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Asante Africa Growing Strong

Donors made a big difference in 2006!

Asante sana, or “*many thanks*” to all who contributed to the projects we completed in 2006. Your collective enthusiasm and caring spirit made education possible for many children in a very short period of time. Money, supplies, and volunteer efforts were transformed into opportunity and joy in the following ways:

Migungani Nursery School, Mto wa Mbu, Tanzania

- Built a classroom and outhouses for 110 children
- Furnished class with desks and book shelves
- Provided food and school supplies for all students

Jangwani Primary School, Mto wa Mbu, Tanzania

- Added 2 classrooms
- Delivered 500+ textbooks
- Began a music program with a guitar & 127 flutes
- Funded 3 young women who scored in the top 10% in primary school, for Secondary School in 2007

Fulfilling the Dream of Education, Narok , Kenya

- Delivered 300 lbs of school and teaching supplies to 140 children at Ole Pairaita Primary School
- Funded 4 girls for Primary Boarding school
- Began construction on a dormitory for 36 girls



Asante Africa Foundation Vision

Every child deserves an education, regardless of the longitude or latitude in which they are born. Education leads to dreams and striving toward a better life for the child, the family, and the community. We help create a sustainable future by providing educational opportunities for children, improving the chances of a healthy thriving community.

Asante Africa Foundation Mantra.....We do what we say we will do!

It has been critical to build credibility in East Africa with our program managers and in the communities where we work. It has been equally important to demonstrate results to you, our donors and sponsors, by efficiently using funds for the proposed programs in the East African villages in which we work.

We carefully assess needs before we commit to any projects and create measurable and reasonable deliverables. We have begun the intricate process of establishing ourselves within the community, both here and abroad, as individuals that are dedicated to making a visible difference for Africa.

Letter from the President

2006 was a whirlwind year our fledgling foundation. We launched the organization, choosing a name for ourselves that captures our commitment to partnership. **Asante** is the Swahili word for thanks, representing appreciation for the rich learning and experiences we achieve, so much greater than what we are able to give.

Asante Africa Foundation incorporated as a non-profit organization in August 2006, and can accept fully tax deductible donations. While our 501(c)(3) IRS tax exemption status is being approved, we work under the Tri Valley Community Foundation's umbrella of Donor Advised Funds. We appreciate their support.

We are inspired and supported by amazing program managers in Africa—Emmy Moshi in Tanzania and Hellen Nkuraiya in Kenya. Emmy will be visiting us in April and May. We hope many of you can meet her.

We learned much this year to help us continue to succeed in 2007. We learned that providing schools, desks and books is only helpful if the children's basic needs are met with clean water and food at least once a day. So we piped water to one school, with another in progress. We are also funding porridge for children in the mornings to ease their hunger so they are ready to learn. We believe in locally purchasing as many supplies and goods as possible to put money into the community, and in paying local laborers and craftsmen so that through their work they can put food on their tables. Most importantly, we know we need to work within the local culture and not assume anything. Con-



Migungani's Regional Counselor, Asante Africa Board President Erna Grasz, and IntoAfrica/Asante Tanzania President Emmy Moshi

stantly guided by Emmy's phrase, "You are thinking like an American, not an African," we rely on our in-country partners and Kenyan-born Board members for guidance.

Our Board of Directors traveled to Tanzania and Kenya in January. We were deeply moved by the country, the children, and the opportunity to help make a change through our donors' contributions. We made many new friends on the other side of the globe who are passionate, grateful, and excited about the opportunities that Asante Africa Foundation is affording them. There is a role for everyone who wishes to be a global citizen and a part of something much bigger than any one of us. We hope you will join us this year in making a difference in the lives of the children and families of East Africa.

Asante, Erna Grasz

Jangwani Primary School in Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania

In September, we asked the 10 teachers who support the 780 children at Jangwani what they needed most. They showed us their two math books, used for 100+ children, and we saw their dire need for textbooks. They also needed desks for the children who were sitting on mud floors and rocks, as well as more classrooms to ease crowding.

Asante Africa took on the challenge and purchased more than 500 Swahili textbooks in all subjects and grade levels. The teachers were beyond excited as the



boxes of books arrived, knowing the impact they would have on their ability to teach students more effectively.

We also completed two classrooms that were started by the government, but remained unfinished for several years due to lack of funding. We opened the new classrooms with 40 new desks on January 8. The District Commissioner and local politicians joined the community in celebration, and blessed the new rooms with a great ceremony. In 2007, we plan to complete two more classrooms, and build a kitchen, dining hall, and more desks.



Students greeted us with a song of thanks that they wrote in English.

Migungani Nursery School in Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania

What began as a sparkle in Emmy Moshi's eye six months ago was made real by your donations and her tenacity. In a short time, our donors' tangible contribution turned that "sparkle" to a reality. By September, we were buying bricks and cement, hiring local laborers, and building 30



desks. On January 5th Asante Africa Foundation and IntoAfrica Eco-Travel turned over a beautiful school to the grateful and excited Migungani neighborhood of Mto wa Mbu village. The doors opened to 110 pre-school children and 2 teachers after grand ceremonies

that included the District Commissioner. It was heart warming to see the joy of families given the opportunity for early childhood education.

We hired a coach for community leaders for one year to learn how to manage the school and finances including a checking account, paying salaries, and buying porridge for a daily meal. In 2007 we will sponsor food and teachers salaries, and build a kitchen and dining room so they are not cooking and eating in the yard.

Four Girls Enroll in St. Mary's School in Kenya

In 2006, the Asante Africa Board met Hellen Nkuraiya, a Maasai woman who created a better life for herself through education. She is the principal and lead teacher at a remote school 2 hours from the town of Narok, Kenya.



Hellen Nkuraiya
Kenya Advisor

Hellen has helped create relationships with top tier boarding schools and identified academically talented students who need sponsorship. We are energized by her passion for educating Maasai girls. It costs just \$500 US per year for a girl's school fees, room and board, and supplies. Through our supporter's generosity, four girls entered St. Mary's School in Narok for 2007 to further their education and become a catalyst for change through their developed leadership.

The girls' families came to Narok to see their girls off on their first day of school. For many, it was their first

experience with electricity, television, seeing their faces in a mirror, and even climbing stairs since their homes are simple one-room "bomas" with dirt floors. Most precious was being able to see that their children are in safe keeping, and experiencing great opportunities. Our US travelers were touched by how simple basics can mean so much, and that entire families are learning and growing as a result of a child's sponsorship.

Girls Sponsored at St. Mary's



Although St. Mary's is a top tier school it struggles to meet students' needs, including sleeping space. In 2007, Asante Africa Foundation will complete a dormitory with 18 bunk beds for 36 girls by Spring term, and send more girls to the school. We are also seeking sponsors for several boys. We hope you will join us in making education possible for more students.

Building on our Momentum in 2007

Big goals are achieved through contributions of all sizes. Here's what your US dollars can provide in East Africa:

- \$8,000 builds a classroom
- \$500 sponsors a child to school for a year
- \$120 provides porridge for 1 month for 100+ kids
- \$90 builds 3 desks/beds/other furniture
- \$25 provides a child with 6 books

Nearly 90% of all donations go directly to programs in East Africa. We also recognize the importance of also investing in our infrastructure with about 10% of funds to ensure sustainability.

Goals for 2007

- Complete the St. Mary's dormitory, including beds and furniture
- Finish Jangwani primary classrooms; build a kitchen & dining hall
- Build a kitchen & dining hall at Migungani Nursery school, and provide a daily meal
- Build another 100 desks
- Sponsor at least 20 more children for school
- Pipe water to Kigongoni Primary School
- Refurbish the floors at Kigongoni Primary School
- Buy a piano for the Jangwani School music program
- Invest in a strong, efficient infrastructure for long term success



*Partnerships for a better
life worldwide*

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The power of one makes a difference!

A music teacher in a Tracy, California contacted Asante Africa Foundation last Fall after reading a newspaper article about the plight of children in East Africa. She wanted to help, and knew she hit on something when she learned that Jangwani Primary School desperately wanted to start a music program. Beth, the music teacher, kicked into high gear and enlisted her students, a local music store, and the community of Tracy to donate music recorders—those simple flutes used in US elementary schools to get kids acquainted with music. As a result of her energy and vision, we brought 127 music recorders and one guitar to Tanzania in January. Julian, the Jangwani teacher, was so elated that he immediately rounded up the local children to start practicing with the new instruments, even though school had not officially opened. He has big dreams for the children of Jangwani, and believes that music is a way for them to escape the challenges of their everyday life. Julian hopes to build on this dream some day by adding a piano to the school program—it's on our list of what we hope to provide to the school this year.

Music teacher Julian gathers the local children to begin practicing their music before the school term



How You Can Help...

Asante Africa is dedicated to giving every child the opportunity to get an education to help create sustainable, healthy communities...and we need your help. You can make a real, life changing impact:

Please donate! Every penny counts. \$4 buys a text book, \$30 builds a desk, \$20 buys 2 school uniforms, and \$500 sponsors a student in boarding school for a whole year.

- **Donate online** to the general fund, supporting the highest priority need.
- **Donate by mail** to the general fund, or specify a project and amount on your mailed check or money order to be used only for that purpose.
- **In-kind donations** are also needed. Current priorities include airline mileage for Foundation staff to oversee projects and for African contacts to come to the US for training We also need digital cameras to document progress overseas, office equipment and office space. Please call or email us if you can help.

Ask your company about Corporate matching. Asante Africa enthusiastically accepts corporate donations. Talk to your company about matching donations, and let us know how we can support you in completing the process.

Volunteer with us. Asante Africa Foundation is completely volunteer operated. If you would like to volunteer please phone or email us to get more information.

Spread the word and generate donations. Host a group presentation, or give yourself a birthday party with donations to Asante Africa as the gift. Forward this newsletter to expand the circle of awareness about our work. The more people who are interested in the Foundation the sooner we can provide the desperately needed services to the children and families in the Africa. Please contact us for more ideas.