

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



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Greetings from the Governor

May 2, 2005

I am delighted to extend warm greetings to all attendees of the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics and Skyview High School benefit dinner for the Africa/America Exchange to help build homes in Burundi. Please accept this message as an expression of my great esteem for your important efforts.

The evolving partnership between these two high schools and the people of Burundi is truly remarkable. What started out as an exchange of letters and e-mails has grown into a substantial undertaking to assist this Central African nation. This project is a shining example of young people maturely focusing on a difficult problem.

Central African countries in general, and Burundi in particular, are quite possibly the most neglected areas in the world. Their troubling history of civil war and famine has created a need for our assistance. Because of this, it is critical that we promote and celebrate efforts by our communities to alleviate poverty and foster peace.

For these reasons, I humbly thank all in attendance for their crucial assistance. We should also make special recognition of the extraordinary leadership shown by the students who made this event possible. On behalf of Washington State, I wish you all the best and hope you enjoy the evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine O. Gregoire".

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor