

INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDER OF AFRICA'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE INITIATIVES

by Tamara Chapman



Even before she claimed her PhD in human communication studies in 2007, Karambu Ringera began using her University of Denver education to help the people of her native village, Meru, and her home country, Kenya, contend with the challenges arising from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

While still a doctoral student, Ringera founded International Peace Initiatives to help families affected by the disease, and after graduating, she returned home to accelerate her efforts, helping women start jewelry-making enterprises, ensuring that children who lost a parent to the disease could go to school, and creating the Amani Home for orphaned and vulnerable children. The home — which has emerged as a model for other such endeavors — keeps children within their village, allowing them to attend their local school and maintain close relationships with extended families.

Ringera's early work was chronicled in a 2004 University of Denver Magazine article, and in spring 2010, she returned to campus to share her vision at a TEDxDU event. In May 2015, she was awarded the Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award from the Divisions of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. While in Denver to accept the award, Ringera sat down with the University of Denver Magazine to talk about her recent activities and latest projects. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

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