

For Immediate Release

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Miami Catholic High School Saves Child in Rwanda with a Scholarship

Miami, FL - March 20th, 2017. Immaculata-LaSalle High School located in the Miami-Dade County is proud to announce its partnership with the international NGO MindLeaps. Immaculata-LaSalle is sponsoring one of MindLeaps' top performing students, Jean de Dieu Ndacyayisenga, to attend boarding school in Rwanda. This project brings the staff and students of Immaculata-LaSalle together in fundraising for the school fees of Jean de Dieu.

This project came about through Immaculata-LaSalle High School teacher Juan Carlos Moya, who has been involved with MindLeaps since he had the opportunity to visit MindLeaps' Center in Kigali, Rwanda, in August 2016. Mr. Moya went to Rwanda with Carl Wilkens, the former head of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International and the only American who remained in the country during the Rwandan genocide. During his visit, Mr. Moya learned about Rwanda's history, visited local NGOs, and witnessed first-hand the living situations of poor children in the capital of Kigali. Accompanied by MindLeaps staff member Bashir Karenzi, Mr. Moya visited the home of a MindLeaps student named Josue. After the visit, Mr. Moya said, *"What a unique honor it was to be able to spend time with Bashir and Josue, and to get to hear a little bit about the miracles that are being worked by MindLeaps' staff."* Mr. Moya's time in Rwanda was an eye-opener that inspired him to involve his students and school in a joint project with MindLeaps.

This project provides funding for Jean de Dieu's boarding school tuition in Rwanda as well as health insurance, daily meals, and a safe place to live. Integrating MindLeaps' work and social impact in the curriculum of the class is an opportunity for American students to understand the importance of economic and educational empowerment through international development and the arts. This opportunity gives American students a chance to get involved in a humanitarian initiative supported by their school, learn about the history of the genocide and make a direct impact on the life of a student their age in Rwanda.

About Immaculata-La Salle High School:

By embodying the Salesian system of education, Immaculata-La Salle High School provides the atmosphere and programs necessary for the holistic formation of young people into good, faithful Christians and productive, responsible citizens.

About MindLeaps:

MindLeaps is a 501(c)3 organization based in the United States and working in post-conflict and developing countries to permanently decrease the number of street children. MindLeaps combines a dance program to improve cognitive development with vocational training to prepare youth for a stable life in school or in the workplace. MindLeaps currently operates in Rwanda, Guinea and Bosnia-Herzegovina. www.mindleaps.org or +1 (646) 902-1295.