

Mission: Empowering families to self-sustainability through education and training.

Vision: We see a network of our academic and vocational graduates lifting their families and communities out of poverty.



Summary of Activities and Accomplishments of ACSD in 2020

We brought more kids into schooling in 2020 than ever before - education and training that they would never have been able to afford. And with this education, like the hundreds of our sponsored kids before, they will find or create sustainable jobs and lift their families out of destitution. Activities of 2020:

- 7 in **university**; 3 graduated: Nursing, Teaching, Accounting
- 34 in **secondary boarding schools**, 14 graduated: Veterinary, Accounting, Science & Math, Arts.
- 60 youth in 6 mths **vocational training**: 55 unwed moms learning tailoring, hair dressing, shoe making. 5 boys learning welding, mechanics and carpentry
- 24 kids in **primary** who, otherwise, would eat nothing until dinner were enrolled in school lunch programs.
- Three **nursery school** classrooms for 95 kids being prepared for school and given lunch.
- Two **tailoring co-ops** created. Six mths training for 18 women, each provided a treadle machine.
- 22 young mothers of undernourished children **trained monthly in nutrition** and reproduction.
- 70 unwed mothers provided 3 days of **Reproductive Health Education**.

As always, our primary focus is on mothers raising kids below the poverty line. While education has the most sustainable outcomes, the basic needs of these single-mom families for shelter and food cry out for relief. We meet those as our resources allow:

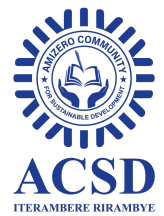
- **Renting a field** for 12 mothers to cultivate for 2 harvests a year.
- **Repaired roofs and collapsing walls** of 4 deteriorated adobe houses of widows.
- Built **45 raised bed gardens** and replaced **75** 3-stone cooking fires with safe, **smoke free stoves**.
- During Covid shutdown we provided **163 basic food packages** to desperate mothers.
- Provided **medical insurance** for 45 people.

The Initiative strength is its local leadership motivated by deep concern for struggling families. With careful application of our modest means they support the thirst for knowledge and the determination of youth to seize any opportunity for sustainable improvement of their lives. The photo album puts faces to our work. See also the photo stories on our website and blog: Copy and paste link - <https://www.innovativecommunities.org/>

100% of donations are spent on the project in Rwanda. All administration as well as my travel and expenses are contributed free of charge. Donations are made easily online or by check and tax receipts provided.

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Olivier, double orphan, was sponsored thru secondary, earned Univ. scholarship and graduated as pediatric nurse.



Secondary students, home due to Covid, join our Coordinator to build a widow's house.



45 young unwed moms started their 6 month vocational training to become tailors, shoe makers and beauticians capable of self-support.



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Trained single moms who formed a co-op receive their new treadle machines and personal power.



95 kids attend three nursery schools giving them orientation to learning as well as lunch. It also gives their moms freedom to work the fields and earn. Our Rwandan team treats each family as their own, improving their capacity to become self-sustaining.

