

College Prep & Foundation Introduction Event Document

Event Title: Empowering Futures: College Prep & Mentorship for Refugee and underprivileged Students

Organized By: Raise Them Foundation

[Slide 1: About Raise Them Foundation]

“Raise Them Foundation, or RTF, is a youth-led nonprofit based in Kigali, Rwanda. We were founded in 2024 with a mission to empower refugee and underprivileged youth to access education, gain essential skills, and reach their full potential.”

“We believe that your background should never limit your future. Everyone — regardless of where they were born or the challenges they face — deserves a chance to grow, lead, and thrive.”

Note: Here we start with that video on one slide.

[Slide 2: Our Vision and Values]

“Our vision is a world where every young person — especially those displaced or underserved — has the opportunity to pursue quality education and build a purposeful life.”

“We are guided by four core values:

1. **Empowerment** – We equip youth to lead their own lives.
 2. **Inclusivity** – Everyone matters.
 3. **Integrity** – We lead with honesty and trust.
 4. **Innovation** – We think creatively to solve real problems.”
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[Slide 3: Who We Are: Raise Them Foundation]

Mission: Empower refugee and vulnerable youth through education, skills training, and mentorship.

Our Core Services:

- **Scholarship Assistance:** Guidance with scholarship identification and applications
- **College Prep Training:** Workshops, bootcamps, and personal development
- **Mentorship Program:** Connect students with trained mentors throughout the application process
- **Career & Life Skills:** Soft skills, leadership, communication, time management

Raise Them Foundation provides dedicated support through customized pathways for students from underserved backgrounds.

Mentorship & Ongoing Support

- How Raise Them Foundation mentors guide students
- Matching with mentors based on region, interest, or need
- Creating a support ecosystem of alumni, counselors, peers

[Slide 4: Why Education Matters]

For many refugees and underserved youth, higher education can seem out of reach.
You may ask:

1. **How do I apply to university?**
2. **Where do I find scholarships?**
3. **Who can help me through the process?**

“These are real questions — and our College Preparation Program was created to answer them.”

College prep

[Slide 5: What is College Preparation?]

“College preparation is more than just applying to university. It’s about building the mindset, skills, and tools needed to access higher education and succeed once you’re there.”

“Unfortunately, most schools don’t teach this. That’s where we come in — to guide you, step-by-step, through the journey.”

[Slide 6 : Why College & Higher Education Matter]

- Pathway to a better future and personal growth
- Opportunities for leadership, global exposure, and career readiness
- Case examples of refugee students who succeeded through higher education

The College Prep Journey: Step-by-Step Breakdown

1. Understanding the College Landscape

- Types of universities: public, private, liberal arts, technical
- Global options: USA, UK, Canada, Africa, Europe, etc.
- Majors and academic programs explained

2. Planning Timeline

Grade	Action Steps
10–11	Explore colleges, focus on grades, join clubs, start thinking about majors
12 (Term 1)	Build college list, gather materials, prep for standardized tests
12 (Term 2)	Write essays, get recommendations, apply for scholarships
12 (Term 3)	Submit final documents, track decisions, plan financial aid and travel

[Slide 7: College Application Components]

- **Application form:** Biographical & educational info
- **Transcripts:** Academic history
- **Standardized tests:** SAT/ACT, TOEFL/IELTS (if required)
- **Personal statement/Essays:** Show your journey, motivation, goals

- **Letters of recommendation:** From teachers, mentors
- **Extracurricular activities:** Volunteer work, leadership roles, hobbies

4. Writing Winning Essays

- Use a compelling story structure: Hook, Body, Reflection
- Be authentic, specific, and reflective
- Sample prompts and brainstorming included

5. Resume & Activities List

- Key sections: Education, Leadership, Community Involvement, Awards
- Keep to one page, use action verbs, quantify impact

6. Interview Preparation

- Why interviews matter: scholarships, admissions
- Common questions & how to answer them confidently
- Mock interview practice

[Slide 8 : Financial Aid & Scholarships]

- Types of financial aid: merit-based, need-based, external scholarships
 - Application components: income proof, essay, recommendation
 - Notable opportunities: Mastercard Foundation, Ashinaga, DAAD, Chevening, national/local funds
 - How to apply for FAFSA (USA), other aid systems
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Resources & Takeaways

- **Toolkit Handouts:**
 - College application checklist
 - Essay outline templates
 - Resume examples
 - List of scholarship platforms
- **QR Codes/Links:**
 - Raise Them Foundation sign-up
 - Online resource portals (e.g., Common App, CollegeBoard and Meto)
- **Contact:** Event leaders, local mentors, and Raise Them Foundation

Closing & Call to Action

- Encourage students to believe in their potential
- Remind them they're not alone, a community is here to support them
- Invite them to sign up for mentorship and attend follow-up sessions

Quote to End: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela