



OUR MISSION

To educate and empower the next generation of change agents, whose dreams and actions transform the future for Africa and the world.

Our Values

- **Pay-it-Forward:**
Sustainable success requires a web of connectivity and sets expectations of long-term commitment individually and as a community. Students sponsor siblings, program participants share their knowledge, and teachers train their colleagues, amplifying our impact.
- **Continuous Learning:**
Evaluating and refining our process at every step allows us to innovate, improve, and remain mindful of the needs being addressed.
- **Transparency & Accountability:**
We, and all of our local and international partners, are mutually accountable for all decisions and actions. Everyone is measured to the same high standard of integrity.
- **Partnerships:**
We achieve our best results by collaborating with local experts, educational professionals, and like-minded organizations to accelerate mutually developed plans.





FOUNDER STORY



“ Trust Your Instincts, Intuition, and Intellect. Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway.”

– Erna Grasz, CEO

Displaying tenacity and hard work to solve systemic problems, Erna Grasz leads a team that is innovating and making a difference in rural East Africa. At a young age, Erna understood the equalizing power of education and pursued an engineering degree. As an executive, she gained a reputation for her ability to lead organizations, provide structure in the face of chaos, mobilize global talent and innovative technology. Following her successful tenure at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and other Bay Area companies, Erna decided to co-found Asante Africa Foundation with two other women. As the CEO of Asante Africa Foundation, Erna leads a global team that is passionate about educating children who have big dreams – but lack the skills, connections, and resources.

As a bridge-builder, catalyst for change, and visionary behind many of the foundation’s innovative programs and practices, Erna has been recognized for her work worldwide, receiving the national Jefferson Award for public service and the Distinguished Engineering Award for innovation in developing countries. As an award-winning speaker and published author, Erna is frequently on global stages traversing the corporate and philanthropy divide, where she presents on executive leadership, innovative education programs, and sustainable philanthropy versus charity.

Featured in:

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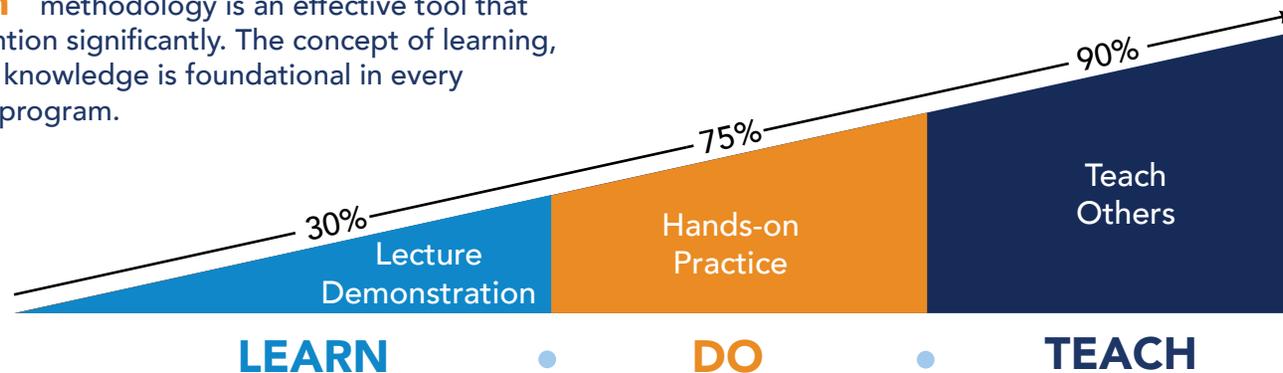
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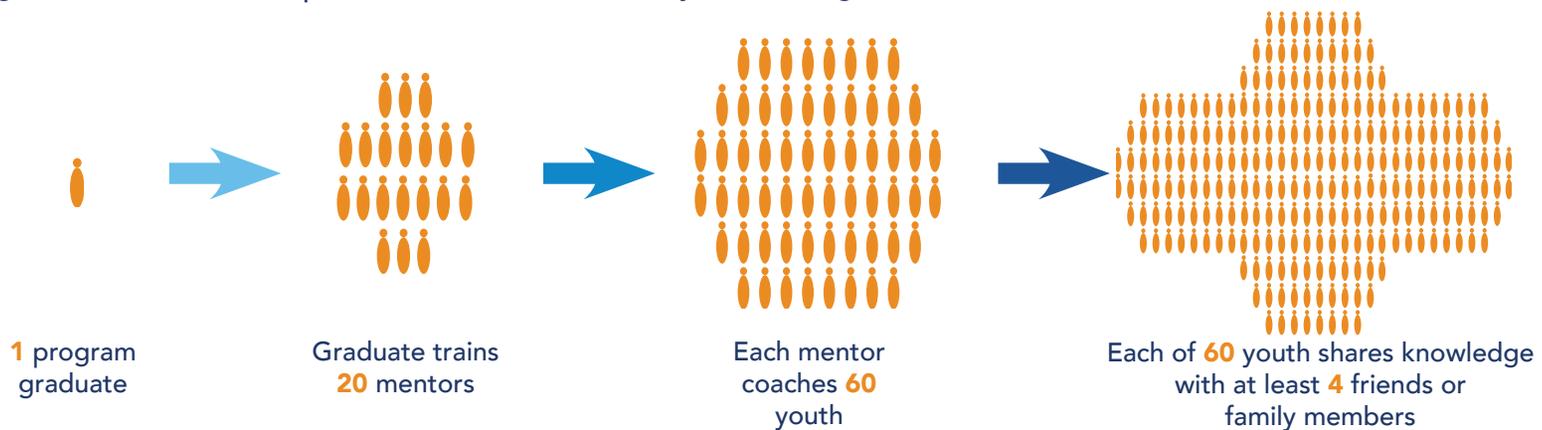
OUR UNIQUE APPROACH

Our unique, child-centered **“Learn - Do - Teach”** model provides each recipient:
New Knowledge | Hands-on Application and Skill Building | Opportunity to Teach Others

“Learn - Do - Teach” methodology is an effective tool that increases knowledge retention significantly. The concept of learning, applying, and transferring knowledge is foundational in every Asante Africa Foundation program.



“Pay-it-Forward” is a formal part of our programs, a concept that encourages young people to invest within their families and communities. As students learn new skills and hone their leadership and project management skills, they are inspired to create change. Thus, a single investment has the potential to affect community-wide changes.



1 youth can impact over 6,000 lives!



OUR PROGRAMS



We provide academics and life-skills training through technology inclusion in classrooms, teacher training, leadership skills training, and girls' economic and health education, and peer support programs.

594,000 *Lives Impacted 2007-2019*

Accelerated Learning in the Classroom & Scholarships

102,000

Lives Impacted

Access to quality education is foundational for future success. We provide scholarships, child-centered teaching resources, and hands-on digital learning tools, linking academics to livelihoods.

Wezesha Vijana
(Adolescent Girls' Advancement)

125,000

Lives Impacted

Our girls' program provides peer support in a safe space, knowledge and skill building in health, human rights, social alliances, and economics. Boys become allies, giving rise to skilled, confident, and economically secure young women.

Leadership & Entrepreneurship Incubator (LEI)

367,000

Lives Impacted

LEI gives young people in rural communities the leadership skills and tools for starting businesses and seeking well-paying jobs, enabling them to pursue their dreams and create local opportunities.

[MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS](#)



YOUTH IN ACTION

Bringing Innovation to the Community



Khatibu's Journey, Tanzania

As an LEI Summit alumni, Khatibu has coordinated various green initiatives in several local communities. He raises awareness and champions efforts such as clean up events, tree planting, concerts, and environmental education. Khatibu prototyped inexpensive wireless chargers to address wiring issues in schools after a fire accident occurred, and he experimented with sound-powered street lights to bring traffic control to areas without traditional traffic lights after witnessing an accident.

Creating His Own Destiny



Daniel's Journey, Kenya

A timely scholarship allowed Daniel to continue his education and avoid life as a herdsman. Daniel flourished in school, becoming an elected prefect and a society leader who guided and counseled his peers. He also completed several environmental projects, making products using waste materials and planting trees. Daniel plans to become a physician and specialize as a pediatrician working with the physically impaired.

Empowered to Improve Lives



Lillian Nansamba, Uganda

Lillian participated in the LEI summit in December 2019 and became empowered to support the less privileged in her community. She partnered with Gayi Paul and created the Give to Life Foundation to support people with disabilities, the elderly, and vulnerable youth. Their foundation seeks to improve the lives of these groups by providing basic necessities. Lillian and Gayi hope to motivate more youth to become change agents.

Advocating for Girls' Rights



Judica's Journey, Tanzania

Judica was expected to go through female genital mutilation (FGM) and enter into an early marriage when she was 14 years old. A scholarship enabled her to escape and continue her education, empowering her to fight against harmful cultural norms. She helped her father obtain sobriety and start a brick business. Having completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, Judica advocates against FGM and child marriage.

MORE ABOUT OUR YOUTH



OUR KEY PARTNERS

Strategic Partnerships Accelerate our Impact

Our programs have matured from our continuous partnerships, which provide opportunities to share knowledge, maximize resources, and build global communities that lead in the effort to uplift youth.

PARTNERSHIPS



As a youth-centered organization, often our African youth and staff best represent our success nationally and globally. In 2019, several of the young Africans stood on global stages and talked about their successes.

RECOGNITIONS

Girls Opportunity Alliance



Leadership Summit Obama Foundation

Glory Shayo and Gloria Mushi collaborated with other young leaders and inspired the crowd at the Obama Foundation Leadership Summit in Chicago with their personal stories of struggles and successes.

Youth Power Learning



Young Women Transform Prize

USAID recognized Asante Africa for innovative strategies in improving rural young girls' economic empowerment and positively influencing academic performance, innovation, and business creation.

Drucker Prize



~Top Ten Finalist~

Asante Africa was selected in the top 10 for The Drucker Prize for advancing academic learning and cultivating life skills training using the "Learn-Do-Teach" methodology.

Ernas' Interviews



Asante Africa Making Headlines

Erna Gras was recognized by multiple media channels including "The Introducer," "Insights Success," "The Discovery Group," and "The Christian Science Monitor" for her work empowering East Africa's youth.

[MORE ABOUT OUR PARTNERS](#)

SPEAKERS



Bring an Engaging Speaker to your Next Event!

Add depth to your event by inviting one of Asante Africa's alumni, board members, or community leaders to be a guest speaker. With their experience in establishing innovative interconnected systems for education and entrepreneurship, our speakers would bring a unique perspective to your discourse. Our speakers have graced eminent stages and expounded on youth empowerment, skill cultivation and entrepreneurship, and female social and financial empowerment.



Some of our past engagements include:

- Obama Foundation Summit, Chicago
- Building a Positive Circle of Impact, Concordia University, Canada
- IEEE Vision, Innovation, and Challenges Summit, San Francisco
- EPICS (Engineering Projects In Community Service) Expo, Santa Clara University Commission on the Status of Women, New York
- Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit, Washington
- Comparative & International Education Society, San Francisco

[MORE ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS](#)

[CONTACT US](#)



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