



Yohani Kayinamura '04, Ph.D.

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President and Founder, Umuryango Children's Network



At La Roche College, Yohani Kayinamura yearned to make a difference in the world.

“My first year at La Roche College was like one of those dreams you do not want to wake up from,” he explained. “Through my Christian belief and the inspiration from many great friends I made at the college and its neighborhood, especially the late Monsignor Kerr, I was ignited with a burning desire to make a small difference in somebody’s life.”

This desire led Kayinamura to adopt a homeless child during his sophomore year at La Roche. The adoption resulted in the Umuryango Children’s Network, a nonprofit organization that seeks to help Rwandan street children transform from isolated outcasts to productive citizens.

Kayinamura, who teaches chemistry at Daytona State College, said La Roche College was his home away from home. “The presence of so many smart, international students made La Roche College a rare multicultural community that was so perfect for a 21st century young learner,” he explained. “I cannot recall a single week that went by without a rich cultural or national celebration. Having been always interested in learning about people and other cultures, La Roche College was my true door to the world.”

