



December 2023



# The Year of Good Things

## Thank you for supporting Building Hope Project this year.

In 2023, we took the momentum from 2022 and continued blazing forward!

We took a closer look at each of our programs. We welcomed new team members, expanded our summer volunteer program, and laid the groundwork for a new program within the organization that culminates the amazing work that has been done over the last ten years and brings us into a new era.

We labeled 2022 as our year of massive resilience. And indeed, it was. We picked ourselves up from the ongoing hardships brought by the COVID-19 pandemic that was still affecting daily life in Uganda, and caused massive damage in Uganda's education system.

We built new and better ways of doing things, brought our international volunteers back to Uganda, and reconnected with many

of our program alumni for the first time to see where life was taking them.

So, for us, 2023 will be known as the year of good things. Because indeed, it was so, so good.

### 2023 Highlights

#### RELAUNCHING

With the stabilization of movement and work, school returned to a full-time normal schedule this year, and Building Hope Project was able to complete our typical yearly programming, including our monthly "leadership labs" on campus. We also re-launched full time our Seed of Hope Skilling Cooperative to help our student-artisans continue their craft making journey. This year, we also saw 10 graduating P7 students with many of them scoring at the top of their class!

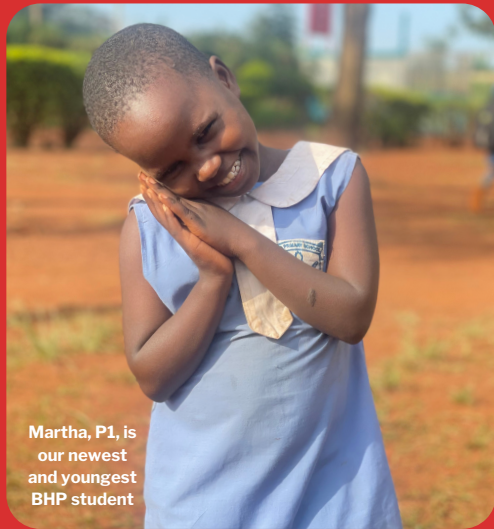


# David's Relocation to Uganda

*"Over the years I have visited Uganda, it was as a worker trying to accomplish a task or mission. However, living there for an extended period enabled me to immerse myself in the culture and experience life in a deeper way. The Ugandan way of life, characterized by its unhurried pace, illuminated the importance of savoring every moment. In Uganda, I learned that life isn't about the number of tasks accomplished or things owned; it's about connecting with people and living with purpose."*



At the very top of the year, our managing founder, David Curtiss, temporarily relocated to Uganda, where he left his job, family, and home, to stay in the Pearl of Africa until the end of this year. Making such a big step, his plan was to offer more on-the-ground support to BHP's programs, create more relationships for the organization and learn from other NGOs, and help new team members grow in the organization. Being so closely connected to Uganda for over a decade, he also wanted more time to connect with the culture, and he explored many of Uganda's tribal regions, learned to cook traditional dishes, and even took Luganda classes! Talking about his experience this year, David says:



Martha, P1, is our newest and youngest BHP student

BHP is not BHP without all the wonderful people who make the **big leap to come to Uganda to participate in service and cultural exchange every summer.** Our organization loves equipping and mobilizing everyone to use their time and talents to support our BHP community, and this year, we had a wonderful time with our traveling team!

This June, we hosted a team of seven (four from the USA) in Uganda for fifteen days to lead exciting programs for our students, including family home visits, an alumni reunion day, a new BHP student and parent orientation, and even a four-day youth leadership conference! When the team was not working, they participated in cultural activities, like cooking classes, tours of national parks and museums, and shows. One of our favorite parts when our traveling team comes is seeing the way they are embraced by our entire BHP community—especially our students, as they now wear the title of “uncle” and “auntie” by many forever.



## Ready to come to Uganda in '24?

More than 3 out of 4 participants take their first trip abroad with BHP. If this sounds like what you are looking for in 2024, visit the link: [buildinghopeproject.community](https://buildinghopeproject.community)



# ALUMNI & INAUGURAL SECONDARY COHORT



Over the summer, BHP launched our first-ever Alumni Reunion, welcoming over 40 youth who graduated through BHP for a time of leadership empowerment, career support, and fellowship.

Many of the alumni had a chance to meet one another for the first time, with graduates ranging from Class of '22 to Class of '13! This time together also included an in-depth focus group, led by our team, about their experience in the BHP program and what life lessons have been most valuable to them, including additional areas BHP can continue to support their leadership and life journey. The organization was able to gather so much valuable information from this time. Additionally, we are very pleased to report that nearly all BHP alumni are enrolled in higher education, completed vocational training, or are employed as engineers, teachers, nurses, and more!

The young people that BHP produces are bright, thoughtful, and motivated individuals who truly want to make a difference in their community and their nation because of BHP's investment. And we believe that our investment in their lives should not stop at primary school! This year, we also launched a Virtual Alumni Support Group focused on assessing alumni needs, providing encouragement and leadership support virtual lessons, and pointing youth to additional resources and places for support. But, we know our work cannot stop there.

**We invite you to be part of this significant change in BHP and the lives of our alumni— who deserve to take their education all the way to their dreams!**

## EXCITING NEWS:

Starting at the top of 2024, up to **TEN BHP alumni will join our new Secondary School Sponsorship Program!** With already six students identified, BHP sponsored alumni receive all of the benefits primary school students do- including tuition, uniforms, school materials, and meals, as well as access to the skilling program and alumni leadership activities. They will also have to complete a set number of volunteer hours with the program and our primary students.





# SPOTLIGHT ON STELLA

## Stella represents the start of an exciting new chapter.

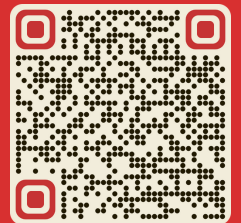
One of our best alumni, Stella (Senior 1), joined the Building Hope Project as a Primary Five student after her older brother finished the program and her family, again, fell on hard times with loss of income due to COVID-19. We instantly noticed she was sharp, confident, and a natural leader to all the younger students. Even outside of the alumni programming BHP hosts, she would stop by after school or on lunch breaks to be with the program, and she excels in secondary school and signs up for various extracurricular programs.

Earlier this year, Stella's family suffered a major financial setback and found that the money that had been saved for Stella's secondary school tuition while she was in BHP had to be used to keep food on the table and Stella's younger siblings taken care of. Given Stella's exceptional record and academics, she pleaded with her secondary school for a scholarship, but was unsuccessful. Mere days before Stella would have to provide fees for her school term, a former volunteer who traveled to Uganda was made aware of this situation and she said "the time is now for the secondary program to begin, and I am starting with Stella." And the rest is history!

When Stella becomes older, she wants to use her artistic talents as a musician and poet telling stories about her home country and bringing it to the world. We are thrilled to continue helping Stella get one step closer to her goals.



SCAN HERE!

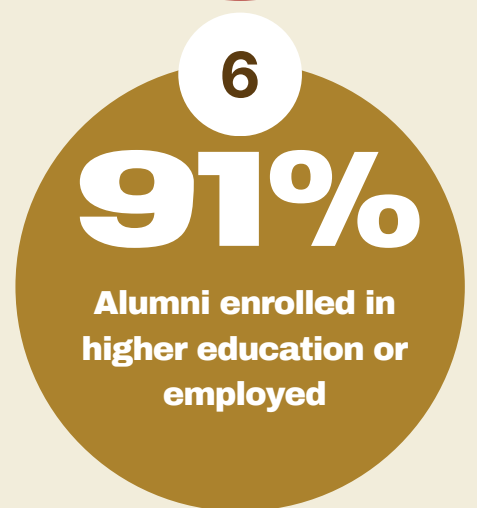
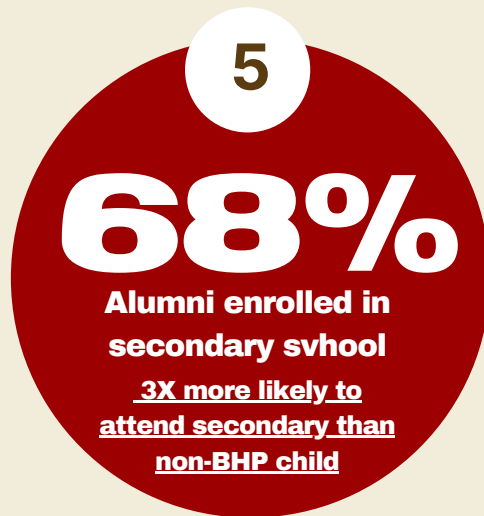
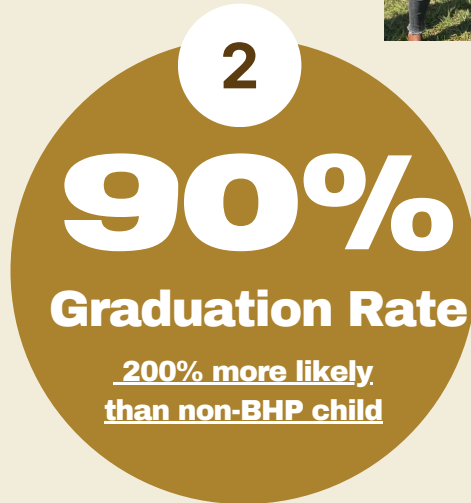


JOIN US FOR SECONDARY  
SPONSORSHIP TODAY.



# Our Impact since 2012

Beyond just 2023, our work for more than a decade at Building Hope Project has helped to change the game for young people's education and futures in Uganda. We have worked with our students to build a community hundreds in Uganda call home. Stopped girl marriages. Gave young people better options. Watched children become leaders. Saw families reunited. All through the power of education and youth leadership. We do not say this just in words, but we track our actions to help evaluate our overall impact, and we wanted to share with you some amazing accomplishments:



# WE NEED YOU IN 2024.

THERE IS SO MUCH NEW  
WORK TO DO.

2024 will bring new challenges and new opportunities and we want to meet them well. We want to successfully launch our Secondary Sponsorship Program and EXCEED the number of students we can currently sponsor, as well as increase our primary school participants from 50 to 75 students next year. Not to mention keeping our other leadership programming, like our Seed Of Hope skilling program and the Leadership Labs, thriving. **Our budget will continue to grow to account for all the program changes, and we need to start 2024 having raised an additional \$20,000 to be able to support our students.**

We ask that you continue your support through giving. **It costs \$20 a month to sponsor a primary child (\$240 a year) and \$25 a month for a secondary child (\$300 a year),** which includes their tuition, uniforms, two meals a day, school materials, and participation in leadership activities. A gift of any amount is always encouraged and put to great use. **The work must continue-- we must move forward! Will you partner with us to make it happen?**

**THANK YOU ALWAYS  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

WAYS TO GIVE:

**Venmo: @BuildingHope-Project**  
**Cashapp: \$BuildingHopeProject**  
**linktr.ee/buildinghopeproject**

*Please make all checks payable to BUILDING HOPE PROJECT and send to 2851 West 120th Street, Suite E #351 Hawthorne, CA 90250*  
**Office Number: 323-758-1213**



**THIS WORK IS ONLY POSSIBLE  
BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY!**

From our BHP family to yours, have  
a wonderful **Holiday Season.**