



#### BENEFITS OF COW OWNERSHIP

Cows hold many layers of significance for the people of Rwanda. Cows can provide milk and meat all year long as a vital source of calcium and protein for a largely malnourished nation. Manure is also a valuable benefit for land that has been greatly depleted. The effects of these products will allow families access to not only personal health and growth, but should provide them with the opportunity to make a profit off of excess milk, enabling them to save and even possibly begin further income generating projects.

Aside from the obvious and essential physical needs a cow can provide, cows hold a special place in Rwandan culture. It is a deep sign of respect and love to give a cow. Although cows have also been seen as a status symbol once used as a seed of dissension, we have an opportunity to now use these life-giving livestock as instruments for peace. As victims and released prisoners of the genocide work together to share a cow it will help to break down and reverse many barriers held between people of Rwanda.



Photo credit: Rebecca L. Zimmerman

#### RWANDA

The 1994 genocide in Rwanda was remarkable in many ways. The speed and efficiency of the mass murders, numbering roughly 800,000 in a period of less than three months, exceeded even the European Holocaust. Eighty percent of the Tutsi population was destroyed (as compared to 2/3 of the Jewish population lost in Europe). The genocide engulfed the tiny nation of Rwanda.

Losses occurred at many levels (human, physical, and psychological) and have had strong social repercussions. After the genocide, all faced a challenge: can Rwandese live together again? If so, how?

CARSA is committed to holistically serving the people of Rwanda in their journey toward reconciliation.

CARSA  
P.O. BOX 3408  
KIGALI, RWANDA

# Cows for Peace



Partner with CARSA and the people of Rwanda by giving the gift of a cow! You can join the process of reconciliation in Rwanda while also assisting in the socio-economic development of the lives of Rwandans. In providing a genocide victim and released prisoner the opportunity to care and calve a cow together, you will be giving them the opportunity to live not only healthier, but journey toward reconciliation.

# Donate a Cow

## HOW IT WORKS

CARSA will play an integral role in ensuring the sustainability of this project. From Healing & Reconciliation workshops, staff members will work with local leaders to identify prime candidates to receive cows. A genocide survivor and released prisoner will begin by working to build a cow shed where the cow will live with the victim. They will continue to care for and share the benefits of the cow together, until it gives birth to a calf. This calf will be given to the perpetrator's family, so now both families own a cow. From that calf, another calf will be given to another family, and so on.

Throughout this entire process, CARSA will continue to counsel, listen and pray with the beneficiaries. Staff members will coach and encourage them to put their profits to good use for the benefit of their families and the community. Most importantly, relationships will grow continually on the road to restoration so that communities may live in peace and harmony together.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

For two people to attend a Healing & Reconciliation workshop and receive one cow will cost approximately \$1,500. This will cover the cost of workshop attendance, support for a cow shed, preparing farmers, the purchasing of a cow, monitoring & evaluation and a small administrative fee. This may seem very expensive, but cows are an extremely valuable source of life for the people of Rwanda.

We realize this is a large expense that many people do not have the capacity to give themselves, so we encourage you to get creative and partner with your communities. This could mean your extended family, church, workplace

or classmates. Divided among several people, the seemingly expensive burden of a cow can become a very feasible reality.

When you give the gift of a cow, we will be happy to provide you with a photo of the cow and families as well as periodic reports of the process. If you should desire, you may provide your beneficiaries with photos and information of your lives as well. Of course, your prayers will be an essential aspect of the reconciliation process as you partner with your Rwandan friends in their journey toward personal and corporate healing. You should certainly feel a participant in the process of reconciliation in Rwanda.



CARSA (Christian Action for Reconciliation and Social Assistance) is a non-profit organization which exists to serve the people of the Great Lakes Region of Africa in supporting their journey toward healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and sustainable holistic development.

For more information:

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## JOHN & CHANTAL

*John & Chantal have been the first to receive a cow through CARSA. It has been a long process, but John & Chantal received help through CARSA's Healing & Reconciliation workshop and staff members to live reconciled. They have shared the responsibilities of caring for their cow and have continued to strengthen their relationship through this activity. John & Chantal are a strong and powerful example of reconciliation for the people of Rwanda and around the world.*