Background

The bilateral exchange program was pioneered by Dr. James Plumb in the early years of the 21st century.

In 2007, the first group of 8 Jefferson students, members of JeffHEALTH-Helping East Africa Link to Health, including the pioneer’s daughter, went to Rwanda to do community and public health education alongside their counterpart from the University of Rwanda who were members of Rwanda Village Concept Project now known as Rwanda Village Community Promoters (RVCP).

In the same year, the first group of students from the University of Rwanda came to Jefferson for clinical observership and community health within JeffHEALTH and JeffHOPE: Health Opportunities, Prevention, & Education.

2007-2024: more than 100 Jefferson students and faculty members spent time in Rwanda and about 40 visiting trainees from Rwanda have spent time at Jefferson.

Welcome to Jefferson - Murakaza Neza mu Rwanda

Life in the Villages of Rwanda

Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farmers can become the president of a great nation.

- Jomar Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom

Jeffersonians in the Villages of Rwanda

Jefferson & Rwanda for Global Public Health

A Win-Win Exchange Program

✓ Global public health service experiences increase cultural humility learning
✓ Intercultural experiences prepare health care trainees to provide culturally sensitive care
✓ Bilateral exchange programs between high- and low-income countries reduce spatial stigmatization in education and health

Acknowledgment

Many thanks to students, trainees, faculty, partners, families, and friends at Jefferson and in Rwanda for their support and involvement in clinical observership and public health services.