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## Rwanda Project Information



*Bicamumpaka family - Rwanda*

### *Our Partner-Organization*

In Rwanda, Help A Child works with the Christian organization African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE). This organization is active in many parts of the country. Their vision is that Rwanda would be a country where people can live together in peace. AEE strives to help improve the economic conditions of the people of Rwanda.

### *The Project*

AEE supports 2100 impoverished families through this project. Many of these families have members who are afflicted with HIV/Aids. Many families have taken the children of deceased brothers or sisters under their wings. In other cases grandparents take on the care of their grandchildren. There are also families with no adults in which the oldest child will care for his or her brothers and sisters.

The primary goals of the AEE in this project are:

- Families must be enabled to provide good care for the children they are entrusted with.
- Special attention is needed for the protection of, and assistance to, children who have no adults to care for them. Through mentor programs these children are supported without removing them from their native environment.
- Village communities are taught organizational skills which enable them to provide for their most vulnerable members.
- Information is provided concerning HIV/Aids, and volunteers are trained to care for Aids patients.
- Aid to families must be geared to each particular situation. To prevent families becoming dependent on aid, emphasis is placed on helping families develop a viable source of income. In this way families can become more self-sufficient each year.

### *Building Community*

The organization works with many volunteers who are active in their own villages dealing with similar problems. Among other things they strive to provide material and social support to the most vulnerable children. They enable and encourage children to return to school and help heads of households to find a means of income. This is accomplished by offering vocational training and helping villagers to form co-ops and self-help groups. These groups are able to pinpoint particular issues of concern for their village and work on possible solutions. Much emphasis is placed on the support and training of these groups.

By helping children and families the AEE provides invaluable support to communities. Aid that is provided often has a ripple effect for the entire village. Help A Child shares this vision. People who support children and families in this project know that they are contributing not only to one particular child or family, but also to the community as a whole. Through becoming active members of their communities, children and families are being offered a better future.