

A Ministry That Enables Families to Serve

September 10th



Open below to see **4 more pictures**.

In 1909, missionary Charles Hurlburt faced a dilemma. He could send his children to England to receive an education, or he could remain in Kenya and continue the work God had called him to. He wanted to do both.

His solution would eventually become [Rift Valley Academy](#).

“RVA is a unique international community, bringing together students and staff from many cultures and backgrounds, united by a shared faith and a common purpose. It is our desire that every student who comes here feels known, valued, and encouraged to grow into the person God has created them to be...”

— William Ripley, Superintendent

More than 100 years ago, Hurlburt asked a new missionary Josephine Hope to teach his children in Kenya. Together, they began making plans for dormitory and classroom space, and that same year, President Theodore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of RVA’s main building, Kiambogo.

What began with one missionary family’s need has grown into a ministry serving hundreds of missionary children from around the world.

For many missionary families, that sense of community is one of the things that makes RVA such a special place.

“I feel like there’s no better place to raise our kids. The character and quality of the people that make up this close-knit community, the simpler way of life, the greater mission, and the overlap of our family life and ministry is a unique and powerful combination.”

— Jill Wills, RVA staff member

Today, Rift Valley Academy is a Christian boarding school in central Kenya, serving students from dozens of nationalities, churches, and sending organizations. Its mission remains much the same as it was at the beginning: **educating and discipling students toward their potential in Christ, thus enabling families to serve.**

“It is such a privilege to incorporate God’s truth into every lesson, and I absolutely love to hear my students pray. Someone has said these are the best kids in the world. I would have to agree.”

— Joyellen Hazard, RVA teacher

And the impact of that investment goes both ways.

“While technically I may be teaching my students math, more often than not, these students are teaching me – everyday conversations reveal wisdom and maturity beyond their years.”

— Sheri Daubenmier, RVA teacher

“As an art teacher, there is something very fulfilling in the realization that I am just a tool in the Master Potter’s hand as He leaves His fingerprints on His eternal artwork.”

— Ed Rothfus, RVA teacher

“Sports help teach about life. RVA coaches are passionate about their sport but even more passionate about the opportunity it gives to mentor young men and women, bringing them closer to Christ.”

— RVA football coach

Enabling Families to Serve

“As a dorm mom, I am beyond encouraged when parents of our dorm girls remind me that they couldn’t do what they do if we weren’t here. Knowing that my role loving and supporting these girls is allowing the gospel to go out among unreached peoples and bring Christ the glory He deserves is what makes me excited to be at RVA.”

— Megan Hood, RVA dorm parent

This is perhaps the most important part of RVA's ministry.

When missionary parents know their children are being educated, cared for, disciplined, and loved, they can focus on the ministry God has called them to.

One missionary parent put it simply:

“By loving my kids you love me. It is such a blessing as a parent to know my kids are well taken care of. When they are being taken care of, I can focus on what I need to do.”

— Jeff, Working with a Semi-Nomadic Tribe in Northern Kenya

Another parent shared how important it was for their child to have a community where she could thrive:

“She was surviving there [in the village], but not thriving there... But she thrived at RVA, and they walked her through the process of getting ready for university in ways we never could have done.”

— Carrie, Missionary Parent

“To be able to worship with people her own age, to be fed by other people and not just by us, is huge. It gives us the courage to obey God’s calling for our continued ministry in Uganda.”

— Jill, Missionary Parent

In this way, RVA's ministry extends far beyond the students on its campus. **By caring for missionary children, RVA helps care for the families who are serving around the world.**

Investing in the Future of Missions

That investment has a long-term impact.

“Teaching at RVA feels like an investment in the future of missions. With a disproportionately large percentage of RVA grads returning to missions or full-time Christian ministry after college, participating in guiding these MKs through their teen years is an honor and a privilege.”

— Sheri Daubenmier, RVA teacher

RVA intentionally seeks to give students a global perspective and prepare them to serve a world that needs Jesus.

“I love learning alongside RVA students. Their passion for the unreached, their vision for the world, their dreams and aspirations, all challenge me to look within and beyond wherever I may live to see where Christ is working and to join Him as He builds His kingdom.”

— Mary Howell Hafner, RVA staff member

For more than a century, RVA has been part of that work—educating students, supporting missionary families, and helping prepare the next generation to participate in God's mission around the world.

And that is what makes Rift Valley Academy more than a school.

It is a ministry that helps families serve, invests in students, and ultimately seeks to see Christ proclaimed among the nations.

Respond and Encourage

Taking a second to respond to this update makes a big difference for Africa Inland Mission Canada.

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Could You Serve at Rift Valley Academy?

September 21st



RIFT VALLEY
A C A D E M Y

2027-2028 STAFFING NEEDS

RVA is looking for teachers, student wellness supports, interns and dorm parents. Check out the needs here.

RVA.ORG



Open below to see **11 more pictures**.

What if your gifts, experience, and skills could become part of the ministry of Rift Valley Academy?

Maybe that means teaching a class. Maybe it means welcoming students into a dorm, caring for their physical or emotional wellbeing, maintaining the campus, supporting the administration, or simply being someone who shows up and invests in the lives of young people.

There are many ways to serve at RVA—and each one helps create a community where missionary kids can learn, grow, and thrive while their parents serve across Africa.

Where Might You Fit?

For the **2027–2028 school year**, RVA is currently looking for:

Academics

- Head of High School
- Elementary Teachers
- Junior High Teachers
- High School Teachers

Student Life

- Dorm Parents
- RVA Intern Team

Student Wellness

- Counsellor
- Child Safety Officer
- Physiotherapist

Other

- Maintenance Supervisor
- Administrative Support

[Explore the current opportunities at RVA →](#)

Perhaps you're an experienced teacher. Perhaps you work in healthcare, administration, counselling, maintenance, or student care. Or perhaps you simply have a heart for young people and a desire to serve overseas.

There may be a place for you at RVA.

Serving at RVA means becoming part of a community, investing in students, and supporting the missionary families who are serving across Africa.

So take a look at the opportunities. Pray about it. Talk with your family and your church and [set up a time to talk to one of our Mobilizers](#) to get more information.

Could God be calling you to serve at RVA?

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