



NEWSLETTER

TRANSFORMING THE BONEZA, RWANDA COMMUNITY

Our Mission

To positively transform the community of Boneza out of extreme poverty by focusing on education, clean water, healthcare, Pastoral care, and economic development.

Our Vision

A thriving Boneza, Rwanda, with Christ centered, educational leaders and residents creating hope, health, and sustainability for all people.

Inside This Issue

Greetings!	1
Adeline's Story as a Boneza Mother, Leader, and Dreame	2
Preschool Impact from a Student Perspective	4
Emmanuel's Story	5
From Brokenness to Hope	6
Transformed by ARM's Pastoral Care	8
KHA Farm	8

[Donate Here](#)



Greetings to all of the wonderful friends of Arise Rwanda Ministries!

Thank you for your continued interest, prayer support and giving. It is only because of you that we are able to do all that God has called us to do in the community of Boneza. We all hope that this Newsletter and the updates provided by the amazing team on the ground in Rwanda - finds each of you enjoying the summer months and staying cool where ever you are.

Here is a question to ponder. What do we find ourselves "taking for granted" most days and "living by faith" that they will work or be readily available?

We flip a switch for lights, click a knob to cook, open a door to fresh food kept cold in a refrigerator, we turn a handle and a gush of clean, fresh water flows, punch a button for cool air or heat to pour from vents, punch a button to start our cars, click an app on our smart phones and food is delivered to our door...

(Continued on the next page...)

When one of these conveniences that we so readily take for granted and have faith in to ease our lives doesn't work...admit...we grumble! Such an inconvenience!! Grrrrr! How LONG do I have to wait for this to be restored?!?!?

Well, the next time it happens (and it will)...think of one of these stories and learn the art of thankfulness, practicing patience, putting your faith in perspective and giving thanks in ALL circumstances. Because the following stories are every day occurrences in Boneza.

It never ceases to amaze all who visit what the day-to-day challenges are to simply survive. It also never ceases to amaze what incredible strength, grace and determination it also takes to overcome enormous obstacles and remain faith filled, joyful and thankful. The acts of courage, generosity, loving one's neighbor, forgiveness, sharing the love of Christ, joyful self sacrifice...and the list goes on - are innumerable. We stand in awe, amazement and sometimes disbelief while the people of Boneza simply accept and press on.

Faith runs deep in Boneza. While we may recognize and occasionally recite or share these verses by way of prayer and encouragement; they are clung to tightly, held very close in the heart and whole heartedly believed in Rwanda.

Luke 1:37 "For God nothing is impossible."

Mathew 19:26 "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Mark 9:23 "Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'"

There are many facets to the ministry of Arise Rwanda. God has used the ministry to provide clean water, education, economic community development, pastoral care and training, agricultural improvements and bounty, farm animal

husbandry and a medical center! Be encouraged! YOUR loving gifts of any amount and your prayers sustain all. THANK YOU for your trust and partnership. We give thanks to God everyday for our donors and prayer partners. We also pray you will continue to give to and pray for the ever growing vision and reach of Arise Rwanda Ministries.

Adeline's Story as a Boneza Mother, Leader, and Dreamer

My name is Adeline. I am 46 years old, a wife, a mother of four, three beautiful daughters and one beloved son, and a proud resident of



Buhoro Village, Remera Cell, in Boneza Sector. I live a life of service, faith, and hope. I am the president of a women's self-help group called Abunze Ubumwe, and I also serve my community as a local health volunteer, known in Rwanda as Umujyanama w'Ubuzima. My days are filled with hard work. I cultivate crops like beans, soya, maize, cassava, and whatever the land allows, just to feed my family and support our lives. In my voluntary work, I test for malaria, follow up with pregnant women, distribute medication as advised by our local health center, and help vulnerable families, especially mothers, to fight malnutrition by teaching them how to prepare nutritious food for their little ones.

It was from this spirit of service and survival that Abunze Ubumwe was born. I saw the struggles of the women around me, mothers like me, with dreams, but with so few opportunities. I brought the idea of starting a basket-weaving initiative. But we had nothing, no skills, no capital.

(Continued on the next page...)

So, Every Sunday, we gathered, prayed, shared our stories, and each contributed just 200 Rwf. Slowly, we built a small savings fund and began lending small amounts to members. It was a beginning, humble but full of hope. Then something amazing happened.

At the start of 2024, Arise Rwanda organized a training at the Remera Cell office. When we were invited, I had no idea that this would be a turning point in my life, and in the lives of all the women I lead. The training touched our hearts. The staff from Arise Rwanda didn't just speak, they understood us. Their vision matched ours.

In September, a woman of great kindness and purpose, Nirere Marie Grace from Arise Rwanda, visited us. She didn't come to inspect or judge, she came to listen. We shared our biggest challenge: we didn't have anyone to teach us how to weave the baskets we dreamed of selling. She promised to raise this with the leaders of Arise Rwanda. Just two months later, we had a trainer, someone to guide our hands and grow our skills. We could hardly believe it. We danced, we cried, and we celebrated because someone believed in us. Today, because of this training, Abunze Ubumwe is alive, thriving, and filled with

determination. We are not just weaving baskets, we are weaving dignity, unity, and a brighter future for our families.

As president of this group, I speak with deep gratitude. Arise Rwanda is not just a partner; it is a lifeline. It is transforming Boneza, one life at a time.

Through their work:

Our children are learning. With preschools across the sector and Kivu Hills Academy, the first technical school in our area, education has reached our hills.

We have clean water. I used to walk long distances for dirty water. Now, thanks to the Rusororo tap, clean water is within reach.

Families are rising from poverty. One of my neighbors received a cow through Arise Rwanda. Today, that family is milking daily, a symbol of dignity and provision.

Health is within hope. I eagerly await the opening of Kivu Hills Medical Center. I live with high blood pressure and travel all the way to Kigali for treatment. Soon, I will get help close to home.



And not only that, Arise Rwanda brought us spiritual hope, organizing crusades and preaching God's word. They care for our bodies and our souls.

So, from the deepest part of my heart, I say: Murakoze cyane. Thank you, Arise Rwanda, for seeing us. For walking with the poor. For believing in the power of women. For making us feel that we matter. Boneza will never be the same again.

Preschool Impact from a Student Perspective

My name is Ange. I am 12 years old, the youngest of four children in my family. When I was little, life was not easy. There were days when my family had to choose between meals and school supplies. I was always alone at home, with no one



to play with or look after me, and my mother was always worried about me—maybe something would happen to me, like child abuse or other bad things that can happen to a

child. Then my mother's prayer was answered when she heard about the preschool that Arise Rwanda opened near our home.

I spent three beautiful years in preschool. It was more than just learning letters and numbers; it was where I discovered my voice. I learned how to speak with confidence, how to ask questions, and how to believe in myself. I learned discipline and respect, and slowly, my shy voice became strong. I was no longer afraid to raise my hand or to stand in front of others and speak. Preschool became my second home because it was where I found porridge, and they even taught me how to pray. I was able to socialize with the kids and play together. Every song we sang, every story we read, every new word we learned helped to sharpen our minds.

When I started primary school, I felt ready. My teachers noticed that I could read and write well, and I understood what they were teaching. I worked hard every day, and because of the foundation I received, I became one of the top five students in my class. That made my parents

proud, and it made me proud too. Now I am in grade five.

My dream is to be a tour guide. I want to wear a safari hat and take people through the green forests and golden plains of Rwanda. I want to tell them stories about the mountain gorillas, the lions, the birds, and the hidden beauty of my country. I want to be the voice of our wildlife and help people fall in love with the land that raised me. I want to join Kivu Hills Academy to prepare for this dream. I imagine myself walking with tourists, teaching them about nature, showing them the sunrise over the hills, and watching their eyes fill with wonder. That's the future I see for myself.

Thank you, Arise Rwanda, for planting a seed in my heart and helping it grow. Because of you, a little girl with a quiet voice is now speaking with confidence, dreaming with purpose, and walking toward a brighter tomorrow.

KHA Scholarship Impact

From a Student and His Parents, a Mother's Cry for Hope:

My name is Jacqueline. I am 40 years old, a wife to Jean Damascene Habimana, who is 46. We are parents to four precious children—two boys and two girls. Like any parent, all I have ever wanted is to see my children live in peace, go to school, eat well, and sleep under a safe roof. But life has been far from easy.

I work every day at a part-time job, like farming for others, carrying heavy loads, or finding firewood to sell. Some days I earn the equivalent of one dollar or less. Other days, I come home empty-handed. With such little income, even providing food once a day is a challenge. Some nights, my children go to bed with empty stomachs. And in the morning, they wake up tired and hungry, but still try to smile because they don't want to break my heart.

(Continued on the next page...)

I see their strength, and it gives me the courage to keep going.

One of the greatest struggles we face is with our second daughter. She suffers from epilepsy. It breaks my heart every time she has a seizure—her small body shaking, her eyes wide with fear. We live far from health centers, and her medication is expensive. There are times when we can't afford the medicine she needs, and I watch her suffer, feeling completely powerless. Her illness doesn't just affect her; it affects all of us. We live in constant worry, always on edge.

Our home is no true shelter. We don't have a proper place to sleep. There is no furniture, no table, no chairs, not even mattresses. We sleep on the cold ground. Rainwater sometimes leaks through the roof, and the cold creeps in at night. There is no comfort or peace in our house—just survival.

And yet, even in this darkness, God gave us one ray of light.

Arise Rwanda came into our lives like an answered prayer. They offered a scholarship to our firstborn son, Emmanuel Tuyizere. I cannot describe the feeling in my heart when I received the news. It was as if the heavens opened and told me, "You are not alone." For the first time, I stood together with my family at a school—a good school—and saw my son in a clean uniform, standing tall with hope in his eyes. It was a moment I will never forget.

Since joining Kivu Hills Academy, Emmanuel has blossomed. He is gaining knowledge, learning skills, and becoming a man who cares deeply for his family. During school holidays, he works casual jobs to help support us. He helps me in the house, looks after his siblings, and brings so much strength to our home. He reminds me that no matter how difficult life gets, we must never stop dreaming.

I thank Arise Rwanda from the bottom of my heart. You didn't just give Emmanuel a scholarship—you gave our entire family a chance to believe again. You gave us a reason to keep fighting, to keep praying, and to keep hoping.



But we are still struggling. My daughter's illness continues, and our living conditions are still dire. We pray each day for more support, so that our children can have the future they deserve. We hope that one day, we'll be able to sit at a table as a family, eat a full meal, and see all our children healthy and in school.

We are thankful for the help we have received, and we continue to pray for more miracles. Because even in the darkest days, hope is what keeps us going.

May God bless Arise Rwanda, and may He continue to use them to bring light to families like ours.

Emmanuel's Story

My name is Tuyizere Emmanuel. I'm 20 years old. I was born and raised in the Boneza community in Rutsiro District. I have both parents, and they live together with my three siblings. Growing up was not easy, as we had only two meals a day—if we were lucky! Both my parents didn't have jobs; we survived because they did hard part-time work that wasn't consistent. They used to work on our neighbours' small farms to grow their crops.

(Continued on the next page...)

They would make about \$2 a day to feed our family. I studied through the mercy of some people and the government. I often went to our local government office for help, and they gave me basic materials like notebooks, pens, and uniforms. However, studying was hard, as we sometimes spent nights without food, which affected my school performance. I sometimes missed class because of hunger. One day, I fainted at school from hunger, and some students laughed at me, but I didn't stop studying because I knew what I wanted.

Due to extreme poverty in my family, my father became alcoholic and abusive. My parents used to fight all the time in front of us. As the conflict worsened, my father left us and disappeared. Life became harder, and I started missing classes to help my mom. Sometimes we spent two days without food. Because of this, I didn't perform well in middle school to go to a boarding school, which was my dream. In boarding school, you get three meals a day, you don't walk long distances to school, there is electricity, and you have time to focus on your education. I approached our local village leader, who helped me find a public school for the 12-year basic education. However, getting school materials was very difficult, and as my mom got older, providing for the family became harder. I decided to drop out of school.

One day, the village leader called me with good news that changed my life. He told me there was an organization in our community called Arise Rwanda



Ministries that would help me study. He asked me to bring all my educational documents and my mom. We went, filled out the form, and a few days later, the village leader called me to announce the best news of my life—that I had

been given a scholarship to study at Kivu Hills Academy! I was so excited. It was one of the happiest moments of my life.

At Kivu Hills Academy, my dreams have come true! Here at school, we have three meals a day, and I sleep on a bed with a mattress. This is my first time sleeping on a mattress, and in Arise Rwanda, I have found a family that loves me. During holidays, I work at Kivu Hills Medical Center as a mason and make \$2 a day, which I use to support my family back home.



Thanks to Arise Rwanda Ministries, I'm now a senior at Kivu Hills Academy, graduating this year in Building and Construction Development. I am excited to graduate and go out here to find work to support my family and go to university. My dream is to become a civil engineer in Rwanda.

There are no words I can use to express my gratitude to Arise Rwanda Ministries. Because of your scholarship of \$600 per year at Kivu Hills Academy, I am able to attend school, have three meals a day, and enjoy wonderful teachers. I have access to a school library, a school construction workshop, and my life has been transformed.

Thank you for giving me **hope**. May God keep blessing you and help many more kids like me.

From Brokenness to Hope Community Development and Small Business Loan Trust Groups

My name is Elyse. I am 43 years old, a mother of four, and a woman who has walked through the valley of sorrow and come out standing—not by my own strength, but through the grace of God and the unwavering support of Arise Rwanda.

(Continued on the next page...)

I live in Kabirizi Village, Bushaka Cell, Boneza Sector. My story begins in pain—a marriage filled with conflict, struggle, and abandonment. My husband and I faced many problems, but instead of confronting them together, he chose to walk away. He left me and our children behind, with no support, no explanation, and no means to survive. He started a new life with someone else, and I was left with the broken pieces. Alone and without resources, I felt completely hopeless and ashamed. I cried in silence. I feared for my children. I questioned my worth. I wondered how I would feed them, clothe them, or ever smile again.

Then one day, in my deep despair, I walked into a church in Kabirizi. The pastor's name was Zachary, and that service marked the beginning of my healing. After prayer, I noticed a group of women gathered nearby. I approached them, and they welcomed me with warmth and kindness—something I hadn't felt in a long time. They introduced me to their group, shared the values they lived by, and I promised to walk that journey with them.

After some time, I opened up and shared my story, trembling as I spoke, afraid of their reaction. But instead of judgment, I saw tears, understanding, and strength. Many of these women had endured even greater pain than mine. They encouraged me to hold tightly to God and never give up.

Soon after, Arise Rwanda launched a microfinance program for women, and our group was among the first to be trained. I received a small loan—100,000 Rwf (approx. \$70.00 USD)—with just 1.5% interest per month. I used it to start a small banana-selling business in Gisenyi town. At first, I was nervous, but as the months passed, I realized: I could do this. I could rebuild my life.

After four months of hard work, I had made a good profit. I took another loan and expanded the business. I invested in a moulin machine that made

flour from maize, soybean, cassava, and sometimes made chicken food from the leftovers, and my business began to flourish. My income grew, and with it, so did my hope.



Today, I am no longer the broken woman I once was. I am a provider, a businesswoman, and a mother full of hope. My children are back in school. They have food, clothing, and medical insurance. Our lives have completely changed because someone

believed in me when I could no longer believe in myself. Today, my firstborn is studying Networking at Kivu Hills Academy under a full sponsorship from Arise Rwanda. My second child is in primary school at GS Bushaka, and the youngest two are in preschool, also supported by Arise Rwanda. They are growing with dignity and joy—something I never thought possible during my darkest days.

I cannot express how much this means to me. Arise Rwanda has rescued me from poverty, despair, and isolation. They gave me not just a loan—they gave me my life back. Now, with the construction of the Kivu Hills Medical Center, I know my family's health is also secure. I feel protected, seen, and supported—things every human being longs for. I stand here today, not in shame, but in gratitude and victory.

To Arise Rwanda, I say this with all my heart:
You are the light in my darkness.

You are the hands of God in my life.

May God bless you abundantly for all that you have done for me, and for so many others.

Done at Boneza, May 21st, 2025

Transformed by ARM's Pastoral Care

My name is Theodore, and I serve as a pastor and leader at the ADEPR Church in Gihinga. I am a husband and father to six children. Since 2022, I have had the privilege of attending six



transformative training sessions organized by Arise Rwanda. These training sessions have been nothing short of life-changing. They opened my eyes and heart to what it truly means to be a godly leader.

Before these training sessions, many of us pastors believed we had to carry the entire weight of ministry on our own—preaching, leading, visiting, and serving, often without rest or support. The idea of preparing others to carry the baton felt foreign. But through Arise Rwanda, we discovered a new, biblical way—God's way.

Just as Paul raised up Timothy, we are called to raise up others, to equip the next generation, and to never walk alone. Today, I lead differently, with open hands and a humble heart. And because of that, our church is being transformed before our very eyes. It has become a model for others—not because of me, but because of the seeds Arise Rwanda planted: seeds of unity, vision, and servant leadership.

Arise Rwanda also helped us stay connected. They created a platform where pastors from different denominations come together to share scripture, pray weekly, and support each other in ministry. This network has strengthened us deeply. We now celebrate together, grieve together, and even support one another financially in times of need. We are no longer isolated—we are a family.

But Arise Rwanda didn't stop there. They understood our struggles—financial challenges, lack of healthcare, and the burden of education

costs. And they acted. They introduced savings and loan groups with low-interest loans, empowering us to provide for our families and regain dignity in our daily lives.

Personally, one of the greatest blessings has been the education support for my children. Thanks to Arise Rwanda, my eldest son and daughter received scholarships to attend Kivu Hills Academy. Today, both of them are pursuing university education—a dream that once felt out of reach.

Now, as I look around our community, I see yet another miracle: the construction of a new hospital by Arise Rwanda. What once felt like an unreachable need is now becoming a reality. This hospital will serve us, heal us, and allow us to expand our ministry to the sick—to pray with them, care for them, and bring the light of God into their lives.

To Arise Rwanda, thank you. You have been the hands and feet of Christ among us. May God continue to bless your work, just as you have blessed ours.

KHA Farm

To ensure food security and sustainability, Kivu Hills Academy owns a farm. On this farm, we grow a variety of crops such as maize, vegetables, bananas, and soybeans. It's 15 acres of land. We have irrigation on the farm now and can grow crops year-round.

In the past, we struggled with unreliable food suppliers who often delivered poor-quality vegetables, sometimes buying the cheapest products available. Inflation also became a challenge, with food prices in the market rising and affecting our school's budget. On top of that, climate conditions made it hard to find certain vegetables, especially during summertime when growing conditions were more difficult.

(Continued on the next page...)



Our mission is to partner with the Boneza sector to make the programs sustainable and integrated into the fabric of the community. God is at work in this amazing land, and we are privileged to be part of His work there. We give God the glory for all that is being accomplished in His name. Join us in prayer for the success of the mission and for the people we serve.

US Board of Directors

Greg Yancey, **Board Chair**

John Gasangwa, **Founder**

Jayson Denton, **Treasurer**

Dave Knibbe

Bob McClelland

Heidi Morgan

Larry Rybka

Jennifer Woods

Paul Woods

Kevin Denton

Follow our progress and learn more about our programs, impact, and how to get involved at ariserwanda.org or on Facebook.

All donations are tax-deductible. Arise Rwanda Ministries USA is a US 501 (c)(3) charity, EIN 88-3306938

Donations can be made online or sent to:

Arise Rwanda Ministries USA, Inc.

c/o Jayson Denton

9613 Old Farm Road

Woodway, TX 76712-6402

KHA Farm (Continued)

The farm became our solution for both food sustainability and food security. This year, we were able to reduce the feeding budget by 11%. We also have 8 pigs on the farm, which not only help by providing natural fertilizer but also contribute to the school's budget. When we sold the piglets, they covered 3% of our school expenses.



Today, we eat fresh vegetables directly from our own farm. It's now been over a year since we last needed to buy vegetables. Our students also enjoy porridge made from our own maize, and sometimes we serve bananas harvested from the farm.

Thanks to the farm, our students and staff are healthier and happier. They are now satisfied with the meals we provide, and we no longer receive complaints about a lack of vegetables. This experience has also become a valuable lesson for the students. They see how challenges can be solved through action, and it inspires them to become problem-solvers in the future.

Right now, we are growing soybeans, which will soon be harvested. Our plan is to share the harvest with the community by selling some of the produce. This way, we support others while continuing to grow our impact. The farm is also going to be a model farm for farmers in Boneza to come and learn about better farming techniques. We are using the "Foundations for Farming: Farming God's Way" model.

[Click here to learn more about Boneza](#)