

INCLUSION AT BRIGHT SCHOOL

Asher's story

A Bright School P1 student with Down syndrome.



Asher is eager to learn more about his mother tongue, Kinyarwanda.

When Asher started at Bright School

Because the needs of a child with Down syndrome were poorly understood, Asher had struggled to progress academically, socially and emotionally in previous schools. In mid-2022, his father, Jean Claude Nsengimana, met Jane Brown, TEACH Rwanda's co-founder. Together they visited a P1 classroom and talked about Bright School's approach to inclusive education, and Asher immediately found an interesting book about animals to enjoy.

Asher joined Bright School in September 2022. He was non-verbal and used gestures to communicate. At seven, he was still learning how to make friends and was often physically aggressive towards other children.

After Asher's first three months

Soon after he enrolled, Asher began making friends and finding more ways to communicate with his teacher and classmates. One day, when the class was re-enacting a wedding and Asher was playing the pastor, he saw Jane, gestured excitedly and said, "Jan, come!" He proudly showed her the block he was using as an imaginary camera.

His gentle, kind teacher, Jean d'Amour, soon noticed that "Asher now knows how to pronounce a few of the names of children in



his class."

Asher builds with blocks, using the wall for balance.

Asher is thriving at Bright School

Asher's father is delighted that Bright School teachers assess children across many areas of development, not just academics. With the continued support of his teacher and a volunteer classroom assistant, Asher has settled well and made amazing progress.

He especially enjoys reading and pretend play, and he is the first to welcome visitors to the classroom. Outdoors, he jumps on the tyre climber, pushes classmates in a wheelbarrow and invents games with his friends. As part of our inclusion process, Asher sat the government's mid-term exams just like his classmates.



Asher is making many friends at Bright School (photo: Ana Kenk). Benjamin, a volunteer from Germany, has become Asher's reading companion, and much more.

Asher's future is bright

Supporting children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) like Asher is something Bright School teachers feel passionate about. Our education staff work with families to set specific goals every term that help each learner reach their potential. For Asher, this includes using his love of the piano to help him connect symbols and speech, an early literacy skill.

Asher's story shows how children with special needs can reach their potential through careful support and the nurturing care and expertise of our teachers, volunteers and staff.



Teacher Jean d'Amour guides children to explore estimation, balance, gravity, teamwork and communication.

Your gift can support children with SEN

Your donation helps TEACH Rwanda mentor more teachers to give children like Asher a fulfilling, happy school experience and the chance of a bright future. It will help us:

- Support vulnerable children with Fund a Future scholarships for high-quality nursery and primary education at Bright School
- Reward our staff for their professional commitment and growth

- Demonstrate accessible, evidence-based education in Rwanda
- Mentor teachers in the child-centred methods transforming education in Rwanda
- Achieve our plans for a permanent campus to mentor Rwandan teachers and children

WAYS TO GIVE

Every gift reaches a Rwandan classroom.

Help more vulnerable children like Asher access high-quality education. Choose whichever way suits you best.

Give online at teachrwanda.org

One-off or monthly, through our secure donation form. **100% of your gift reaches TEACH Rwanda.**

Venmo

Send directly to **@TEACH_Rwanda**. The fastest way to give from the US.

MTN Mobile Money (MoMo)

In Rwanda, send your gift by MoMo to **502486**.

Cheque by post

Payable to TEACH Rwanda, 1787 Chateau Place, Apt C, Easton, PA 18045, USA.

Charity Charge Mastercard

Designate TEACH Rwanda and 1% of every purchase is donated automatically.

Automatic deposit

Set up recurring giving through Embassy Bank for the Lehigh Valley.

Employer matching

Many employers will match your gift. Ask your HR team and double your impact.

Estate and retirement giving

Include TEACH Rwanda in your estate plan or retirement account.

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