



2021 Annual Report

Moving African children from the streets to classrooms

*“It’s easier
to build
strong
children
than to
repair
broken
adults.”*

**Frederick
Douglass**

From the Founder’s Desk:

DEAR FRIENDS OF BIZAA:

It is my pleasure to present to you our 2021 Annual Report and to thank you for your relentless support of BIZAA’s international mission. Fortunately, the global pandemic and political unrest in Africa have not had a significant impact on our mission in Nigeria. Despite these challenges, we continue to have a striking impact on the lives of the children and communities we serve.

- To date, BIZAA has moved over 250 children from the streets to classrooms!
- Our Nigerian staff now has a van to safely transport children to school.
- We have not lost any BIZAA child or family member to the menace of COVID.
- Your immense generosity at our “BIZAA Champagne Brunch” brought in the highest revenue ever recorded in our history of fundraising.
- BIZAA now has an official presence in 20 communities in Southeastern Nigeria.
- We transitioned from volunteer-based bookkeeping assistance to a paid accounting firm, enabling faster and more seamless business and tax reporting.
- The Stillwater Area High School BIZAA Club is now 150 members strong! Their awareness efforts are responsible for about a dozen children being sponsored, and we are hoping to expand this successful club model at other US high schools.
- Despite not being able to host a formal mission trip this past year, I have been able to travel to Nigeria twice in the last six months to meet with our sponsored children, their families and our local staff.

Finally, thank you for your patience as we work to improve communication to our sponsors and supporters through quarterly virtual “Meet and Greet” with me, videotaped “Fireside Chats” posted on social media, annual letters to and from the children and their sponsors, and dissemination of the children’s progress reports. We are determined to optimize the use of these communication tools to keep you connected with BIZAA and your sponsored children.

Thank you again! We look forward to an impactful year ahead and to making the world a better place one child at a time.

Yours in Service,
Okey Anyanwu



Our Mission, Vision and Leadership

Founded in 2010, BIZAA is a registered 501(c)(3) international, non-profit organization dedicated to the empowerment of the youngest citizens of Africa. Our grassroots initiatives of providing educational scholarships are eliminating childhood labor and trafficking one child at a time. To date we've rescued over 250 children. Together, we're striving for a world with dignity, education and opportunity for all. BIZAA will change the world by moving at-risk youth, one at a time, from the streets to the classroom.

Our Mission

End child trafficking once and for all by providing education and job placement assistance to at-risk African youth.

Our Vision

- Form a strong and impactful coalition of religious organizations, schools and corporations.
- Initiate viable strategies to get underprivileged and vulnerable children off the streets and out of factories and farms, and return them to their families.
- Enroll children in existing educational institutions with demonstrated records of success.
- Create apprenticeship, vocational and university opportunities for post-secondary students to continue their education.
- Explore avenues to ensure the health and safety of sponsored children.

Board Members

- Okey Anyanwu; *Founder & President*
- Matt Cooper, MD; *Development & Corporate Relations Advisor*
- Trevor Lambert; *Board Chair, Corporate Network & Fundraising Advisor*
- Jill Madison; *Marketing Advisor*
- Marci Siers; *Secretary & Director of Communication*
- Terry Provo; *Mission Trip Coordinator*



OKEY ANYANWU



MATT COOPER, MD



TREVOR LAMBERT



JILL MADISON



MARCI SIERS



TERRY PROVO

Financial Spotlight

Financial Spotlight; Funding the End to Child Trafficking

At BIZAA, we know that you trust us to do the amazing work of providing at-risk children in Nigeria an educational opportunity to get off the streets and into the classroom. In 2021, as a pandemic continued to threaten the health of millions around the globe, BIZAA's financial health became the strongest ever! This is thanks to the very generous donations of time, talent and treasure by both our loyal and new supporters.

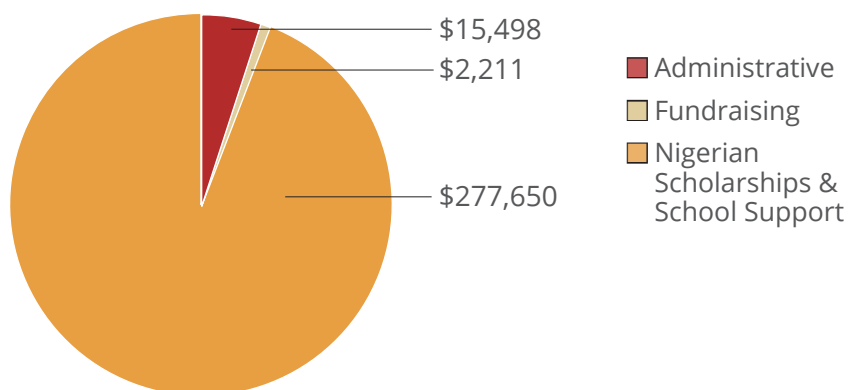
In addition, rapid growth has occasioned the hiring of a renowned accounting firm to handle our financial bookkeeping, which has previously been handled by passionate and dedicated volunteers for the past 11 years. This new service will streamline our accounting practices, make financial reporting more efficient and reduce the burden on our previous volunteers.

We are not a large non-profit, but we do great things and we're conscientious stewards of the monies you've entrusted to us.

EXPENDITURES

Administrative	\$15,498
Fundraising	\$2,211
Scholarships for Children and Vocational School Support	\$277,650

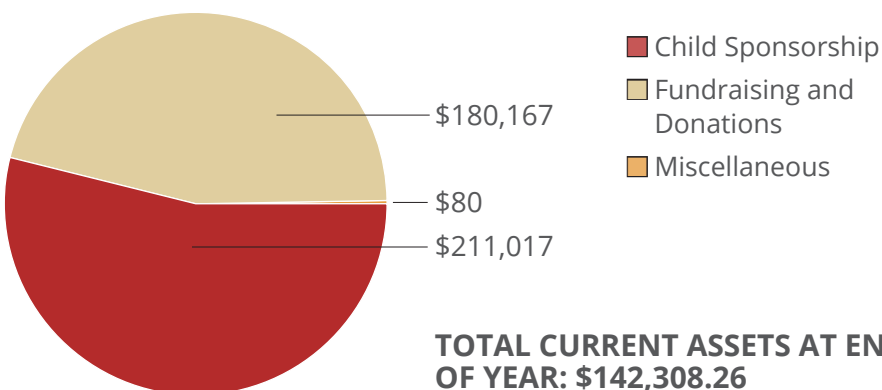
Total **\$295,359**



REVENUE

Child Sponsorship	\$211,017
Fundraising and Donations	\$180,167
Miscellaneous	\$80

Total **\$391,264**



TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS AT END OF YEAR: \$142,308.26

The Heart & Soul of Our Mission

Sponsoring Children and Clearing the Waiting List

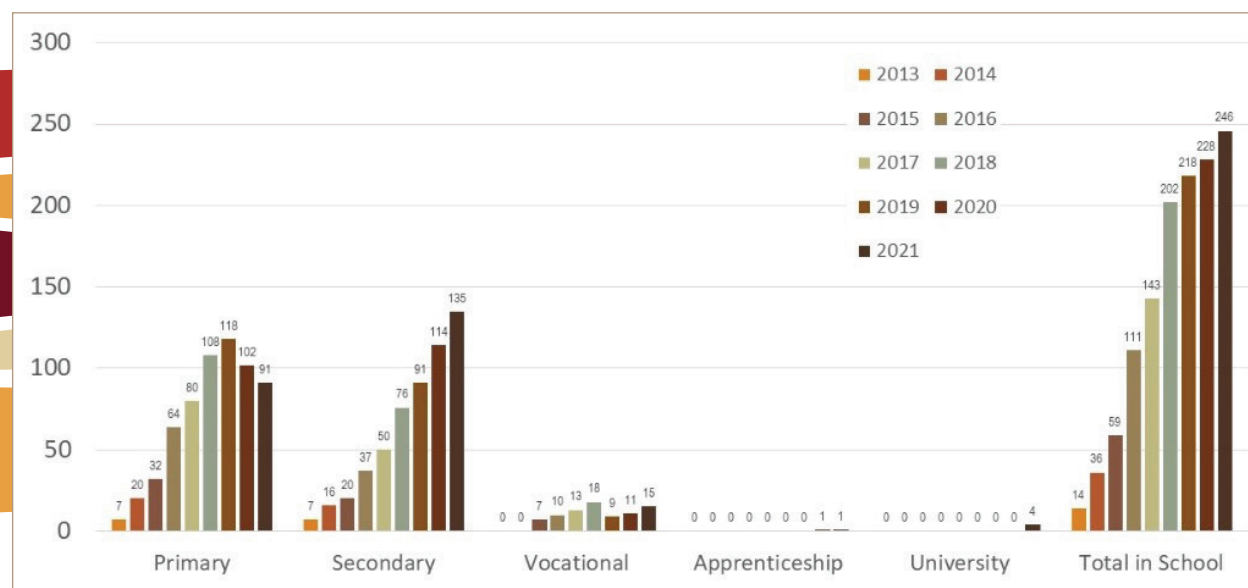
Thanks to amazing supporters like yourself, BIZAA has been able to rescue hundreds of children from the streets, farms and domestic servitude, and set their lives on a new direction of education, learning, training and opportunity. Despite a challenging year worldwide, in 2021 we were able to grow our child sponsorship almost 8% over the prior year!

The BIZAA College of Technology, established in 2016, offers post-secondary students additional learning opportunities and training in Electrical Engineering, Information Technology and Tailoring. Since Spring 2019, 16 students (2019: 9; 2020: 4; 2021: 3) have graduated from the BIZAA College of Technology and have gone on to secure jobs or, for the first time in 2021, continue their education at a university.

OUR 246 SPONSORED CHILDREN:

- 44% male
- 56% female
- Ages 5 - 28
- Attended 13 primary and secondary schools
- Attended 1 university
- Supported locally by 11 dedicated BIZAA staff

BIZAA SPONSORSHIPS



We are extremely proud of the progress we've made, but there is still more work to do, and more children are awaiting our help. Would you help us find sponsors for the 80+ children who have been waiting patiently (some for years) to attend school? To sponsor a child, please go to www.bizaa.org.

Annual Fundraiser Spotlight:

Champagne Brunch

We switched things up this year and instead gathered in November on a Sunday afternoon for a champagne brunch held at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Co-chairs Carolyn Halbur and Judy Carman “re-imagined” our annual fundraiser and it exceeded all our expectations!

Highlights included:

- Engaging emceeing by Dave Whatmuff from the Minnesota Knights of Columbus
- Uplifting Nigerian update by Okey Anyanwu
- Passionate testimonial by Carolyn Halbur
- Student volunteers from the Stillwater High School BIZAA Club
- Over 130 attendees
- Five new child sponsors
- Ultimate Gift Card Package (value \$1000) raffle for attendees

But the biggest highlight of the day was the

\$119,000 raised

to continue and expand BIZAA's mission. This is two and a half times more than any previous annual fundraiser, so we were blown away by the generosity of all of our BIZAA ambassadors. Our sincere and heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the donors, sponsors, volunteers and board members who made the Champagne Brunch an overwhelming success!

We hope to see you at the next champagne brunch in 2022!





MADONNA UNIVERSITY NIGERIA

- First private Nigerian university
- First Catholic university within the West African sub-region
- Offers 100% boarding for all students
- First private university to produce licensed medical doctors and pharmacists in Nigeria
- Graduates have worked in all continents of the world.
- 12,000 students at three campuses
- 33 accredited courses in the following disciplines: law, management, social science, education and art, natural science, pharmacy, engineering, basic medical science, and medicine and surgery

Program Spotlight:

NEW!! Scholarships for Higher Education



After eleven years, BIZAA has progressed to the point where we now have students who are interested in extending their education beyond the vocational training offered by the BIZAA College of Technology.

After passing their national exams, four of our young women headed off to Port Harcourt in May to continue their post-secondary studies at Madonna University. Felicita, Tecular, Ngozi and Vivian began their studies in Health Laboratory Science, a 2-year program that gives students a sound scientific and professional education, and one that prepares them for laboratory science careers at all levels of primary health sciences. Madonna University was carefully vetted by the local Nigerian staff and was chosen because of its focus on character development, leadership and academics.

While the sponsors of these young women covered the tuition and boarding expenses for this inaugural year, BIZAA will be establishing a scholarship fund to permit students who successfully pass national exams and have the interest in continuing their education at a university, even if their sponsors are unable to bear the entire cost of the tuition. If you are interested in contributing to this newly established scholarship fund, you may donate at www.bizaa.org.



BIZAA Nigerian Staff Spotlight: **Chris Onyenaucheya,** **Director of Operations**

How long have you been involved with BIZAA?

I began as a volunteer in 2014 and then joined formally as a paid staff member in June 2015.

Why did you get involved with BIZAA?

I am passionate about humanitarian services, especially those involving children and youth. This passion grew when I first volunteered, and it has motivated me to “give it my all” for the growth of BIZAA in Nigeria.

What impact is BIZAA having on the lives of at-risk children?

BIZAA has restored self-esteem, brightened the futures of children and their families, enhanced skill development for Nigerian youths, and strengthened relationships with the communities.

Can you tell us about a child whose story has touched you?

Charles (sponsored by the MN Knights of Columbus) was living with his grandmother. Every day she brought him to work on a farm to help the family earn a living. The labor not only kept him out of school, it also resulted in low self-esteem. Charles was sponsored in 2016 and committed himself to his education. Though he is only 15 and in secondary school, he has become very “tech savvy”, developing a “hobby” of repairing cell phones. His skills are in high demand and his self-confidence has soared! BIZAA’s sponsorship has transformed his life. Not so long ago he seemed destined to farm for the rest of his life, but he now looks forward to becoming an electrical engineer.

When you think of the work that your team did in 2021, what are you most proud of?

2021 was a difficult year due to the pandemic and politically-induced violence in southeastern Nigeria. I am proud of how our team met these challenges and ensured our children’s safety. The donation of the BIZAA transport van has been a Godsend for both the staff and the children.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing in 2022?

We will continue to improve opportunities for skill and academic development, and to keep our children’s health and safety a top priority. We will also be working to identify the individual strengths that each child has and use that information to guide career development. Finally, we are developing a more efficient process for sharing academic progress reports and correspondence with sponsors.

Do you have a message for BIZAA supporters, sponsors or donors?

We are so appreciative of the generosity and love shown to our African children. Our youth are being transformed and empowered through education, skill acquisition and job placement. Our families are forever grateful. Our communities are strengthened. We send our love and gratitude, and may God bless you all!

— Chris



Partnership Update:

Improved Safety Thanks to ProSource Technologies

In February of this year, one of our sponsored children, Esther, was accidently struck by a car while walking to school. She suffered a broken arm and leg, and was in serious condition. While she eventually recovered, this incident drew into sharp focus the risks our children are exposed to on their way to and from school, at times walking long distances on busy roads.

In last year's annual report, we highlighted the strong impact employees and leadership at ProSource Technologies have had on child sponsorship. Upon hearing of the accident, ProSource Vice-President Jason Alt stepped up, spearheading a fundraising drive that raised \$32,000 for the purchase of a transport vehicle. Within months a gently used, 15-passenger Toyota van was purchased, and it's currently being used by local staff to provide safe transportation for some of the children. It's also become a roving billboard that creates awareness and makes BIZAA's presence known throughout the communities.

We are immensely grateful to Jason and all the ProSource contributors who've given generously to impact the education and safety of our sponsored children!



Partnership Spotlight: **Days for Girls**



“Period poverty is a term that describes the struggle many women and girls face because they lack access to adequate menstrual supplies and education. It can have serious consequences. Without access to safe and affordable menstrual products, many young women experience challenges at school and in the workplace, including absenteeism, wage loss, and difficulty focusing on their education. Days for Girls is an international non-profit that produces a beautiful, washable and reusable feminine hygiene kit that’s built to last. It’s a healthy solution that young women can count on month after month, for up to three years.” (www.daysforgirls.org)

Nigeria is not immune to this issue, and removing barriers to school attendance is part of BIZAA’s mission. Earlier this year BIZAA partnered with Judy Johnson and the Maple Grove Days for Girls Chapter to send 160 feminine hygiene kits and educational materials to Nigeria for our female students and staff. Supplies and the labor to sew the kits were graciously provided by Stitches of Love at Cross Winds United Methodist Church in Maple Grove, and women of the Maple Grove Rotary Club.

Okey reported that the response to the complimentary kits was overwhelmingly positive, and the girls and young women were excited and grateful to receive them. BIZAA hopes to continue this wonderful partnership and bring more kits on future mission trips.

HOW CAN WE HELP MENSTRUATING GIRLS STAY IN SCHOOL?

A recent study examined the impact of menstrual challenges on school attendance in secondary school girls from the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.¹ Investigators interviewed 1366 teenage girls from six schools and found:

- Delayed, oversimplified or absent menstrual education often perpetuates shame and stigma, and can result in missed school days.
- Only 5% of girls obtained accurate menstrual information from teachers, and 28% of girls did not receive any information before their periods began.
- 78% of girls avoid changing their pads at school and 65% of girls avoid using school bathrooms altogether.
- 32% of girls reported recently missing school because of their period.
- Period pain and mental distress were the most common reasons for missing class.

¹Souphalak Inthaphatha et al. Menstrual health and factors associated with school absence among secondary school girls in Luang Prabang Province, Lao People’s Democratic Republic: a cross-sectional study PLoS ONE 2021;16(12):e02611268.



BIZAA

BASIC INSTITUTE
FOR ZONAL AFRICAN
ADVANCEMENT



Thank You

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