

# HOME

*What if you found the dangers of war on your doorstep and had only minutes to run for your life? What would you bring with you? What could you carry? What if you had to leave behind all of your belongings? What if you lost everything you had worked for? How would you earn a living? How would you support your family?*



Photo: IRC/Frank Ishman

## Immaculee and Jobert's Story

When Immaculee Harushimana left her homeland, her husband and her two young sons to finish her studies in the U.S., she never imagined that she wouldn't be able to return to live out her dream of a better life for her family in Burundi. When a violent war broke out in 1993 shortly after she left, those dreams shattered and a new dream emerged: to be reunited with her family in safety.

As her husband and their sons spent years hiding and moving from place to place in search of safety, across the world in New York City Immaculee did everything in her power to bring them to the United States. Twelve years later and with the help of the IRC, her new dream came true—but only partly. The day she called her husband to give him the good news, he was in a coma, and died shortly after. Immaculee and her older son Jobert, now a high-school senior, have finally made a home together in New York.



To learn more about refugees' journeys or to make a donation, please visit [FromHarmToHome.org](http://FromHarmToHome.org)

## IRC: Providing Refuge

For those refugees who gain entry to the United States for resettlement, it is an invaluable opportunity to get back on their feet and finally heal the wounds of war and trauma. For 75 years, the IRC has successfully assisted hundreds of thousands of refugees who have come to the US seeking safety and the chance to rebuild their lives. Refugees lose their homes, belongings, families and their homeland when they run for their safety. Many refugees struggle with traumatic memories of their past. Starting a new life in a foreign country isn't easy—refugees must start over from scratch, learning a new language as they build new lives in a foreign culture without much money.

The IRC is there at every step of the way to not only make the transition as smooth as possible, but also to

ensure that refugees and their families are successful in becoming self-sufficient in the US. From the moment the plane touches down, the IRC supports new refugee families as volunteers and case managers welcome them at the airport, providing weather-appropriate clothing and a hot meal.

In a foreign culture and language, doing even the most basic daily tasks can be difficult, confusing or even frustrating. IRC staff and volunteers make learning the ropes of American life easier by providing a cultural orientation and helping refugees to overcome a wide range of challenges from teaching them how to set up bank accounts to how to register their children for school.