



*Barnabas Legacy  
Children's Dream  
Foundation*

**20  
23**

*Agape Star Christian School*

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

*For the period of 1st January 2023 to December 2023*





# **BARNABAS LEGACY CHILDREN'S DREAM FOUNDATION**

**Registered charity number:** INDR150933978NB

**Permit number:** INDP0003978NB)

**Directors:**

Maree Cutler Naroba (Australia)

Steven Wamala (Uganda)



# Introduction from Steven – Director (Uganda)

I write this having seen the faithfulness of God in our ministry and projects. I am grateful for the far we have moved and for your friendship. It is so good to be able to connect with you freely again and again, and to reconnect in person with the communities and individuals that our Foundation supports through all of us.

Whilst technology provides many benefits, there is something irreplaceable about direct engagement; the subtleties of expression that say so much more than words. The first field trip to Uganda from Australia reaffirmed to me afresh how it is the personal connection that makes Barnabas Legacy Children's Dream Foundation so effective. We are not working with theory or in the abstract, we are together –as a family, community, partners and supporters – touching real lives of children and women and providing real educational, social and economic opportunities for individual and community transformation.

This report fills me with such pride to see what has been achieved in the past 12 months. I would like to share my immense gratitude to my fellow Director Maree and Mr Te, to Sue Beadle, Nic Jones, Karen Andrew, New Zealand family, Mighty Deborahs, Church, my loving wife Josie and Robert, Richard, Rachael, Phiona on the staff team here in the Uganda and to all the committee members volunteering their time and effort in Australia, Uganda and New Zealand.

Particularly, I would also like to thank GOD, and each and every one of the staff who support and the ladies who work in our Deborah Women in Business Collective Projects (farming, knitting, tailoring, shop and baking among others) – these amazing women are a power-house of local funding for some of the activities, bringing much-needed stability and consistency to our funding streams.

Finally (to our amazing donors in Australia and New Zealand), on behalf of all the children, Agape Star Christian School and those who see and benefit from the investment into their life and life-opportunities provided by Barnabas Legacy Children's Dream Foundation, I would also like to thank you for your generosity and support – we simply would not be able to do this without you.

The need is immense, the difference we can make individually may be small, but collectively, lives and communities are changing. Seven years ago, when the Foundation got formalised, our Foundation had no primary school where these children would go to, an infrastructure for education simply was not there. Now in a year ago, although some may still walk for an hour each way, there is Agape Star Christian School, and in that school, BLCDF scholars are studying with their fees paid for entirely by the Foundation. In addition, through the Katunda Deborah in Women Business chapter, several ladies have gained baking, knitting and tailoring skills. That is change. That is opportunity.

Thank you for your support.

**Steven Wamala**  
**CEO BLCDF**  
**Blessings!**



## WHY WE SERVE

Because of God's love for us, we share the hope of the Gospel and equip families to greater resilience. We reach out to children and we support women in local communities, **for His Love Compels Us.**



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

In 2023, we continued to consolidate our work in Uganda – Buikwe into the 4 following main projects: Project BUILD, Project LEARN, Project GROW and Project PLAY.

We opened Agape Star Christian School in February 2023 and provided education for 180 students. We started the Education Scholarship Program which supported 22 students, as well as continuing to support women in various activities.

Thanks to a stronger than expected fundraising performance in 2022 and having introduced administrative support to our committees in Australia, New Zealand and Uganda, we were able to further increase the number of students receiving scholarships for their pre- primary and primary education. We also provided further support to women in baking, tailoring and farming.

Over the course of the 2023 year, we provided some students transport through the school van, added grass and play areas to the school compound, paid monthly teachers' salaries, resourced each classroom with stationery materials, bought a sportswear set for each of the Agape Star Christian School pupils and continued to support the full management and running of the Foundation. This included funding an additional meal for lunch for all learners, running of the school's plantation projects and an additional support to women in setting up their own shop business at their business office place.

We had an official school opening on 15 June 2023 and an inaugural school fundraising event and gala held on 24th of November 2023.



We also worked with the Foundation's management team, school staff and friends of our school to find ways of improving the learning environment for our pupils. In 2023, we successfully planted paspalum grass all around the school compound (see photo below).

We bought a trash bin, water taps and were able to provide toilet papers to all our learners at their toilet places. We selected a parents committee, a students' committee and a teachers' committee which made work organised and well set in school. We gave opportunity to all parents in Namatovu Village area, where the school is located, to bring their children in school and pay a small fee, as we sought for more scholarships to cover most of the students who are vulnerable and not able to attain full and quality education on their own.

This enabled the school to become a community school and offering schooling to local children rather, than them needing to travel a long way to other schools. We also tried to support the school with an electric sewing machine to help the older children acquire side skills for their personal development.



We completed the planting of a temporary (but well to start with) barbed wire fence around the school premises and funded the installation of electricity at the school. (See photo below), increasing its security. We also thought about funding to construct a girls'/boys' dormitory – we did not manage to secure grant funding for this but were able to fundraise some small funds during the November 2023 school fundraising event and secured this as a start-up amount in 2024.

Thanks to God for a stronger than expected income position throughout 2023.



We discussed specific ideas aimed at reducing the barriers to education for children living with disabilities. We got an adult helper who was not effective as time moved and decided to give it more attention in 2024.

We supported purchasing graduation gowns for our first 17 Top class learners who were getting promoted from the Pre-Primary section to Primary Section. A meal was given to each relative/guardian/parent and all children celebrated joyfully on the graduation day. We thank God all was success!

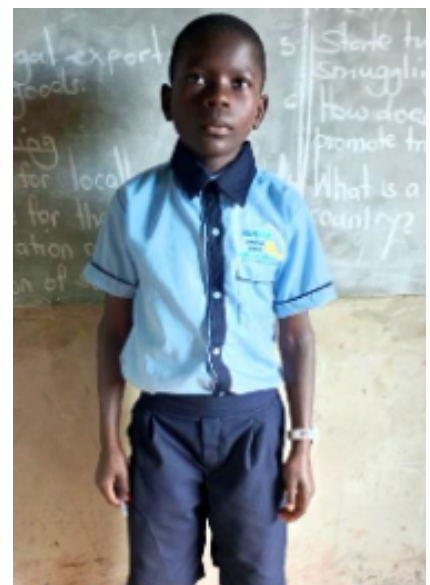
We honour our donors who have helped our projects women engage in activities that have turned out to help them reach financial sustainability. We also appreciate our pioneer school staff who did an amazing job all through 2023 in providing the much needed therapy and care for our children and counselling to their guardians/parents. Each child in our Foundation school was assessed to establish the best educational setting for them but unfortunately, many non-foundation guardians/parents were unable to afford to send their children to pick results cards. We were therefore pleased to agree and allow giving out results to all without any pay – and as a form of support the young ones.

Following the success of starting up our Foundation school, we sought funding for more support through you our friends and we enrolled extra children in Term Two onto the scholarship program.

Faizol one of the young orphan boys under BLCDF who joined our scholarship programme. He is an orphan and stays with his single grandmother who struggles to make ends meet to feed her other grand children in her family. He was enrolled onto the scholarship programme and performed so well – to Primary Four in academic year 2024. He has made incredible progress since joining school.

Our fundraising year started with support towards running the school start up in February 2023, Teachers' salaries, School van, holding conference days – during the field trip in June 2023. We were thrilled to raise over \$4,000 USD for the school van in January 2023. We were also happy to have a monthly support of \$150 USD towards the ongoing expenses for the Deborah activities. We are so grateful to God and to you all, for allowing to support each week, each month and each year. You really give towards a real cause!

We were delighted when Nic Jones and Sue Beadle agreed to become part of the Foundation board, and for Maree and Karen Andrew joining our Uganda family for a field trip in the middle of the year.







Later, towards mid-August, our attention then turned to preparing for our first annual school fundraising and gala event at Agape Star Christian School in November 2023. Being our first event, we were keen to make the event go ahead very successful and little did we know we would be required to incur expenses in doing preparations and mobilising the community to do – participate in fundraising. The community turned up so well, even though the weather wasn't favourable. But against all the odds, the event was a huge success, with over \$300US being donated through the physical auctioning which we ran in the run up during the event.

The other main income source in 2023 was donations from Australia and New Zealand friends. Having worked in partnership with Mama Queen – Maree Cutler-Naroba since 2019, herself, family, friends and connections became BLCDF's core support.

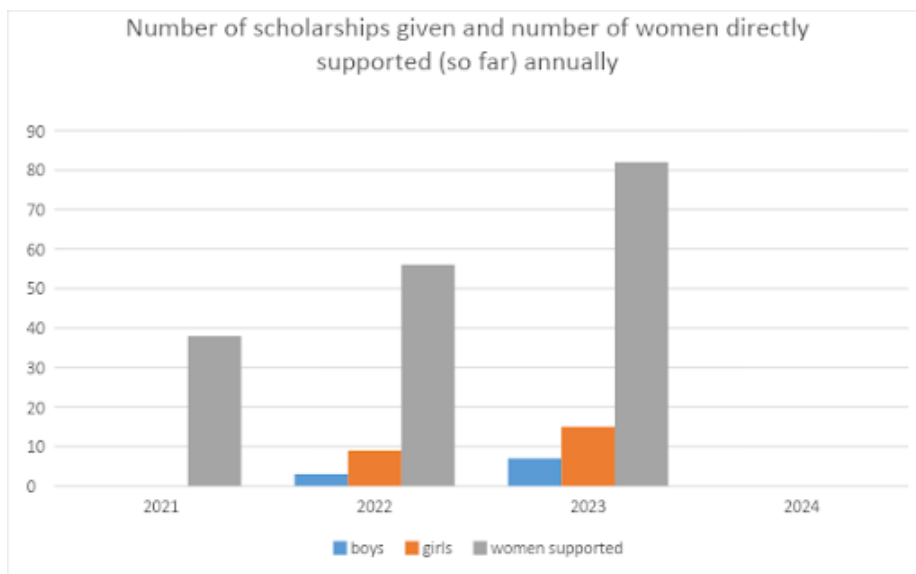
Other small income came from farming done by women, at the school land, baking, tailoring and the business stall. We hope for a more form of income in 2024 when our new shop (in Katunda at the BLCDF office) which is to be opened in early February 2024 will start operating. We had an excellent year and as such over \$350US of their profit was donated/given back to the Foundation in 2023 for the implementation of our school programmes.



# OUR PROJECT PROGRAMMES

## Project LEARN - Agape Star Christian School & BLCDF Scholarship Programme

Our core programme is Project LEARN – Educating a child. Working in partnership with our donors and board committees, we have provided scholarships to children in 2023. We love those who are promising but from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our vision is that we can get to enable them to continue their education at pre- primary, primary, secondary, polytechnic and university levels where otherwise they would be unable to afford the fees. This is not child sponsorship – all students supported by BLCDF have already qualified to be in the Foundation. We simply provide financial assistance to enable them to access the education they are qualified to have.





A number of women were engaged in the projects business and thus enabling them to break the cycle of poverty in which they, and their families are trapped.

We supported Olivia gain tailoring skills throughout her learning session in 2023. She is now able to train others and she is set to own her own business by mid-2024.

She is also now able to support her family in paying school fees.

With an ever-growing cohort of women gaining skills, we are now actively encouraging the development of BLCDF women alumni Networks – groups of those Deborah Women who have already gained skills and those who want to ‘give something back’ to their communities as a result of being supported by the Foundation. In 2024, we shall try to engage directly with our women and encourage them to help others in their communities and further afield through an impact survey.

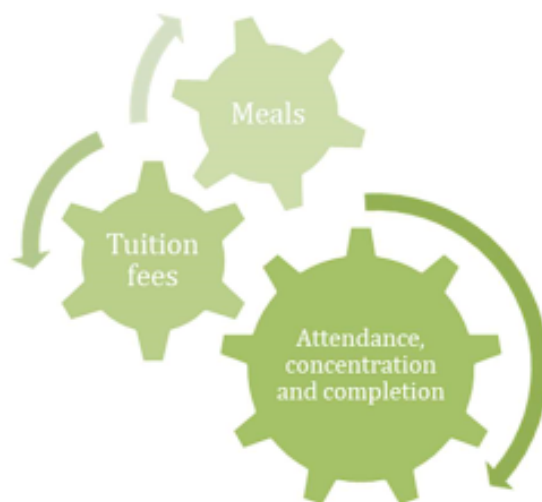
## Project BUILD

Under this programme, we looked at building the school and its learners in a suitable way taking one step at a time. The Foundation’s website was maintained well, and office equipment handled in a proper way. Stationery materials were given to children and paper work done effectively. Books and bibles were transferred from the DWIB C/BLCDF offices to the school premises for use by the learners in order to support their spiritual development. Important documents were kept and all books of accounts kept and audited so well.

We maintained the feeding of all our children with a breakfast and a lunch meal.

A meal at school acts as a magnet to get children into the classroom. Continuing to provide a daily meal to children as they grow helps keep them in school... They allow children to focus on their studies rather than their stomachs and boost their education by increasing school enrolment and attendance, decreasing drop-out rates, and improving cognitive abilities.’ (World Food Programme, 2015)

We are enhancing students’ ability to concentrate on studies, and getting them into and keeping them in school, through our ‘Project BUILD to Project LEARN’ programme.



## **'Project BUILD to Project LEARN' programme.**

We provided meals to at least 170 of the school's most vulnerable students who would otherwise go hungry and as a result would be less able to concentrate during their lessons and learn effectively. The feeding programme under project BUILD has also brought students back into school who had dropped out, has helped to keep students in school who may otherwise have dropped out and has helped to attract new students to the school.

The Local Council chairperson told us:

***"I want to assure you that life has come again for these students.***

***You cannot believe that even those who victims of poverty and vulnerability can now laugh and play with others.***

***You may not know the impact you have made in this community.***

***You have wiped away tears for so many students.***

***When I heard the news about lunch for all children at Agape, I walked house to house calling those who had left school because of hunger to come back and I am happy that they can now smile."***

In 2023, we continued to work with the school management to find ways to make feeding more sustainable. In July, we planted more eucalyptus trees and banana plants around the school land.





We were able to work with our donors and the school management to identify key development needs at school. Our overseas team then fundraised to meet those needs. We strive to provide a better learning environment for the children while at school. We have funded several activities at the school in 2023, including building stone slates around the foundation's shade and establishing a water tank at the school premises.



One teacher once said,

***'Having water at school eases work for the school cook, cleaning class rooms and children are able to have what to drink at any time, - it is very good to have enough water at school. This development is appreciated by both the general school community, District Education Officer and the School Secretariat.'***

## Project GROW

We worked with the Ndhooa local community in distributing piglets and expect a payback of at least one pig after 12 months. Knitted materials from New Zealand were distributed to all scholarship students and to children in Ndhooa community.

In 2023, we supported Mighty Deborahs in sustaining their farming projects. A fridge was purchased and sanitary packs were distributed to the young girls at Katunda PAOG church. Bedsheets were distributed to Deborahs at the beginning of 2023.



## Project PLAY

4 school songs were composed and produced by the students of Agape Star Christian School. A school's anthem was also composed.

A gala event was organised and all children participated in at least an activity during the event. Children engaged in dancing, singing, skits and miming.

## Our fundraising

Our fundraising team grew!

2023 was also a year of growth for our fundraising team as we were excited to welcome new scholarship donors for our children to the BLCDF family! Nic has always helped us out with marketing and promoting the activities of the Foundation. Nic is now working closely with Josie to ensure we can maximise all promotion opportunities. Josie has been able to do the postings on all social media platforms since October 2023.

As we begin 2024, we hope to grow bigger and are eagerly waiting for 2025 August mission trip. Nic and Josie have already proved themselves to be a great addition to the team!

We are extremely grateful to the following for their support in 2023:

## Individuals

- Maree (Mama Queen, Chief) and all her other partnerships
- Sue Beadle and all the NZ family
- Karen Andrew and family
- Nic Jones and family
- King family
- McKenzie family
- Anderson family
- Gore-birch family
- Berginetti family
- Vionny Tan family
- Thomson family
- J. Carmichael family
- Mainland family
- Cutler Adams family
- Tari family
- Alexander family
- S Smith family
- E De bruin family
- Sukanavanua family





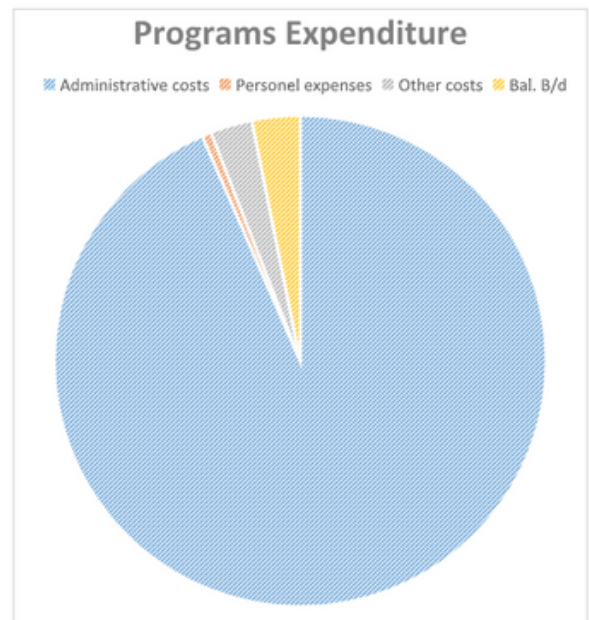
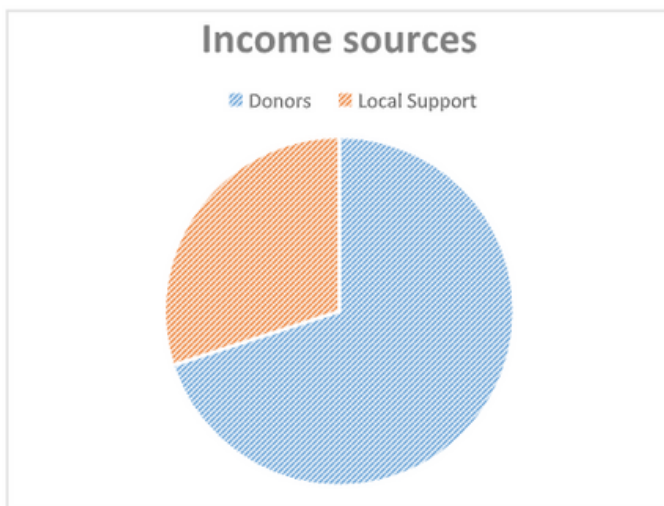
We would also like to thank our patrons and all those, too many to list here. Those who made regular donations, one-off donations, donated gifts in kind, volunteered for us, or supported our fundraisers in 2023.

## Financial review

*NOTE: The financial year runs from June of the previous year to June of that year. (for example, June 2022 – June 2023)*

- During the year the Charity received donations of \$37,334 USD
- Of these donations \$26,134USD were received from donors and donations of \$11,200 USD were received from the local activities and school income generating activities
- The total income amounted to \$37,334USD
- Income from LOCAL fundraising events in the year was \$350 USD

The below pie charts provide an approximate representation of the various income sources and the different programme areas on which funds were spent.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Notes to financial statements - F/Y 2022/2023

	Percentage	(June-2022 – June 2023)
	%	USD \$
<b>1. INCOME</b>		
Members Contributions		
Deborah Women In Business Collective		
School Fees – Agape Star Christian School	30	11,200
Church Donations (10% of Offertory)		
Fundraising		
Donors	70	26,134
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100	37,334
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 2. EXPENDITURE

### A. Administrative costs

Hired gardens wages - farming project		357
Spraying		62
Seedlings		98
Garden tools		52
Feeding (food)		2,385
Fuel		200
General repairs ( Van and Printers)		357
Sanitation costs		342
Postal fees clearance		26
Talking office/photos/uploads/internet		123
Airtime	-	162
Stationery \$ printing		233
Protective gears (DWIB C)	-	41



Outreach costs (Old Mamas, Ndhooya comm.)		1,500
Kitchen utensils (Agape Star School)	-	93
T-Shirts and other clothings ( Agape Star School)	-	203
School Van- Agape Star School		4,453
Sand - ASCS		1,368
Fuel - Transport		1,415
Mansions		4,105
Doors and Windows		3,577
Cement & Timber ( and poles -rafters)		4,299
Knitting expenses	-	16
Outreaches and meetings		179
Medical expenses	-	114
School fees - Scholarship		4,819
Ironsheets		4,319
		<hr/>
		34,896
		<hr/>
<b>B. Personnel expenses</b>		
Community Workers	-	228
		<hr/>
		228
		<hr/>
<b>C. Other costs</b>		
Foreign Exchange Loss	-	590
Bank charges		439
		<hr/>
		1,029
		<hr/>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b><u>36.153</u></b>
<b>Balance as at 30-06-2023</b>		<b><u>1.181</u></b>