

About Asante Ministries, Canada

Our History

In 1999, four years after the Rwandan genocide that claimed more than one million people, Amon Munyaneza the founder of Asante had an opportunity to return to his home country of Rwanda after more than thirty years in exile. Amon grew up as a refugee child in Uganda after his parents fled Rwanda in the 1950's during the civil war that claimed and displaced thousands of his people. Upon his return to Rwanda, Amon realized that thousands of children in Rwanda were roaming the streets naked, hungry and desperate for care. Having grown up as a refugee child with very little, he quickly identified with the children of Rwanda and with only thirty dollars to his name, he founded an organization that would raise awareness for the desperate plight of the Rwandan children. By 2007, the organization was supporting close to one thousand children in Rwanda and running two full time schools for the most disadvantaged children in Butare, the Southern province of Rwanda.

In the same year, Amon and his wife Erica felt a call to promote and share the happiness and gratitude they were witnessing among the happy sponsored children. The Asante children's choir was formed as a living thank-you note and a voice for many more children who still needed help to go to school.

In July 2007, Erica and Amon selected 24 gifted children from more than 500 orphaned and vulnerable children in Rwanda. After a year of training, the Asante Choir arrived in Portland, Oregon for their first Sound of Hope tour and for 90 days, the 24 happy and vibrant children toured amongst their sponsors, performed in schools and Church communities and had an opportunity to experience a new world. While touring, the children were exposed to a wide variety of learning experiences from the American host families and church community groups and by the time the 24 children returned to their routine in Rwanda, they had not only touched and encouraged thousands of Americans but had also been exposed to many new ideas and possibilities.

The story of the Choir continues today as more children are given the same opportunity accorded to the first group of 24 pioneers. We hope that you will join us to continue this story as new children are trained and encouraged to dream beyond possibilities.

Mission

Asante's mission and founding principles come in part from James 1:27, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." Asante accomplishes this mission by nurturing physical health, providing educational empowerment and sharing the hope that is found in Christ.

Vision

Our vision is to help create environments where children and those most in need are given hope for a better future and the tools to make that future a reality.

Values

Asante's values are based on human dignity created when people are empowered by a living faith, granted physical well-being and given the educational tools to thrive in life. We value love expressed in "action and truth." (1 John 3:18)

What We Do

1. Child Sponsorship

Child sponsorship enables individuals to personally invest in the life of an orphaned or needy child in Africa by making a long-term financial commitment of \$41 per month or \$492 per year.

A sponsored child receives the following benefits:

- **Education** – Only ½ of children in many communities can afford to go to school. Education provides them with tools to become responsible and able citizens. A sponsored child who attends an Asante-funded school is taught by qualified teachers, offered tutoring, given the option to take advantage of extra-curricular activities such as music and art, receives school fees, school uniforms, shoes, necessary supplies, and is served a daily hot meal.
- **Health Care** – A sponsored child receives basic health care as needed. Children often die of simple diseases such as malaria every day, therefore, this basic health care can save lives at a small cost. More than 150 children out of every 1,000 under the age of 5 will die from preventable causes this year alone.
- **Nutritional Supplements** – A severely malnourished child receives extra supplementation until it is no longer necessary. Asante staff evaluate each situation to determine the type of necessary supplementation.

- **Family Support** - Asante also offers support to the single or widowed mothers of Asante sponsored children by giving them an opportunity to learn the trade of sewing when they live close enough to go to the school. We also provide HIV/AIDS counseling to mothers who are infected but still providing for their families.
- **Discipleship** - Each child in our sponsorship program attends our Saturday Children's Club. They have the opportunity to be involved in singing, dancing, and sports and they also receive spiritual discipleship. All these activities serve to build a child's sense of self-worth and help develop his/her social skills.

Where we Work

Asante's work is focused on regions that are recovering from wars, disasters and abject poverty. At this time we support programs in Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.