

Brass band Report

AUGUST 2023



BRASS BAND GRADUATION



Introduction



In collaboration with Brass for Africa, Root Foundation has achieved another milestone with children and youth participating in Brass band.

After a five year long journey of passion, persistence, and breaking down challenges, 95 children at Root Foundation brass band graduated in Bronze B, Bronze A, and Silver. This creates a strong desire to impact more lives.

Music has really been a strong tool to these children, mainly those that joined from the street and devoted their focus to music and never went back to the streets.

Without forgetting a big role it played to preventing children ending to streets.

Our aim for the children

Creating strong self confident professionals in a dynamic fast growing world with integral minds.

Building a generation of optimistic children and youth with core values of hope to change their story and change the world.

Building financial freedom for the children through using their skills learnt throughout the training.



Ways forward



This music and life skills has demonstrated more potential to transform the lives of many people. As Root Foundation, we are looking forward to seeing these current students growing their skills and helping us enlarge the impact.

As music and life skills is among the programs that helps us prevent children and youths from ending up on the street, it is also one of the tools to help us get many other children out of street and reintegrate them in a meaningful life. Through collaboration with government bodies in charge of street children in rehabilitation centers and/or in the community, Root Foundation will empower these children to develop their living.

Likewise, this program is going to solve our community problems starting from those young girls who dropped out of school - And currently, some got early pregnant, use drugs, and some do prostitution. Up to 30 young girls are registered to start the music and life skills trainings.



02

Children's family and youth empowerment - Through gigs done by the band, there's a greater possibility for children to earn and save for their future through brass band.

As a way to achieve this, brass band children will be given a 30% monthly take home of the total amount of money made from gigs they participated in.

20% of the total amount of money made from the gigs they participated in will be saved for the children for a period of two years and the money will be handed to them at once to facilitate bigger dreams.

Another 20% of the total amount will be allocated to cater for brass band costs in general where's the remaining 30% will be allocated to the organization to support sister programs and activities since Root Foundation programs work hand in hand.





Children profiles



Every child in brass band will have a profile with details on instruments they play, background, and side skills. These profiles will be shared on Root Foundation pages for broader opportunities.

Developing more marketing strategies to support the earning

Root foundation is in the process of hiring and working with prominent freelance marketers to create more gigs and opportunities for the children and also brass band growth in general.

Re-branding brass band

The organization is looking forward to working with prominent companies ready to brand their names and advertise for awareness as well. These companies can have their names on brass band uniforms and be official sponsors of brass band at an agreed cost. This is to make sure that brass band stands strong with great capability to be there for a long time on a strong standard.

Using brass band traditional dance as the face of the organization
Creating a fused new vibe of brass band and traditional dance to bring up culture displayed in a modern way. This will create a range of originality among the society.

Some stories shared from children



**Different testimonies from children
can tell that music is not just a
word.**



05

*I feel proud
with what I
have now and
it's the best
gift for life,
through my
and Life-
skills"*

Meet Nsengiyumva Placide, 18 years old the first born child in five siblings of the family. He plays the Bass Tuba in Root Foundation silver band with his younger brother Etienne who plays a trumpet .

Placide is one of the best young musicians, when he plays his Bass tuba, you can feel it. He has gained and adopted a lot of skills, Well- disciplined and in teacher's absence, he communicates, help others and try everything to go well.

I joined Brass band at the very beginning in 2019 when Brass for Africa came to partner with Root foundation. That's before my family shifting from Batsinda near the center, because our grandma sold the house where we use stay, we went far to the village. This wasn't easy for me to settle well in the new place because I was already missing the music and friends that I met from the center. Luckily enough my family decided to come back to the same place and I couldn't be any happier.

Before music, I was just playing football, study and that was all!

I used to think that brass music and instruments were for soldiers, not for people like me or my friends. In Rwanda we don't have a lot of people doing brass music.

And all of a sudden Brass for Africa came to Root Foundation We were promised by the director of Root Foundation, to bring teachers to help us learn and with Brass for Africa they made it happen and I still remember my first teacher Tonny. He made the beginning of my music career so easy and real.

I tried trumpet, tried trombone but later the Bass Tuba took my heart! It's the heart of the band and I didn't care on the size because it brings massive joy in my heart.

Playing in the band makes me feel better because, whenever we play, it shows teamwork, we gain resilience to go on, making friends and learning from each other! It helps me to concentrate, awakes my mind to feel safe. I have gained more skills from the band as well, I used to be shy being in front of people but now I'm reliable, also as a first born child back home, I have gained leadership skills to help my siblings where my parents are not available.

I feel different at the moment because I started to dream with no limitations, I have a different perspective of life compared to before, I have hope, confidence and opportunities from what I have learnt from Music.



Meet Rebecca 18 years old, a 4th child from 7 children in the family, Living with both parents. She plays a trumpet in Root Foundation Silver band with her sister Tabita who plays a Tenor Horn.

Life has never been simple for a girl like me to live with my family, mostly here in one of the biggest suburbs of Kigali Rwanda. At times, I feel ashamed because of the community we are living in and the perspectives of it. My Dad and Mum lost their Jobs, and we lost our big house, the one that our parents can afford is becoming smaller due to our growth, which affects our education as well for me and my siblings.

Music is very important into my life! When I'm feeling sad, lost, feeling left behind, music is a big call to me? Come back to life.

Music has helped me come back home. Improved my social life from my household, friends and in school. My communication with others has changed in a very good way compared to how it was before I joined Root foundation and brass.

I can't appreciate enough what music has brought to me that it has to affect all aspects of my life very positively even my performance in school. The confidence I gained helps compete with others and I was able to be identified as one of the best performer in languages, like Korean language. I won the scholarship, this adds a value to my education and to my family.

Playing in the band makes me feel so special and I feel connected with friends that I learn, share and express myself with. My band has become my family that I belong to.

Playing music with boys makes me believe that we share equal opportunities. This makes me believe that everything is possible, and I can be the inspiration to other girls start believing in themselves and their potentials.

Oh the trumpet, I fell in love with my lovely instrument at the first site! I first saw brass instruments on TV, when the military band was performing on Rwanda's liberation day, it was really interesting! I wished and admired one day to have it! I didn't know where I could find the opportunity to learn and play. When Brass for Africa came at Root foundation center in 2019, Oh! I was already in love to just touch the trumpet! I asked for the permission to touch it, from that day, I never wanted to leave it alone! I'm very happy that I can sing and play my soul through it!

I'm doing all that I can to have a brighter future! Because I have a dream.

One day my dad saw us performing, he carried tears of Joy, he became so encouraging to me and believes that this a great gift which will take me far than I can expect! And my mum too, loves what we are doing, she encourages me to use all I can to make her proud!

I'm so proud of myself and I take this as my responsibility, and I look forward to being a future leader.

Rebecca.

Special thanks

06



Special thanks to our main brass band partner Brass for Africa making the big goal possible To share their dreams with Root Foundation's children. And all donors, partners, friends and well wishers for keeping us moving with love and support you shower to Root Foundation.

SANDRO HIRSCH

GIRGE GLOCK

For connecting Root Foundation to Brass for Africa, and raising funds for the project to start.

TONY MWOLESE

TAMALE
DERRICK

BAGUMIRABINGI
BEST JOSEPH

Brass band teachers in different times for allocating their time, passion, resilience and commitment to Root Foundation's children.