FRIENDS CAREER CENTER

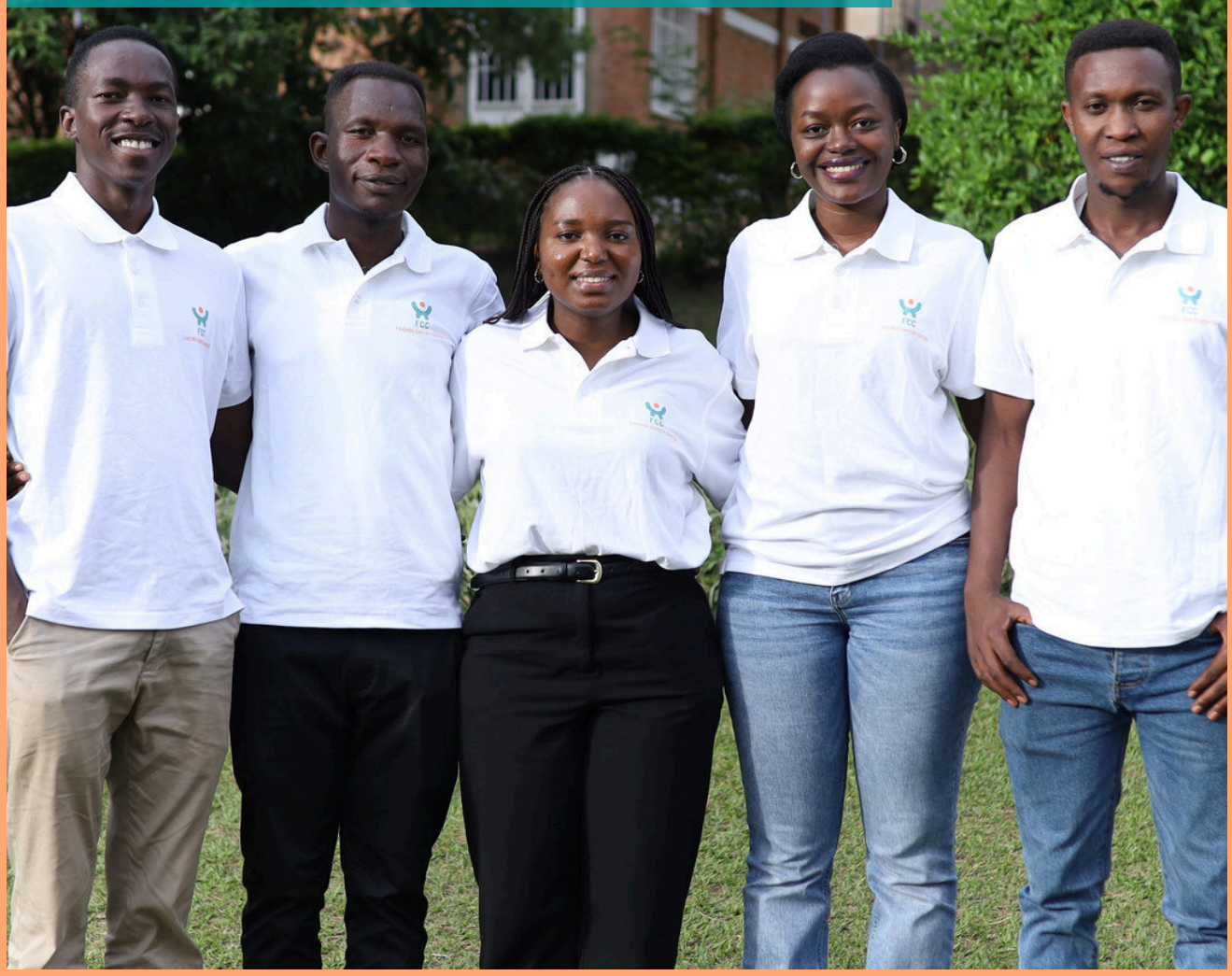
2026
QUARTER 1 IMPACT REPORT

Prepared By:
Friends Career Center Team

friendscareercenter.org

FRIENDS CAREER CENTER

FCC
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IMPACT REPORT 2026
QUARTER 1

A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDERS

A Message from Our Founders



Joyeuse Senga
Co-Founder



Sandrine Ishimwe
Co-Founder

“

As we reflect on Q1 2026, we are grateful for the continued growth and impact of Friends Career Center (FCC), made possible by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, mentors, participants, partners, and supporters.

Through our Mentorship Program, Growing Together, and EcoFriends initiatives, we invested in youth leadership, mentorship, and civic engagement. Through SheCreates and EmpowerHer, we supported over 30 women and vulnerable youth in building sustainable livelihoods through entrepreneurship and vocational training. Through Ubugeni Bwomora, we continued promoting mental health and resilience among adolescents living with HIV through the transformative power of art.

Our community’s dedication continues to inspire us. We remain committed to creating opportunities for young people to grow, realize their potential, and lead. We sincerely thank everyone who supports our mission.

> **Together, we are building bridges and opening doors.**

Joyeuse Senga & Sandrine Ishimwe
Co-Founders, Friends Career Center

WHO WE ARE

About Friends Career Center

Friends Career Center (FCC) is a youth-led social enterprise committed to breaking cycles of poverty by empowering underserved youth in Canada and Rwanda.

OUR WORK IN THREE PILLARS

1 PILLAR 1 Mentorship, Leadership & Civic Engagement

Mentorship Program

Connects young people with experienced professionals who provide guidance, skill-building, and network expansion.

Growing Together

A leadership and mentorship initiative that brings together young Quakers across East Africa to strengthen relationships, deepen their faith, and develop the skills to lead positive change in their meetings and communities.

EcoFriends

Empowers young people to become environmental leaders through climate awareness, environmental stewardship, and school-based engagement.

2 PILLAR 2 Economic Empowerment

SheCreates Fellowship

A one-year entrepreneurship fellowship that equips young women with the knowledge, confidence, and financial tools needed to start and grow small businesses.

EmpowerHer Program

Provides young women with vocational skills, entrepreneurship training, mentorship, and seed funding to help them launch sustainable businesses and improve household income.

3 PILLAR 3 Mental Health & Well-Being

Ubugeni Bwomora: Art that Heals

Uses art, storytelling, and creative expression to help HIV-positive youth process stigma, trauma, and isolation, and build self-acceptance, resilience, and hope. Led by Agape Ishimwe, who himself grew up living with HIV, the program creates a safe, judgement-free space where young people discover that their lives are more than their diagnosis.



JANUARY TO MARCH 2026

Q1 2026 at a Glance









PILLAR 1 · LEADERSHIP

22

young Quakers from 6 countries in the Growing Together pipeline

PILLAR 2 · ECONOMIC

20

SheCreates fellows trained, each with a business plan and pitch

PILLAR 2 · ECONOMIC

38

applications received for EmpowerHer Cohort 3

PILLAR 2 · ECONOMIC

13

young women enrolled in EmpowerHer Cohort 3

PILLAR 2 · ECONOMIC

3

EmpowerHer graduates completed vocational training and moved into internships

PILLAR 3 · WELL-BEING

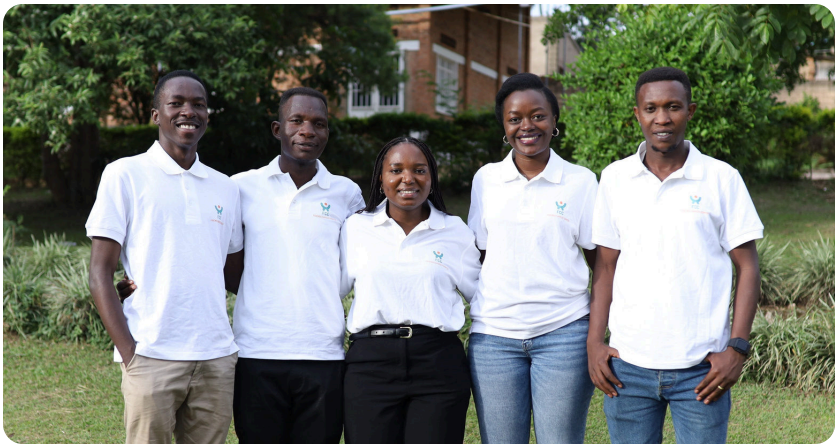
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international conference presentation (CAACC 2026)

PILLAR 1

Mentorship, Leadership & Civic Engagement

Through our Mentorship Program, Growing Together, and EcoFriends initiatives, FCC continued investing in youth leadership, mentorship, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship in Q1 2026.



22

young Quaker leaders from 6 countries

Growing Together regional gathering

01 Mentorship Program

Applications reviewed, selection criteria strengthened, and cohort launch planned for 2026.

02 EcoFriends

Tree monitoring at Quaker schools, World Wetlands Day participation, and climate advocacy content produced.

03 Growing Together

Regional gathering planned for 22 young Quaker leaders from Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, and DRC.

04 Looking Ahead

FCC aims to finalize logistics, confirm participants, and secure the resources necessary to convene this important regional leadership event.

COUNTRIES IN THE GROWING TOGETHER PIPELINE

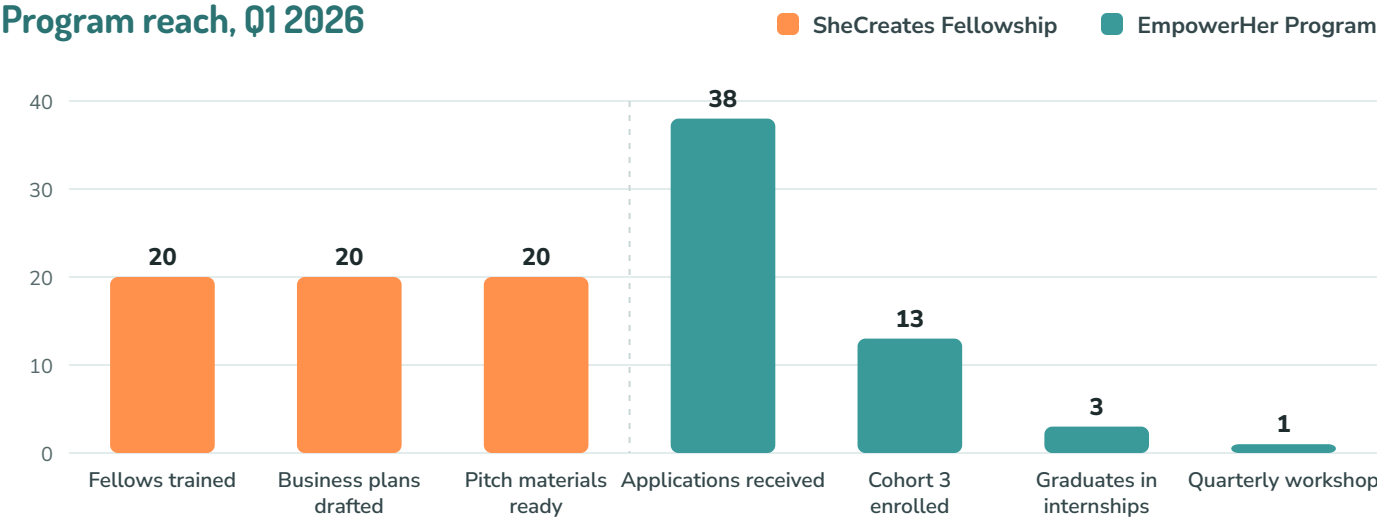
Rwanda · Burundi · Uganda · Ghana · Kenya · DRC

PILLAR 2

Economic Empowerment

Through SheCreates and EmpowerHer, FCC supported young women to build skills, start businesses, and move into work in Q1 2026.

Program reach, Q1 2026



SheCreates Fellowship

The program successfully trained 20 fellows, each of whom developed a business plan and prepared pitch materials to support their entrepreneurial journey. The curriculum covered business development, digital marketing, financial literacy, investor pitching, storytelling, M&E, and legal and ethical entrepreneurship. The fellowship is now in the implementation phase, where participants apply their learning and start business activities.

EmpowerHer Program

The EmpowerHer Program received 38 applications, enrolled 13 participants into Cohort 3, supported 3 graduates in securing internships, and held 1 quarterly workshop. The workshop focused on strengthening participants' self-awareness, communication skills, confidence, and career readiness to support their personal and professional development.





PILLAR 2 · ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

SheCreates Voices of Impact






> Leading Change: Innovation & Adaptability for Entrepreneurs taught me how to monitor my business performance and make better decisions for growth.

Claire Uwase
SheCreates Fellow

> This program helped me understand why I am doing my business, the problems I am solving, and who my target customers are. I learned how to stand out from other businesses by being creative and building something unique.

Emelyne Igiraneza
SheCreates Fellow

> Starting a business is never smooth or easy, but you only truly fail when you give up. That's why I no longer have the word 'GIVE UP' in my business dictionary.

Joselyne Uwera
SheCreates Fellow

> SheCreates training helped me set clear business goals and understand where my business is now and where it is going.

Sandrine Umuhoza
SheCreates Fellow

> Through the session Building Your Foundation: Legal & Ethical Entrepreneurship, I gained essential knowledge and practical skills that are shaping my business journey. I learned the importance of formally registering my business, which not only builds trust with investors but also reflects a clear vision and mission. Overall, this session gave me both the legal understanding and the entrepreneurial mindset needed to run a responsible and impactful business.

Alice Uwera
SheCreates Fellow

> SheCreates training strengthened my ability to anticipate market changes and proactively adapt my business strategies.

Diane Uwamahoro
SheCreates Fellow

> The SheCreates program is helping me move from the ideation phase to becoming a successful business owner. I've learned so much about how to tell my story and make my idea actually come to life.

Blaise Mudahemuka Ishimwe
SheCreates Fellow

PILLAR 2 · ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

EmpowerHer Voices of Impact





13
enrolled in Cohort 3

3
graduates now in internships

> I grew up in a difficult situation and saw this program as a life-changing opportunity. Today, I am doing my internship and gaining real experience in hairdressing. I am thankful to FCC for guiding me and helping me build my future.

Devothe Nyirangendahimana
EmpowerHer participant

> Joining FCC gave me hope and skills for a better life. Today, I am in my internship and already starting to see opportunities come my way. I am thankful for the support and training I received, which is helping me move forward with confidence.

Deborah Irumva
EmpowerHer participant

> Life was very difficult after I lost my mother at a young age, and I later found myself alone and pregnant. Joining FCC changed my life. Today, I have completed my training in hairdressing and I am ready to start working. I am deeply grateful to FCC for giving me a second chance.

Vestine Naberaho
EmpowerHer participant

> Before FCC, I had no clear direction. Now, after completing my training, I have started getting small jobs from clients. This has given me confidence and hope. I am very grateful to FCC for this opportunity.

Valentine Iradukunda
EmpowerHer participant

PILLAR 3

Mental Health & Well-Being

Through Ubugeni Bwomora, FCC continued promoting mental health and resilience among adolescents living with HIV through the transformative power of art.







Ubugeni Bwomora: Art that Heals

An innovative mental health initiative, originally launched in 2023 in Karongi District. It supports adolescents living with HIV through creative expression, confidence-building, and resilience, using an art-based approach proven to promote emotional well-being.

Q1 2026 Milestones

- Presented at CAACC 2026 (Canada–Africa Academic Collaborations Conference)
- Expanded international academic networks
- Exploring funding for a new participant cohort
- Pursuing IAC participation

Art is not just expression. It is survival, resilience, and belonging.
Ubugeni Bwomora gives young people their voices back.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Reflections & Organizational Themes



01 Building leadership

Youth are showing strong interest in mentorship, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. FCC programs create spaces to learn, connect, and lead.

02 Expanding opportunities for women

SheCreates and EmpowerHer continue investing in entrepreneurship pathways, vocational skills, and economic independence for women and girls.

03 Strengthening partnerships

Partnerships with schools, Quaker institutions, and international collaborators remain essential to FCC's impact and sustainability.

04 Resource mobilization

Sustainable funding remains the greatest challenge. Additional investment is needed to expand reach and strengthen organizational capacity.



LOOKING FORWARD

As FCC continues its mission, we remain committed to creating opportunities that empower young people to build sustainable livelihoods, strengthen their communities, and become leaders of positive change.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

THANK YOU

Together, We Are Creating Lasting Impact

To our donors, partners, mentors, volunteers, and supporters,

Thank you for your continued trust, generosity, and commitment to Friends Career Center. Your support has empowered young people with mentorship, entrepreneurship, leadership opportunities, vocational skills, and mental health support.

Every achievement in this report reflects the difference we are making together. We look forward to continuing this journey with you as we create more opportunities and transform more lives.

Together, we are building skills, creating opportunities, and transforming lives.

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Thank you!

Q1 2026 · JANUARY TO MARCH



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