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## The Sankofa African Children's Choir Comes to Parkview Elementary School



The students of Parkview Elementary School were recently visited by a very special group of 14 children, ages 5-16 who live in orphanages in Uganda. The Sankofa Children's Choir is a touring program produced through the collaboration of Tender Mercies Outreach Foundation and Real Life Church of Charlotte. The word Sankofa is derived from "An Akan" (Ghanaian) word which means, "One must return to the past to move forward." Symbolized by a mythic bird that flies forward while gazing backward. These children travel around the world giving back to Africa through performances that raise awareness on social issues of education, food security, water sanitation, and child trafficking.

The choir's music and multimedia presentation is a soulful fusion of a unique blend of native African rhythms, contemporary music and ethnic dance filled with contagious joy so infectiously reflected in the upbeat music and the smiles of the performers. Dressed in colorful costume, the children's enthusiastic song and energetic dance had the Parkview students clapping and singing right along with them.

The group left a heartfelt message of promise to all of the Parkview students to pursue their dreams.