



**Empowering children
with training and resources
so they'll never need charity again!**

Hello ZOE Partners!

Great news! Our Tree of Hope (leaf) campaign was a success! To date, we've received \$16,080! Thank you! Because of your generous donations, pledges (please keep your pledges coming), and funds from the global budget, a new working group will be getting started in Rwanda this July! We will receive pictures and updates about this new group in November. We promise to pass this information along to you so you can see the effect of your support. Every working group that's funded results in the transformation of young lives with a ripple effect that reaches even more young people!

In you the orphan finds mercy. Hosea 14:3 NRSV

Here's more great news from ZOE, which is further affirmation that you are part of an amazing, life-changing organization: **ZOE was recently named a Classy Awards Finalist for 2017.**

"Classy Awards Finalists are a prestigious group of nonprofits and social enterprises selected for their excellence in social innovation and ability to solve a social problem. The application process was rigorous and intensive, and we were judged using stringent criteria that assesses an organization's potential to solve a problem with an innovative solution.

Thank you for your support!"

February 2017

(For more information please go to:

<http://www.zoehelps.org/category/news/>



The good news continues as the rest of this newsletter contains exciting information about several of the children in the Brave working group. Remember, these children are in the first of 3 years of the Giving Hope program. Their progress is remarkable!

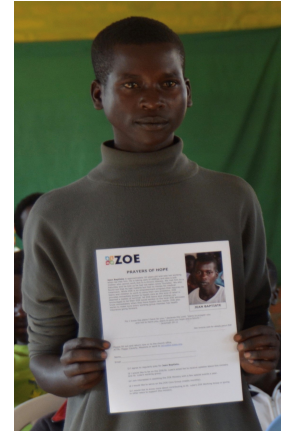
Pictured left to right are Thacien, Jean-Baptiste, Winifred, Brigitte, Marguerite, and Clementine. These six members of the ZOE "Brave" working group are holding the prayer cards St. Luke's distributed so we could pray for each of them over the past year. Do you have one of them?

In our last newsletter, we had this link to the [HOPE COMPANION PARTNERSHIPS](#) report, which contained a detailed story of Thacien, far left, and his progress. An article about the tremendous success of Winifred, third from the left, is in [Celebrate](#), St. Luke's magazine, Spring 2017 Vol.2 No.1. To learn

about the strides made by the remaining four children in the picture: Jean-Baptiste, Brigitte, Marguerite, and Clementine please read on.

Jean-Baptiste (second from the left in group picture)

When St. Luke's Hope Companion team first met Jean-Baptiste in February 2016, he had malaria and had not eaten in 2 days. A year later, we were relieved to find his malaria is cured, and he is now attending school part-time. His three siblings are now able to attend school as well. Selling wood for income allows Jean-Baptiste to provide several meals a day for his family and to pay for all of their school fees. Although things are looking up, he still has a long way to go. Unfortunately, his grandfather, with whom he lived, died this past year and his uncles are trying to throw him and his siblings out of the house. ZOE staff are aware of this situation and our funds will help to secure a housing grant and a solution to this crisis for him and his family.



Brigette (fourth from left in the group picture)



Last year when St. Luke's met Brigette, she was 15 years old and all alone. Sadly, she had lost both parents as a baby. But this year, in 2017, she shared she is no longer alone because she now has friends in her ZOE working group, Brave, who are her "family." In addition, ZOE support and training has allowed her to manage several small projects, thus providing a steady source of income to support herself. One of these projects involves selling tomatoes, avocados, eggplants, and onions in the marketplace. Brigette remembers telling the St. Luke's team last year that before ZOE, she often cried. Now, she says she doesn't cry anymore because being a part of the Brave working group makes her happy!

Marguerite (second from right in the group photo)

In 2016, Marguerite shared how she and her siblings had struggled since the day she was born. Because their father had mental health problems, they were shunned by many of their villagers and were mockingly called "foolish people." Marguerite, who was cruelly called "mad girl," was taken advantage of because of her family's status and paid lower than normal wages. A year later, we are happy to report that Marguerite is now selling wholesale produce in the marketplace. She raises animals, which provide an additional source of income, and maintains a small personal garden.



Clementine (far right in the group photo)



With her son Eric

In February of 2016, when the St. Luke's team first met Clementine, she had lost an eye and was in danger of losing her second eye. The team also learned from her that her son, while a product of rape, was her biggest blessing. Thankfully, over the past year, with ZOE's help and medical intervention, her eye was saved! In addition, Clementine introduced this year's team to her beautiful son, Eric! Currently, Clementine is working on establishing her small businesses, and is now able to feed her son. Through ZOE, Clementine's dream that her son return to school, has been fulfilled. He is, once again, a student!

The incredible changes in the lives of these children, who were able to look people in the eye when the team visited in February, are typical examples of how ZOE and the Brave working group have enabled once desperate orphans to become healthier, food secure, accepted, more confident, and successful business people! Can you imagine the height of their successes when they graduate from the Giving Hope program in two years? God is good!

Prayer Points

- 1 Thacien and Winifred - continued success
- 2 Jean-Baptiste – secure housing; fully restored health; strengthen his business
- 3 Brigitte – continued happiness; strengthen her relationships and her businesses
- 4 Marguerite – increased respect from her community; strengthen her businesses
- 5 Clementine – get her businesses going strong; son Eric; fully restored good health

If you'd like more information about ZOE, go to www.zoehelps.org.