



2022 Annual Report

Moving African children from the streets to classrooms

“There can be no definition of a successful life that does not include service to others.”

**President
George H. W.
Bush**

An Open Letter of Appreciation to Our BIZAA Volunteers in America

It is traditional to focus on showcasing the accomplishments of our organization, while equally appreciating our many generous supporters who contributed to those milestones. However, for this annual report's letter, I would like to recognize the core volunteers who have been the bridge-builders between our community of supporters and the international communities we serve.

Since the inception of BIZAA 13 years ago, we have continued to attract some of the most kind-hearted, passionate and talented people across many walks of life. The myriad of sacrifices of time and talent by these individuals have made an impact that is beyond the scope of this publication. They have taken a personal journey, driven by a contagious spirit of service for a mission that promises a bright future through education of victimized children, especially those from the most populous black nation in the world with the highest number of out-of-school children in the world – Nigeria.

So, to a great team with diversified skillsets who share the same compassionate mindset of changing our world, one child at a time, I give my undying gratitude: Carolyn H, Marci S, Judy C, Sue N, Lee H, Carl C, Karl L, Jill C, Trevor L, Mark W, Matt C, Shelley N, Katie P, Denice L, Betty B, Dawn L, Kathleen P, Karen S, Kirsten C, Kristina H, Temi, Adam G, Terry P, and the BIZAA Club at Stillwater Area High School.

I am humbled by your commitment, encouraged by your friendship, amazed at your productive insights, and filled with admiration for your individual strengths and contributions. You have engineered the growth that led us to contract with a new Sponsorship Account Manager, Trish Snyder, whose professional skills have already started yielding great dividends for our organization.

Our team not only epitomizes the words of President Bush, but the teaching of Confucius as well: “If your plan is for one year, plant rice. If your plan is for ten years, plant trees. If your plan is for one hundred years, educate children.”

Truly Yours,
Okey Anyanwu

*Children singing
“Happy Birthday”
to Okey during
2022 mission trip*



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 280 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 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

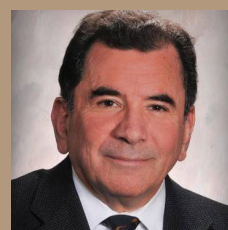
- Form a strong and impactful coalition of religious organizations, schools and corporations.
- Initiate viable strategies to get underprivileged and vulnerable children off the streets and out of factories and farms, and return them to their families.
- Enroll children in existing educational institutions 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 Cannon; *Marketing Advisor*
- Marci Siers; *Secretary & Director of Communication*
- Mark Wegner; *Financial Advisor*
- Terry Provo; *Mission Trip Coordinator*



OKEY ANYANWU



MATT COOPER, MD



TREVOR LAMBERT



JILL CANNON



MARCI SIERS



MARK WEGNER



TERRY PROVO

Financial Spotlight

Financial Spotlight; Funding the End to Child Trafficking

Together we do the amazing work of providing at-risk Nigerian children an educational opportunity to get them off the streets and into the classroom. In 2022, though the global pandemic continued to impact health, BIZAA's financial health stood strong! This is thanks to the very generous donations of time, talent and treasure by both our loyal and new supporters.

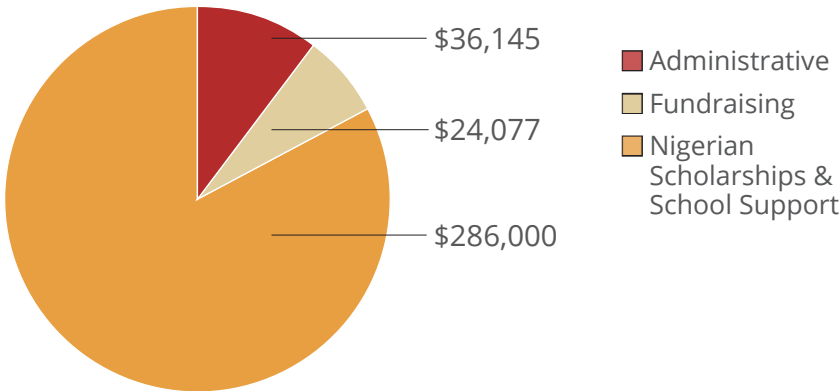
In addition, our continued rapid growth has resulted in the need to contract with a Sponsorship Accounts Manager, Trish Snyder, who keeps close tabs on the hundreds of students we're helping, as well as improving communication with the wonderful sponsors who support them. Trish has been a long-time BIZAA supporter and a welcome addition to the administrative team! In 2023 we also have plans to add an Outreach and Development Manager as an additional resource.

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

EXPENDITURES

Administrative	\$36,145
Fundraising	\$24,077
Scholarships for Children and Vocational School Support	\$286,000

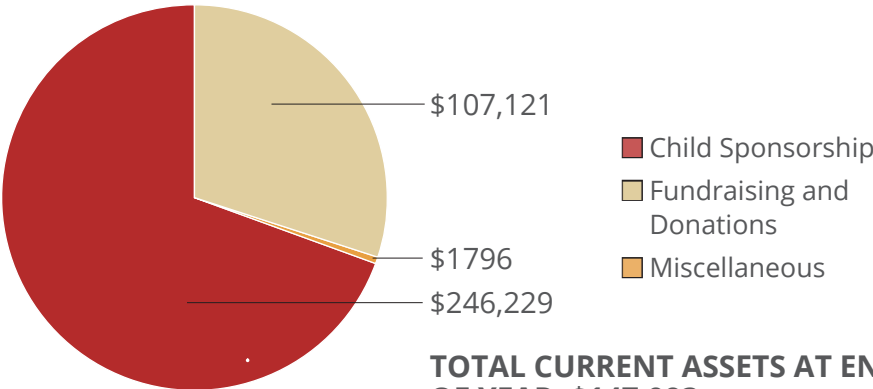
Total **\$346,222**



REVENUE

Child Sponsorship	\$246,229
Fundraising and Donations	\$107,121
Miscellaneous	\$1796

Total **\$355,145**



TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS AT END OF YEAR: \$147,093

The Heart & Soul of Our Mission

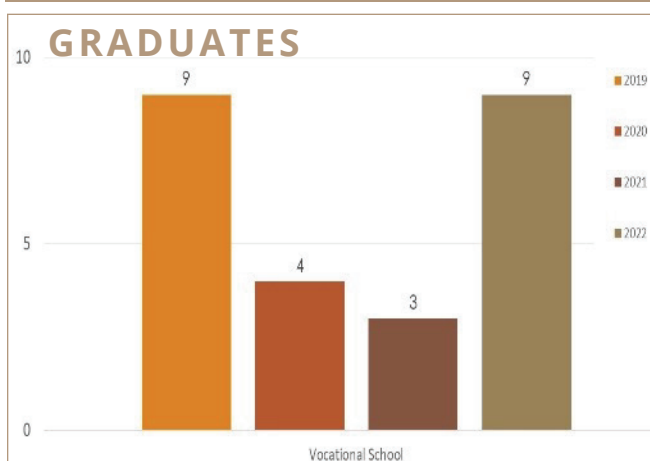
Sponsoring Children and Clearing the Waiting List

Thanks to our amazing supporters, BIZAA has rescued 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 the lagging impact of the worldwide pandemic, in 2022 we were able to grow our child sponsorship almost 6% over the prior year!

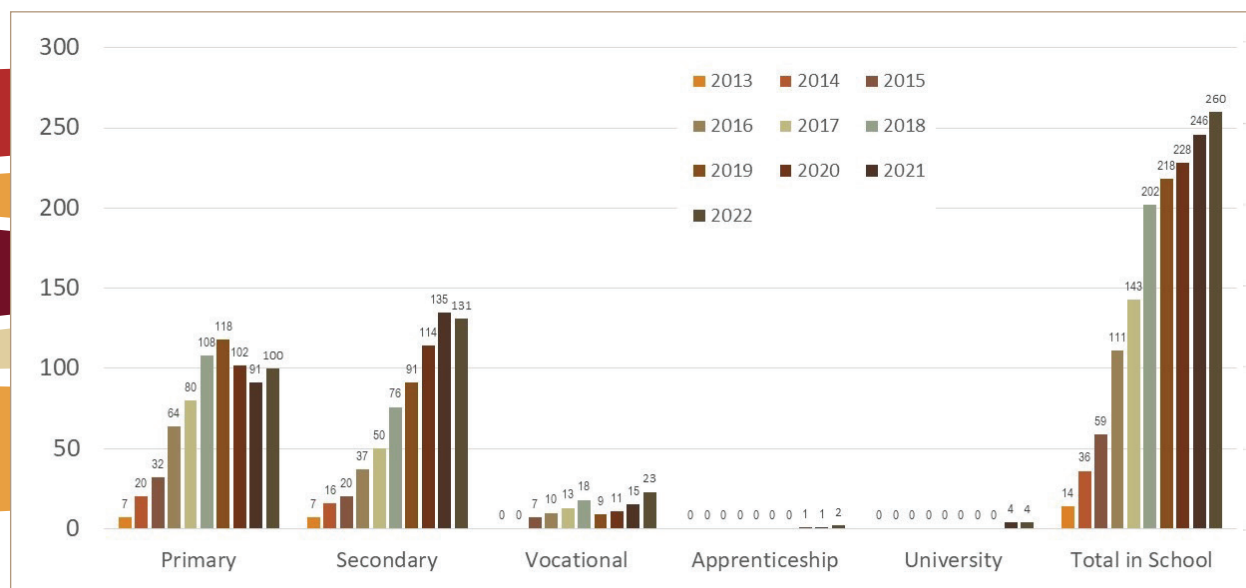
The BIZAA College of Technology, established in 2016, offers post-secondary students additional training in Electrical Engineering, Information Technology and Tailoring. Since the Spring of 2019, our graduates have gone on to secure jobs, volunteer or continue their education at a university.

OUR 260 SPONSORED CHILDREN:

- 43% male • 57% female • Ages 5 - 28
- Attend 15 primary and secondary schools
- Attend 1 university
- Supported locally by
 - 12 BIZAA staff — 4 volunteers



BIZAA SPONSORSHIPS



While we are extremely proud of the progress we've made, there are more children awaiting our help. Would you help us find sponsors for the 50+ 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

Leveraging the incredible success of our inaugural event in 2021, we gathered again in November for a champagne brunch held at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Co-chairs Carolyn Halbur and Judy Carman once again outdid themselves!

Highlights included:

- Uplifting Nigerian update by Okey Anyanwu
- Testimony by Jeff Cavins, nationally known speaker, author and TV host
- Presentation on BIZAA's mission and vision by Terry Provo
- Video updates by Nigerian staff and children
- *Afrocontigbo Dance Therapy* got the whole audience doing African dance moves
- A record 14 new child sponsors
- Ultimate Gift Card Package (value \$1000) raffle for attendees

Over **\$103,000 raised**

was raised to continue and expand BIZAA's mission!

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 2023!

Photos by Jonny Stuckmayer

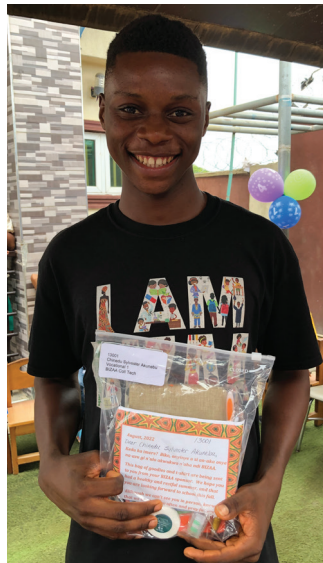




Mission Trip Update

Our last formal mission trip was in 2018, due first to some political unrest and then, most recently, to the global pandemic. Finally, this year a scaled-down mission trip occurred to the delight of our sponsored children and colleagues. Terry Provo accompanied Okey to Lagos, Nigeria in September, bringing t-shirts, gifts and supplies for the children and staff, and offering training for BIZAA's local staff. Instead of traveling from Lagos to the rural communities, six staff surprised our

two missionaries by bringing 12 of the sponsored children to Lagos in the BIZAA van. It was a long-overdue 3-day reunion with joyful tears, precious singing, and African dancing, including many great moves by Sister Mother General! Terry and Okey also traveled to a Lagos school and interviewed families with at-risk children who are in desperate need of sponsorship. We're planning to go again in 2023 so stay tuned for more updates!





Partnership Update: Days for Girls

In our 2021 annual report we told you about our partnership with an amazing international organization, **Days for Girls** (www.daysforgirls.org), which provides reusable feminine hygiene kits for young women in countries with “period poverty”. These beautiful hand-sewn kits offer a healthy solution that help keep girls in school and prevent the absenteeism that often happens

when women lack access to adequate and affordable menstrual supplies. In 2021 BIZAA brought 160 kits, enough for all our female students and staff. This year, the Maple Grove Chapter of Days for Girls provided an additional 325 kits, filling a huge need, not only for our BIZAA families, but for their communities as well! Thank you Days for Girls!



Fundraiser Update: Top Golf

On May 22nd BIZAA held its first sports fundraiser at Top Golf in Brooklyn Center. The event was a fantastic opportunity to learn about BIZAA's mission, enjoy great food and company, and compete for bragging-right trophies. The event raised money for the BIZAA Scholarship Fund. Thanks to Trevor Lambert, BIZAA Board Chair, for quarterbacking the fun event!





Nigerian Staff Spotlight:

Reverend Mother Obioma, PhD

Dean of Student Affairs and Student Counsellor

What are your responsibilities in your role with BIZAA?

The serious mission of identifying children at risk and moving them from the streets to the classroom falls under my watch. Rescued children have experienced various degrees of trauma and abuse that no child should be exposed to. I provide counselling to all BIZAA children (those sponsored and those on the waiting list), their families and our Nigerian BIZAA Staff. My office and staff work with our affiliated schools to ensure professional monitoring of the child's progress in their academics, overall wellbeing and societal integration. We then share progress updates with sponsors twice a year and work with the children on their career goals.

What is your educational background?

I majored in Guidance and Counselling, and I recently graduated from a doctorate program in Psychology.

You also have another important role outside of BIZAA. Can you tell us a little more about that?

I am the Mother General of an autonomous faith-based religious organization called the Two Hearts of Love Congregation. There, I have overall managerial responsibilities, including the oversight of all congregational activities and affairs.

When and why did you become involved with BIZAA?

I began with this selfless, one-in-a-million organization in 2018, so it has been a remarkable and memorable five years and counting! I became involved because BIZAA shares the same vision as my congregation, specifically to perform corporal works of mercy, serve humanity and empower youth, especially the poor and vulnerable who, without an organization like BIZAA, have little opportunity for a brighter future. These have been my undying passions, and I am immensely fulfilled when I see rescued children become educated and contributing members of society.

Tell us a story about how BIZAA has impacted a child's life.

This experience still brings tears to my eyes. There is a BIZAA child named Chinedu Onyema Harry Dim, whose father died when he was two months old; thus, he never knew his father nor the feeling of a father's love. His widowed mother, solely responsible for his wellbeing, was struggling to provide and barely able to afford to feed him. As a result, Onyema helped the family by hawking (i.e. selling) groundnut on the street during the hours he was supposed to be in school. Daily he watched while other children went to school, wanting to go as well, but knowing there was no one to help

him fulfill his dreams. The local BIZAA staff identified and rescued him (followed by Mark and Debbie Wegner stepping up to sponsor him). When Onyema was told that he would be going to school, he wept. I asked him why he was crying, and he said, "I never knew that I would have a father again." I cried with him in his great joy, because BIZAA had become a "father to the fatherless". Onyema is now in Primary 4, loving school and improving tremendously in his academics.

What are you and your staff hoping to accomplish in 2023?

We are looking forward to improving communication channels with our American team and supporters, as well as enhancing the progress report template. Letters from the children to sponsors are an important way to stay connected so we'll be encouraging and engaging more children to do that. As financial resources become available, we want to increase and intensify our rescue capacity (ideally across all of Nigeria) as this model has directly reduced the rate of child abuse, domestic servitude and child labor in Nigeria.

You sound very busy! What do you like to do for fun?

In my leisure I enjoy classical and folklore music, singing, dancing, reading and traveling.

What message do you have for BIZAA supporters and sponsors?

I am profoundly grateful for all our wonderful BIZAA supporters, who have faithfully granted us the needed support to drive this organization to where we are today. We remain faithfully committed and dedicated to the core values and mission of BIZAA. Through your support, you have saved and changed the lives of countless vulnerable children, just like the saying, "When you open a school door, you close a prison door." May the Good Lord continuously protect and preserve you all!



BIZAA

BASIC INSTITUTE
FOR ZONAL AFRICAN
ADVANCEMENT



Thank You

13570 Grove Drive #279 • Maple Grove, MN 55311 • 612-306-7779



@bizaaorg



bizaa.org