been impacted by genocide, war, poverty, trauma and ongoing violence. It is places like Rwanda and DR Congo where we witness the significance of Capacitar's simple trauma healing approach. As many of the people of DR Congo sang in their joyful celebration, "Capacitar has changed our lives!" "Capacitar has given us hope and healing!"

With your generous donations you can help Capacitar change lives and give hope and healing. Your support will empower Capacitar to do the following:

• Trainings for those working with refugees and the detained in the US, Europe and the Middle East
• Multicultural Wellness Trainings in 15 countries in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East
• Outreach workshops to women's groups and nonviolent peace groups in Afghanistan
• Trauma Healing & Leadership Trainings in DR Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda and Indonesia
• Work with Human Rights Defenders in Mexico, Central America and other world areas
• Work with refugee communities and detention camps through Capacitar en la Frontera at the US/Mexico border
• Trauma Healing Trainings for survivors of the earthquakes in Haiti and in Japan
• Workshops to heal gender violence in Japan, Mexico, Central America, Panama and other countries
• Translation of the Refugee Accompaniment Manual.

We cannot do this work without you! We are deeply grateful for your generous donations and prayerful support. Together we are committed to the mission of healing ourselves and healing our world.

With peace and blessings,

Pat Cane
Capacitar International Founder/Director

July, 2016

Rwanda and DR Congo—Celebrating Capacitar Rwanda and Capacitar North Kivu changing lives and bringing hope and healing—June 2016