



# NEWSLETTER

## 1. Education

**From despair to hope!**

**ITERITEKA Cherissa** is the **firstborn** in a family of 3 children. Her father abandoned them at very young age before she could join nursery school at Shekinah. Her mom being intellectually disabled, Cherissa's only hope was her grandfather, who started taking care of her needs.

Because of this difficult situation that Cherissa was growing up in, she never dared **to dream beyond her reality**. Unfortunately her only support, the grandfather, suddenly passed away. Cherissa was then left with no one and her hopes were quickly shattered. It is at this point Shekinah School took her under its wings, educated her and cared for her. This difficult situation still did not allow her to dream but through the support and encouragement from her peers and Shekinah staff, Cherissa slowly started growing into a bold and fearless girl! As time passed by, the heart that was filled with despair was now filled with light and hope!

It was not long until Shekinah School realized that she was academically gifted. She was top of her class from her early primary years until she graduated secondary school.

Cherissa who could not dream before was now determined to succeed and bring the family out of poverty.

Today, Cherissa has joins one of the best Universities in Uganda; "**Uganda Christian University-UCU**", passionately pursuing her dream and carrier goals. She earned a scholarship and she is studying for a "**Bachelor of Science in Data Science & Analytics**" – a field with a bright future!



# UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Center of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

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## 2. Health

### Good Health, Good academic results: The “INYANGEZI HEALTH INSURANCE CARDS DONATION

Through an exceptional donation generous gesture from the Canadian Team **INYANGEZI** in Montreal, **350 students' families at Shekinah** now benefit from **Health Insurance Cards**. This donation is ensuring that a student's physical, mental and financial well-being are protected! It is a critical tool for removing the barriers – illness, stress, and debt- that often cause students to fail or drop out! Thank you **INYANGEZI TEAM** for giving to students and their families access to a low-cost health fees **-80% of medical expenses covered- for 3 years!** By promoting good health, you are also directing to a better academic results!



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### 3. “BERWA” SEWING PROJECT: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH MULTIPLE IMPACTS

The BERWA project is part of a comprehensive **self-financing strategy** aimed at ensuring the **financial sustainability** of our organization while strengthening the **economic autonomy of its beneficiaries**. It has three main objectives:

- Contribute to the operational budget of the Shekinah Center
- Create direct employment opportunities for beneficiaries and provide a concrete opportunity for professional integration and technical capacity building
- Facilitate access to commerce for beneficiaries without initial capital, "an innovative model of solidarity commerce."

A big thank you to our new partner, "**SEL Belgique**," for agreeing to join us on this new journey.

Also, a big thank you to YWAM Burundi for their donation of two sewing machines.



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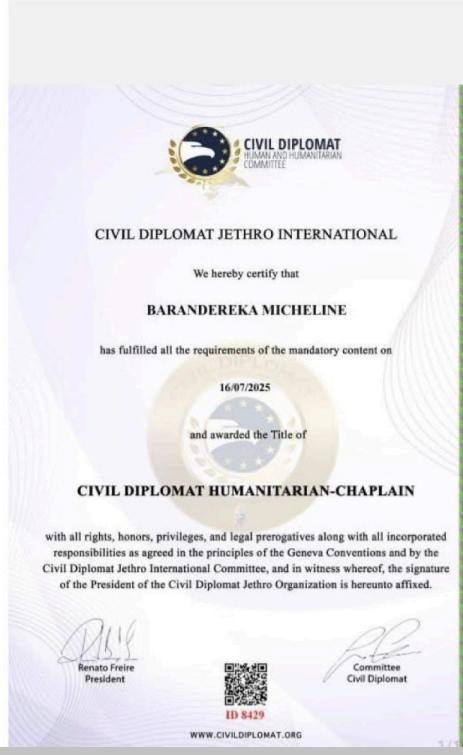
#### 4. Global Recognition for Micheline BARANDEREKA's Commitment: "Civil Diplomat Humanitarian" nomination.

Congratulations to Mrs. BARANDEREKA Micheline, CEO of Shekinah Center Burundi, for her nomination as Civil Diplomat Humanitarian-Chaplain by Jethro International.

**"I am both deeply honored and filled with immense humility to have been nominated 'Civil Diplomat Humanitarian-Chaplain. To be acknowledged alongside a global humanitarian network is a step opening new horizons!"**

**"This recognition increases my commitment to serve with more determination. I will continue to strive for an even broader and more sustainable impact!" quoting Micheline's words."**

Big Congratulations!



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