



**Empower Educate Elevate**

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### **International Child Advancement, Inc.**

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## **Back To School Drive!**

We are collecting school supplies for our 3rd annual Back-to-School Drive from now until August 16th to benefit local refugee and immigrant students!

We have partnered with International Preparatory School at Grover Cleveland, Christ is the Answer International Fellowship Church, M&T Bank, Wexler Marketing Co., Inc., The W Spa and others to help over 300 children this year! The supplies will be distributed on Wednesday, August 18th after the children attend a **financial literacy/empowerment session** delivered by M&T Bank volunteers.

Join our efforts! You can easily donate school supplies here: [ICA Amazon Wish List](#) or monetary donations here: [www.childadvancement.org](http://www.childadvancement.org).

# Empowered Fashion Show Results



“

**COMING TOGETHER IS A  
BEGINNING; KEEPING  
TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;  
WORKING TOGETHER IS  
SUCCESS.**

The Empowered Fashion Show fundraiser was an amazing success as we managed to surpass our \$10,000 goal with the help of our ICA community! In total, we raised \$11,731, which will go towards the purchase of a small building.

The building will be used to host the computer and sewing vocational training programs on a more consistent basis, making them more accessible to the orphans.

Once again, thank you to all attendees, volunteers, and sponsors who made this years fundraiser a success!

Photos by Monika Zanni





## MODERATOR

SILVIA JOHNSTON IS A BANKER WITH OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, CURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR EMAIL MARKETING AT M&T BANK AND WILMINGTON TRUST. SHE IS ALSO AN ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR FOR AN HR PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SHARING HER WORK AND MULTI-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AS THE DAUGHTER OF KOREAN AND GERMAN IMMIGRANTS.

## PANELISTS



DAVID FEMI  
MANAGER OF  
MULTICULTURAL  
BANKING, AVP  
M&T BANK



DR. SUPARNA DUTTA  
CHIEF OF MEDICINE  
AT HARTFORD  
HOSPITAL



AIME MUKENDI, JR.  
BEST SELLING  
AUTHOR, SOCIAL  
MEDIA INFLUENCER



JIN YUN  
COMMERCIAL DATA  
STEWARD, VP | M&T  
BANK



ALFONSO URZA  
COMPUTER  
ENGINEER



SANDHYA SHARMA  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
EDUCATOR

# DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION FORUM

**TOPIC:** Cultural identity conflict is a struggle many refugees, immigrants and children raised in multicultural family homes experience while attempting to reconcile a culture that is foreign to their own or their parent's. This conflict often "travels" with an individual to school, throughout one's career and personal interactions making it difficult to find a sense of belonging.

Panelists shared their experiences with cultural identity conflict and explored how to navigate it at home, school and in the workplace in order to find/create acceptance & belonging.



## Words of Wisdom from our Panelists

*"When in Rome do as the Romans do but always remember to stay true to your roots and never forget where you come from"*  
Sandhya Sharma

*"We have to be advocates of our culture. It is our cultural diversity that unites us as a people. Your rich cultural heritage is what will set you apart."*  
David Femi

*"Be proud of your culture. Each experience builds you up, adds to your strength and it doesn't stop, we keep evolving"*  
Alfonso Urza

*"Remember the affirmations: I can overcome my demons. I am Aimezing. We are Amezing"*  
Aime' Mukendi Jr

*"Sprinkle your uniqueness to your communities"*  
Jin Yun

*"You can embrace the amazing in both cultures and still think critically"*  
Dr. Surpanna Dutta



# VOLCANO ERUPTION CRISIS RELIEF EFFORTS RESULTS

We are extremely grateful to everyone that generously donated towards the volcano relief efforts! The following is a summary of how your donations were put to great use!

## NOURISHMENT FOR GUAOA ORPHANAGE AND STREET CHILDREN

The first installment of funds were sent on Saturday, May 29th to the orphanage for nutritional needs. From there we sent funds weekly throughout the month of June to purchase and prepare warm meals for the children which they received twice a day. Given that so many Goma residents were without food and water at the height of the crisis, the children from the orphanage were sharing their meals with street children in the neighborhood. Over 100 children were fed weekly during the month of June!





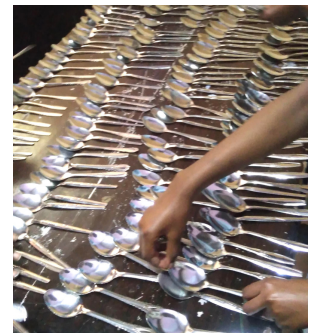
# VOLCANO ERUPTION CRISIS RELIEF EFFORTS CONTINUED

## STOLEN ITEMS REPLACED

Thanks to your donations, we have replaced items that were stolen from the orphanage which included mattresses, blankets, sheets, plates, cups, spoons and bowls. The funds also covered the cost for security to ensure the children are safe.

Without your assistance, the orphanage would have struggled to raise the money necessary to replace these important necessities.

Thank you!!

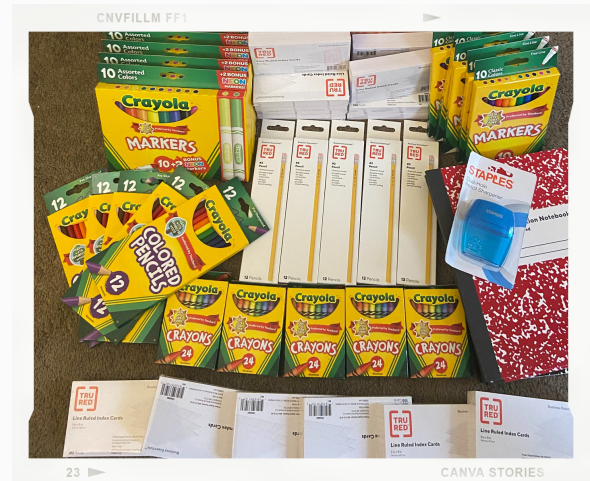


# BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

## A SPECIAL THANKS!

### LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The ICA family wants to give a big thank you to COW BUBBLE TEA! They donated 50 composition notebooks, 10 packs of markers, 5 packs of crayons, 5 packs of colored pencils, 10 packs of index cards, and 5 dozen of pencils!



### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A great big thanks to our local community for your monetary donations which allowed us to purchase 100 pre-filled backpacks!! We have also received a number of deliveries from our Amazon Wish List. Thank you!!



The back to school drive is not over yet, so please remember to share the word among your community! You can easily donate school supplies here: [ICA Amazon Wish List](#) or monetary donations here: [www.childadvancement.org](http://www.childadvancement.org).

**Thank You Sponsors, Partners and Donors!!**

We are extremely grateful to our event sponsor **Wexler Marketing Co., Inc.** who has supported our back to school drive for the 3rd year in a row!! Many thanks to our partners, International Preparatory School, Christ is the Answer International Church, M&T Bank, The W Spa and our community for donating!





## REPORT CARDS UPDATE

As a result of delays and school closures caused by the pandemic and volcano eruption crisis, the schools have opted to hold off with sending any additional report cards. They will release the 2020-2021 end of year report cards after the year-end exams near the end of August.

## TUNE IN!

Tune in on Monday August 16, 2021 at 10:00am to WUFO1080/Power 96.5 radio. ICA's Founder & Executive Director Evelyn Kessler will be interviewed on the program titled **Conversations with Jim Anderson**.

She will share why she founded ICA, the organization's accomplishments, future goals and how people can get involved.



## CORRESPONDENCE

Did you know that you can communicate with the child you sponsor? You can email your child a note to [SI@childadvancement.org](mailto:SI@childadvancement.org). From there, our Social Innovation team will translate the letter from English to French and will forward it to the orphanage. Please allow 2-3 weeks to receive a response from your sponsored child.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: [info@childadvancement.org](mailto:info@childadvancement.org).