



## CONTENTS

1. Letter from MCW Executive Director Eddie Bergman
2. Letter from MCW Fellow Jacqueline Murekatete
3. Community Center Development in Rwanda
4. Genocide Prevention Education
  - a. Speaking Engagements
  - b. Awareness Raising Forums on the Crime of Genocide
  - c. Other Activities
5. Fundraising
6. Recognition
7. Special Acknowledgements from Jacqueline
8. Pictures of Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner. Click here:  
<http://www.miraclecorners.org/documents/JMCornerNewsletterPhotos.pdf>

---

### 1. LETTER FROM MCW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDDIE BERGMAN

With eight years of project development behind us, the MCW experience continues to be defined largely by the youth who drive the organization, as well as the youth who are empowered by it. Jacqueline Murekatete, a Rwanda genocide survivor, human rights activist, and past participant in our annual Youth Leadership Retreat, best embodies this. *Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner* was conceived in April 2007 as an MCW Partner Initiative, with Jacqueline bringing her own personal vision together with MCW's supporters, friends, and resources to prevent genocide and to benefit the lives of survivors from Rwanda—like herself—and young people around the world. Thanks to a strong MCW board, a dedicated staff, and the drive and dedication of Jacqueline, *Jacqueline's Corner* has taken a huge step forward in realizing its mission. We look forward to seeing what the coming year brings for this exciting initiative.

---

### 2. LETTER FROM MCW FELLOW JACQUELINE MUREKATETE

We are pleased to present you with this newsletter that highlights the steps *Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner* has taken since April 2008 to educate people about the crime of genocide and to help genocide survivors rebuild their lives and their communities. In just a short period of time, the story of MCW and *Jacqueline's Corner* has been presented at more than 100 special events, enabling us to touch almost 5,000 people. We have also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mayor of the Bugesera District in Rwanda, enabling MCW to establish a new community center there. Most recently, we received a building permit and land and we hope to begin construction soon. It has been an amazing journey and we are deeply grateful for your continuing encouragement, involvement, and support.

---

### 3. COMMUNITY CENTER DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA

*To help genocide survivors in Rwanda rebuild their lives, Jacqueline's Corner has accomplished the following:*

#### ***Jacqueline's Corner Plans to Build Community Center in Rwanda***

NEW YORK, NY, April 2007 to present – *Jacqueline's Corner* has been raising funds to build a new MCW community center in the District of Bugesera, approximately 30 minutes outside Rwanda's capital city, Kigali. Modeled after MCW centers in Tanzania and Sierra Leone, the new center will host a variety of activities including Information Technology (IT) education, social entrepreneurship classes, arts and culture activities, early childhood education, language education, and trauma counseling.

#### ***MCW Executive Director Visits Rwanda and Advances Plans to Build Community Center***

KIGALI, September 2007 – MCW Executive Director Eddie Bergman traveled to Rwanda, where he met with government representatives and civil society leaders to assess the potential to establish a community center in the country. Former Youth Leadership Retreat participant and filmmaker Gilbert Ndahayo organized Eddie's trip and made several high-level connections for MCW. Eddie returned highly enthusiastic that an MCW center would have a unique and measurable impact in Rwanda. Plans to build the center in Bugesera began immediately.

### ***MCW Associate Executive Director Registers Miracle Corners Rwanda (MCR)***

KIGALI, April 2008 – After building relationships with the National Youth Council and the Ministry of Youth, Culture, and Sports, MCW Associate Executive Director Alfred Hanssen registered Miracle Corners Rwanda (MCR), the local organization through which MCW will develop the Rwanda center, with the national government.

### ***MCR Planning Committee Established to Oversee Project Development***

NTARAMA, April 2008 – After several months of preliminary work, a local planning committee was established to oversee the development of Miracle Corners Rwanda (MCR). As a first step, the committee conducted a needs assessment, identifying areas where MCR could contribute to reconstruction and reconciliation. The six committee members represent student and survivors' organizations, the national land bureau, and a trauma counseling NGO. Once the center is established members of the committee will serve on the MCR Advisory Board as well as the MCR Leadership Team (a team of young social entrepreneurs that manages the center's activities).

### ***MCR Members Participate in MCW Leadership Seminar in Tanzania***

ARUSHA, May 2008 – MCW held its first Leadership Seminar for the MCW Community Development Program team in Arusha, Tanzania. Among those who attended were Ferdinand Muriyesu Ishimwe and Henriette Mukanyonga, key members of the MCR Planning Committee.

### ***MCR Secures Building Permit to Begin Construction***

NTARAMA, October 2008 — Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Bugeresu District, MCR was allocated land and granted a building permit, allowing the organization to break ground for construction soon. Construction documents were prepared in August 2008 by an architect serving on the MCR Planning Committee. Construction will be managed by Innocent Nizeyimana, a young Rwandan civil engineering student.

### ***U.S. Volunteers Join MCR Team***

NTARAMA, September 2008 – MCW fellow Khalid Elachi and volunteer Karen Shulman arrived in Rwanda to work with the MCR team to prepare the center to begin operations in spring 2009. Together they will develop the center's business plan and create syllabi for the center's activities. In November, Khalid Elachi will return to the MCW New York office and volunteer Amir Rodney Smith will join the MCR team in Ntarama.

---

## **4. GENOCIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION**

### **a. SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

*Jacqueline has shared her story in a variety of forums, including high schools, universities, synagogues, churches, NGO's, museums, tolerance centers, and the U.N. Jacqueline receives an honorarium for speaking engagements, which is donated to MCW and allocated toward Jaqueline's Corner. Below are some highlights:*

### ***Jacqueline Participates in a Darfur Awareness Conference in Israel***

TEL AVIV, Israel, June 2007 — Jacqueline shared her story with an audience of more than 100 students and faculty at Tel Aviv University in June. Other panelists included Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, American Jewish World Service President, Ruth Messenger, and Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative Simone Halperin. Jacqueline highlighted the international community's failure to stop the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, and the need to respond differently to the Darfur crisis. While in Israel, Jacqueline also spoke to an Israeli youth group and visited Yad Vashem to discuss possible genocide education partnerships. Her story was covered on the widely read news site *Y-Net*, and in the English language daily *Jerusalem Post*. Israel's former First Lady Aliza Olmert invited Jacqueline to visit her residence and offered to help her "in any way she can."

### ***Jacqueline Addresses More than 1,000 People on Yom Kippur***

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, September 2007 — As follow up to an informal meeting at a synagogue in Tel Aviv, Jacqueline was invited by Rabbi Micah Greenstein of the Memphis-based Temple Israel to give the keynote address at the synagogue's Yom Kippur service. She spoke about "the sin of indifference to more than 1,000 families from the region, receiving a standing ovation and the congregation's commitment to be even more active in their communities in trying to end the current genocide in Darfur.

### ***Jacqueline's Corner Reaches Nearly 2,000 People in Milwaukee***

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin, November 2007 — Jacqueline traveled to Milwaukee to expand *Jacqueline's Corner's* genocide prevention education outreach even further, speaking at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and in high schools. She also met with several community leaders to explore possibilities for collaboration with organizations in genocide prevention/human rights education programs.

### ***Jacqueline Travels to Bosnia and Herzegovina to Meet Genocide Survivors***

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina, December 2007 — Olympic Dream for Darfur invited Jacqueline to travel to Bosnia-Herzegovina with actress Mia Farrow, human rights activist Abigail Disney, and Darfur refugee and activist Omer Ismael, to raise awareness on the Darfur crisis. Delegates aimed to remember the victims of the Bosnian genocide, and to find ways to work with survivors to bring an end to the Darfur genocide. They also traveled to the mass grave in Srebrenica to remember approx. 10,000 men and boys who were massacred there in 1995, and to spend time with the victims' surviving families. The delegation also met with a member of the Bosnian Presidency.

### ***Jacqueline's Corner Extends Reach To Europe***

BRUSSELS, Belgium, January 2008 — Jacqueline took MCW to Brussels, the European Union capital, meeting with leaders of Africa-oriented, conflict prevention, and human rights NGO's. Search for Common Ground, an NGO focusing on conflict management, invited Jacqueline to speak to a circle of conflict prevention experts. Thanks to former Youth Leadership Retreat participants, Smadar and Eyal, she was invited by Israeli Ambassador Tamar Samash, to address the Israeli community at an event at the Israeli embassy. She also met with Christian community leaders, Rwandan diplomats, and leaders of genocide survivors associations.

### ***Jacqueline Speaks at Martin Luther King Day Commemoration on Long Island***

NEW YORK, NY, January 2008 — As the world remembered Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, Jacqueline was invited by Michael Dowling, CEO of North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, to give the commemoration's keynote address to more than 300 staff members. Jacqueline shared the stage with David Gewirtzman, a Holocaust survivor, fellow activist and close friend of Jacqueline's. While acknowledging that the U.S. has come a long way since Dr. King's days, the pair spoke about the importance to continue to teach about tolerance in America's diverse society.

### ***Jacqueline Speaks at Martin Luther King Day Commemoration on Long Island***

NEW YORK, NY, January 2008 — As the world remembered Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, Jacqueline was invited by Michael Dowling, CEO of North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, to give the commemoration's keynote address to more than 300 staff members. Jacqueline shared the stage with David Gewirtzman, Holocaust survivor, fellow activist and close friend. While acknowledging that the U.S. has come a long way since Dr. King's days, the pair spoke about the remaining important work in teaching tolerance and peaceful coexistence in America's diverse society.

### ***Jacqueline Addresses Students at Harvard Kennedy School of Government***

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, February 2008 — Jacqueline was invited by the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard's JFK School of Government to speak at Human Rights Week. While in Cambridge, she met Pulitzer Prize winning author Samantha Power who said she would help Jacqueline with *Jacqueline's Corner's* genocide prevention educational programs. "Survivors like you must be at the forefront of speaking out about genocide, and I will be more than happy to help advance your efforts in anyway I can," Power told Jacqueline.

### ***Jacqueline Speaks to Law School students at DePaul University College of Law***

CHICAGO, Illinois, March 2008 — Jacqueline traveled to Chicago to participate in DePaul University's College of Law's Human Rights Week. She addressed more than 100 law school students about the role of law in seeking to prevent genocide, and in bringing perpetrators to justice. She also talked to the students about possible volunteer and internship opportunities at the upcoming MCW Community Center in Rwanda.

### ***Women of Valor Award Goes to MCW/Jacqueline's Corner's Roberta Richin***

LONG ISLAND, NY, March 2008 — MCW Board of Directors member Roberta Richin was honored by the AJC-Long Island Chapter at their annual Women of Valor event for her community service work, especially in education. Jacqueline introduced Roberta and gave the keynote speech at this special event.

### ***Jacqueline's Corner Goes West***

SAN FRANCISCO, California, April 9-11, 2008 — World Affairs Council of Northern California held its annual Global Philanthropy Forum, in which opinion shapers from around the world came together to discuss global challenges. Jacqueline presented MCW and *Jacqueline's Corner* on a panel titled "Fragile Successes: Rwanda and Northern

Uganda." Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Irish Prime Minister Mary Robinson opened the conference, which also featured Pulitzer Prize winner Samantha Power and former E-bay founder Jeff Skoll.

### ***Jacqueline's Corner Travels South to Florida***

MIAMI, Florida, April 2008 — Jacqueline was invited by Hillel Second Generation, a Jewish University student community in Miami, to speak at their Passover meal about the need to be globally aware. She also participated in the ReACT event, a Darfur Awareness event organized by Righteous Pictures and Hillel Second Generation, which was attended to by more than 300 guests.

### ***Rwanda Survivors Deliver Keynote at 2008 Yom HaShoah Commemoration***

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 2008 — Jacqueline joined survivor Yolande Mukagasana as a speaker at the 2008 American Jewish Committee's (AJC) Yom HaShoah Commemoration. In front of an audience of more than 1,000 people, she spoke about how genocide remains "a major threat facing humanity," urged the audience to remember the victims of the Holocaust by "redoubling their commitments to fighting the ideology of genocide." Jacqueline and Yolande received the 2008 AJC *Moral Courage Award* in acknowledgement of their commitment to genocide prevention.

### ***Jacqueline Inspires Teachers of Grand Avenue Middle School***

LONG ISLAND, NY, May 2008 — MCW Board of Directors member Roberta Richin and the Grand Avenue Middle School Principal Lewis Serra invited Jacqueline to speak to students about fighting racism, anti-Semitism, and intolerance. Principal Serra and the teachers were so moved by the presentation that they have expressed interest in having this middle school be one of the first schools where *Jacqueline's Corner* curriculum will be used

### ***Special Relationship with Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County Continues***

NASSAU COUNTY, New York, 2003 to present – Since 2003, Jacqueline has joined David Gewirtzman in more than 100 speaking engagements. David, a member of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, has exposed Jacqueline to the work of the center and, over the years, Jacqueline has volunteered in a number of genocide education events. This year and as part of the center's annual tolerance day program, Jacqueline spoke at Mephram High School on Long Island. She also participated in the Center's week long Holocaust and Genocide Summer Institute at Hofstra University. The center also recently released "Survivor Soulmates," a video that documents David's and Jacqueline's genocide prevention education work.

### ***Partnership with the Museum of Jewish Heritage Strengthened***

NEW YORK, NY, 2003 to present – For several years, Jacqueline has spoken at several Holocaust and genocide prevention education programs for teachers and students at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park. This year, she spoke at the annual teachers' workshop on how to teach genocide in their schools. She also participated in the museum's internship program, which brings graduate and undergraduate students together to learn how to teach the Holocaust to high school students. The museum also hosted this year's MCW's Commemoration of the Rwanda genocide.

### ***Cooperation with AJC Advanced***

Since 2003, Jacqueline has developed a special relationship with the American Jewish Committee (AJC), particularly in the areas of genocide prevention and youth leadership. She has developed a special relationship with AJC's ACCESS program, which aims to engage young Jewish professionals in global affairs. More specifically, Jacqueline spoke at ACCESS' fundraiser, which raised funds to purchase solar cookers for Darfur refugees in Chad. Plans are in the pipeline to plan a special event about MCW and different volunteer opportunities for AJC Access.

## **b. AWARENESS RAISING FORUMS ON THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE**

*Jacqueline's Corner aims to raise awareness about the crime of genocide by organizing educational public forums annually in April, the month commemorating the Rwanda genocide.*

### ***MCW Launches Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner at New York University***

NEW YORK, NY, April 2007 — On the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, MCW launched *Jacqueline's Corner* at NYU with an audience of more than 200 participants from academic, diplomatic, business, faith and non-profit communities. Rwandan UN Ambassador Joseph Nsengimana gave the opening remarks, followed by presentations from Dr. Yael Danieli, International Network for Holocaust & Genocide Survivors; Dr. Star Wood, Clinical Psychologist, Professor of Social Work at Albany University; Eugenie Mukeshimana, Rwanda survivor; and MCW board members.

### ***MCW Holds a Two-Day Special Awareness Raising Program in NYC***

NEW YORK, NY, April 2008 — MCW held its first two-day genocide education program beginning with a discussion on "Rwanda Genocide Remembered: Commemoration in Film and Dialogue." The program was hosted by the Museum of Jewish Heritage and attended by more than 200 people. The second part of the program, titled "Never Again? Implications and Actions around the World," took place at NYU and moved beyond Rwanda to talk about 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century genocides. Participants included Armenian advocate Karine Birazian, Holocaust survivor David Gewirtzman, Rwanda survivor Eugenie Mukeshimana, Bosnian advocate Meliha Pihura, and Darfur advocate Gouma Hari Mahamat.

### **c. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Jacqueline Looks for Publisher for her Manuscript on 1994 Genocide***

Jacqueline hopes to secure an agent/publisher for her manuscript on the 1994 Rwandan genocide, her personal experience in Rwanda and in the U.S., and her work at MCW in the coming year. With success, Jacqueline plans to use the book as another tool to further *Jacqueline's Corner* genocide prevention work.

#### ***Five Rwandan Youth Participate in MCW's Youth Leadership Retreat in July 2008***

BURLINGTON, Vermont and NEW YORK, NY, July 2008 — Every summer, MCW brings together 50 youth from around the world for an intense leadership training program. In 2008, youth from the U.S., Tanzania, Nigeria, Haiti, China, India, Israel and the West Bank participated in the week-long July event. With the help of *Jacqueline's Corner*, MCW brought five Rwandan youth and one Bosnian to the retreat, where they shared the difficulties of living in post-genocide environments, as well as their dreams to participate in their countries' progress. Jacqueline was among the various individuals from the business, non-profit, and educational communities who spoke to the participants about how they turned their personal visions into reality.

#### ***Jacqueline Interviewed for Moriah Films' Documentary on Genocide***

LONG ISLAND, NY, February 2008 — Academy Award winning production house Moriah Films is working in partnership with the Simon Wiesenthal Center to prepare a documentary on the stories and activism of genocide survivors, including Jacqueline's, from around the world.

#### ***Jacqueline Contributes to a Documentary on Genocide Survivors by Righteous Pictures***

MIAMI, Florida, April 2008 — Alongside young activists, artists and survivors of three genocides, Jacqueline shared her story in the documentary "The Last Survivor." Produced by Righteous Pictures, the documentary film explores genocide in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, focusing on the connection between the past and present and human relationships.

#### ***Using Ordinary Resources to Do Extraordinary Things***

NEW YORK, NY, August 2008 – Jacqueline contributed her voice to Kenneth Cole's book *Awareness: Using Ordinary Resources to Do Extraordinary Things*, a book dedicated to promoting global volunteerism and activism. President Clinton, Jon Bon Jovi, Don Cheadle, Lauren Bush and Ashley Judd also contributed to the book, which is scheduled for release this month.

#### ***Esquire Magazine Profiles Voices Against Genocide***

Jacqueline joined other Holocaust and Genocide survivors to help Samantha Power and John Prendergast raise awareness about the need to work together to end genocide in a photo layout in *Esquire* Magazine's issue, *Portrait of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The October issue profiled the 75 top most influential people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

---

## **5. FUNDRAISING**

#### ***A Great Start for Jacqueline's Corner***

COSTA MESA, California, November 3, 2007 — Victor Gruber held the first salon for MCW and *Jacqueline's Corner* in Costa Mesa. A philanthropist and entrepreneur, Gruber brought together his family, friends, and colleagues to learn about Rwanda's genocide and current challenges facing survivors, and to consider together how they can participate in Rwanda's rebuilding efforts. Thanks to Gruber's vision and leadership, significant funding was raised for a community center in Rwanda, helping *Jacqueline's Corner* get off to a great start!

#### ***High School Student Supports Jacqueline's Corner***

BETHLEHEM, Pennsylvania, April 19, 2008 — Sage DiPalma, a high school student, held a fundraising auction for *Jacqueline's Corner* as part of her senior project. When asked why she chose to have the event's proceeds go to *the*

*Corner*, Sage said she “was taken by Jacqueline’s refusal to despair and, instead, to take her tragic experience and use it to educate the public about genocide and to help genocide survivors. I am inspired by Jacqueline and this is my small way of trying to participate in this worthy cause.” The event was attended by community members, and the auction items were donated by local artists.

### ***Manhasset High School’s World of Difference Club Holds Fashion Show for Jacqueline’s Corner***

MANHASSET, NY, April 30, 2008 — Manhasset High School’s World of Difference Club held a fashion show to raise funds for *Jacqueline’s Corner*. “We have always used our fashion shows to support a diverse number of worthy causes, and we are pleased to use this year’s shows’ proceeds to support *Jacqueline’s Corner*, a program whose work and messages have really touched our students,” said Sheryl Cambria, the club’s Programs Manager. Sheryl said many students had been touched and wanted to do all they could to advance *Jacqueline’s Corner* mission.

### ***NY Community Activist Shows that One Can Truly Make a Difference***

NEW YORK, NY, June 1, 2008 — Mimi Saltzman held *Jacqueline’s Corner’s* second salon, which brought together her family, friends and New Shul Synagogue members to listen to Jacqueline speak about the challenges facing survivors in Rwanda. Mimi told Jacqueline that after hearing her speak at this year’s AJC-Long Island Chapter Women of Valor event, in which Ms. Saltzman’s mother was honored, she felt the need to get involved. “We all need to do the best we can. I’ve held many fundraisers for a variety of important causes, and I am glad to be adding your cause to that list.”

***End Note:*** *MCW and Jacqueline’s Corner would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the hundreds of people who have made individual contributions to Jacqueline’s Corner from the very beginning. Without your support and shared commitment to genocide prevention, we would not have accomplished so much!*

---

## **6. RECOGNITION**

### ***International Peace Ambassador Award***

NEW YORK, NY, February, 15, 2008 — Jacqueline received the *International Peace Ambassador Award* from International Ambassadors, a UN Youth Assembly Affiliate, for her work in promoting human rights and for her educational efforts in U.S.-based schools.

### ***Moral Courage Award***

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 1, 2008 — Jacqueline received the American Jewish Committee’s *Moral Courage Award*, which is given to individuals who have demonstrated moral courage under the worst of circumstances, and who amidst many opposing forces have dedicated their lives to fighting racism, anti-Semitism, and intolerance. AJC recognized Jacqueline for her commitment to using her experience to teach others, so that we might never forget.

### ***Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award***

NEW YORK, NY, May 9, 2008 — Jacqueline received the *Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award* from NECO (National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations). The medal is given annually to 100 immigrants who have made a positive impact on American society. The recipients are recognized in a ceremony on Ellis Island and their names entered in the U.S. Congressional Records. Notable past recipients include former Presidents Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. This year, Jacqueline became the youngest recipient award, sharing the stage with fellow recipients CEO of Coca Cola Neville Isdell, Dr. Samir Chowdhury and the owner and chair of the Pittsburgh Steelers Daniel Rooney.

---

## **7. SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FROM JACQUELINE**

The many successes enjoyed by *Jacqueline’s Corner* have been a result of the hard work of a number of individuals in the MCW Community. I first wish to thank MCW Board members for their support. My deepest gratitude also goes out to Eddie Bergman and Sharon Roling who provide me with daily strategic guidance and Alfred Hanssen, who has led our community development progress in Rwanda. I also want to thank the extraordinary group of interns who have volunteered with *the Corner* from the beginning, especially Sharon Hakakian for her critical contribution to all our communications, including this newsletter, and Kendra Miller for helping to plan the program’s events and preparing a media kit for the initiative. Thanks also to Yasmin Elachi, Khalid Elachi, and Kate Furey for their time, and support. Finally, the generous support of Victor Gruber, a California-based entrepreneur, has been critical in helping *Jacqueline’s Corner* get off to a strong start. We cannot thank him enough for his support. The future of *Jacqueline’s Corner* is certainly bright and we look forward to continuing to work to make the world a more tolerant and peaceful one—a world in which no one has to live in fear of being persecuted or murdered on the basis of identity.