



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## AFRICA SHADE OF LIGHT

Empowering children, families, and communities to reach their God-given potential.



Africa SOL Ministries



# LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS



Dear ministry partners & friends of Africa Shades of Light,

As we reflect on this past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for what God has done through Africa Shade of Light and through you. Your support in prayer and generosity have made this journey possible and, for that, we say **thank you**.

This year, we have witnessed incredible growth in our programs. Our SOL Clubs have become a center of hope for children and youth, providing a safe space where they can learn, play, and develop their God-given talents. We have empowered families of children with special needs and encouraged them in their child's unique abilities. Education remains at the heart of our mission as our sponsorship program has continued to support vulnerable children with access to a wholesome education that lays a foundation for a brighter future.

None of this would be possible without you. Your prayers, generosity, and partnership fuel the work of Africa SOL, enabling us to shine Christ's light in places of darkness and to be a shade for the weary and heavy-laden.

As we step into another year, we do so with faith, believing that God will continue to use this ministry to transform lives and bring hope to people for generations to come.

From our family to yours: may God bless you abundantly.

With gratitude and hope,

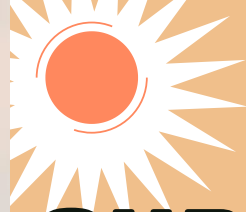
Akram, Nicole, & Uriah Katongole  
Founders & Directors  
Africa Shade of Light





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Vision, Mission, and Values
4	Highlights of 2024
5	Program Updates
6	Financial Overview
7	Future Goals
8	Acknowledgments and Gratitude



# OUR MISSION

Our daily mission is to address adversity through ethical, collaborative, and sustainable action to empower underserved communities, families, and children to reach their God-given potential.

# OUR VISION

Our long term vision is to make disciples of Jesus to restore eternal hope in the lives and hearts of people for generations.

# OUR VALUES

1

**Collaboration:** Collaborating with individuals, families, communities, local leaders, international partners, government entities, and other organizations to create lasting, meaningful, and sustainable change in the lives and hearts of people together.

2

**Reconciliation:** Reconciling people's perspectives and relationships with self, with others, with the world, and with God.

3

**Sustainability:** A long-term mindset that maintains an effective and efficient process continuously over time.

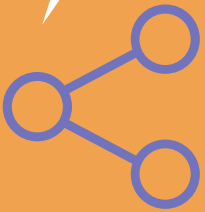
4

**Integrity:** A standard of excellence that is ethical and shows good stewardship in every detail, aspect, and action.

5

**Hope:** Bringing everlasting hope to vulnerable and underserved peoples through discipleship and the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



20+ women meet monthly for fellowship and physical, emotional, and spiritual support.



100+ children and youth access our center weekly where they receive empowerment and learn more about Christ.



500+ children supported with education both directly and indirectly through sponsorships, book clubs, library resources, and tutoring services.



Pavilion constructed to accommodate 200+ people and to host our weekly programs, activities, and outreaches.



45+ community members, volunteers, local leaders, and families trained in finding value, caring for, and advocating for children with special needs.



200+ teenagers and youth impacted with the Word and challenged to live a life of purpose.





## EDUCATION IS A BRIDGE

TO OPPORTUNITY, A LIGHT IN DARKNESS, AND A WEAPON  
AGAINST POVERTY.

AFRICASOLMINISTRIES.ORG/EDUCATION

We believe education is a transformative tool that breaks the cycles of poverty, empowers children to shape their future. This year, we've empowered over **500 children and youth** through our educational initiatives including sponsorship, book clubs, library initiatives, and personalized tutoring sessions.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, **23 students** received full scholarships covering tuition, scholastic supplies, personal materials like shoes and backpacks, one-on-one counseling and mentorship, and additional learning resources. This year we also introduced book clubs in two partner primary schools lacking pre-existing resources to improve literacy and comprehension, critical thinking, and a love for reading through sessions and activities like group reading, spelling bees, debate, and dictionary training.

We supported **117 primary seven students** from five schools as they prepared to take their national examinations - providing them with mathematical sets and success cards, and praying with them to encourage them in God's sovereignty and plans for their lives.

We remain committed to ensure education is accessible to the most vulnerable children, and we extend our deepest gratitude to the many sponsors and supporters who help build brighter futures for these children. Together we are transforming lives and creating hope for generations to come.



# BUILDING FAITH AND COMMUNITY

SOL LADIES

Our women's group meets once a month as a cornerstone for spiritual growth and fellowship. Women in the community have gathered together to create a safe and supportive space to share vulnerabilities, to encourage one another, and to reflect on Scriptural truth together.

These meetings encourage women as they openly share their life challenges and uplift one another through prayer and practical advice; they develop meaningful connections where friendship and community flourish; and they support one another in their journeys together as mothers, wives, sisters, and above all: daughters of Christ.





# NURTURING GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

## SOL CLUB

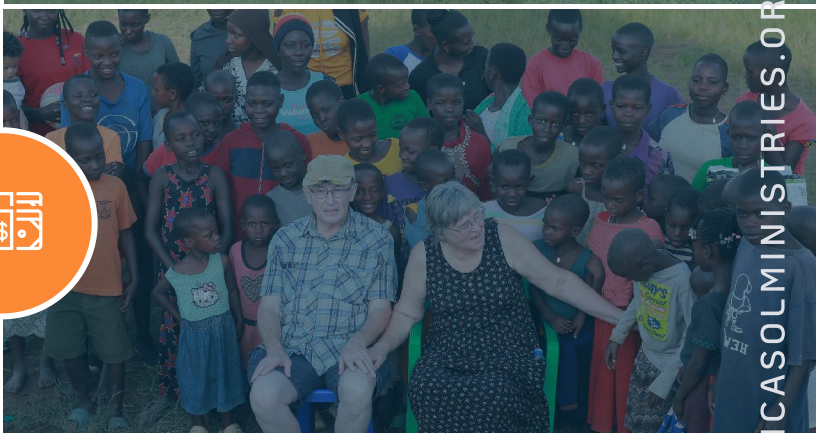
Every weekend our SOL Clubs come alive with laughter, learning, and discovery as children and youth gather to grow in faith and develop their God-given talents through play, skills-based learning, and community.

These gatherings have given us a front-row seat to witness the incredible gifts that God has placed in each child.

Through the clubs, we have seen talented dancers, singers, and young speakers. Many have shown spiritual maturity - leading prayers and encouraging their peers in the Word of God while others show their dedication, skill, hard work, and teamwork through sports.

We see these gifts as an opportunity not only for personal growth and achievement, but for Kingdom impact. Our prayer is to nurture and ground these talents, ensuring they are used to serve God's purposes and craft brighter futures for each of these children and youth.

We are committed to walking alongside these children providing mentorship and opportunities to refine their skills so they can shine their light in their communities, in their families, and beyond.





# EPHESIANS 2:10

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

This year we inspired over 200 youth with the theme **Created for a Purpose**.

We engaged youth across four different regions in a powerful series of events, grounding and challenging them in the truth: they are created for a purpose.

Each of these gatherings aimed to remind young people that they are created for a purpose and that their lives should reflect Christ to their communities through their unique gifts and talents.

Through interactive discussions, personal testimonies, and community-building activities, we emphasized that true purpose is found in Jesus, encouraging them to make God-honoring decisions and use their abilities to impact the people around them positively.





# DISABILITY IS NOT A CURSE OR PUNISHMENT FOR PAST MISTAKES



As is sometimes perceived in our communities.

Instead, disability requires an understanding, compassion, support, and advocacy. This shift in perspective is instrumental in breaking down long-standing stigmas and misconceptions, ultimately paving the way for children with disabilities to be seen as valuable members of society and given the resources and support needed to thrive.



Through our special needs inclusion program, we were able to engage the community in meaningful conversations about inclusion and the importance of creating an environment where all children can thrive regardless of their ability. Through our community training initiatives, families and caregivers were equipped with practical skills on how to support their children with special needs to live fulfilling lives.



Better yet, the community's understanding shifted to begin viewing the inherent worth of children with disabilities and is now more committed to giving them the opportunity to grow, learn, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. This marks a crucial milestone in our mission to build a more inclusive and supportive community that reflects the love and compassion of Christ.





# A SHADE OF REFUGE, A LIGHT OF CHRIST

Our community center has become a hub of hope and a sanctuary in the community. It stands as one-of-a-kind in the area: providing a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment where people, young and old, can gather, grow, and thrive.

Every weekend we welcome over 100+ children and youth who come to participate in a variety of enriching activities including: Bible studies, where they are grounded in faith and learn life-changing lessons from God's Word; Music, dance, and drama, where children and youth are encouraged to express their creativity and discover their talents; Sports and extracurricular games that hone focus and encourage teamwork; and practical skills that provide young people with tools for independence and personal growth.

The pavilion has been a game-changer for our programs. This structure has enabled us to accommodate more children and youth while ensuring they are protected from the elements, such as rain and harsh sun. With this space, our ability to serve has expanded, allowing us to maintain a consistent and comfortable environment for all activities.

The center is not just a building or space, it is a symbol of God's love and provision. It stands as a reminder that every child deserves a place to belong, learn, and grow. As we reflect on the year, we are so grateful for the community's support and God's faithfulness and provision in providing this vital space to the community we serve. Together, we are transforming lives and shaping a brighter future for generations to come.







# HOPE RESTORED



When we first met Jaja Elias her life looked like a storm with no calm in sight - living in a dilapidated mud and grass-thatched house that barely sheltered her from the elements, she struggled to care for her two grandchildren. The children had never set foot in a school and their days were marked by hunger and despair. Overwhelmed by the weight of her circumstances, Jaja Elias had turned to alcohol as an escape, trying to drown out the sorrow of her struggles.

Through your generosity, a new chapter began for Jaja Elias and her family. Our intervention started with small but impactful steps: engaging her in friendship, enrolling her grandchildren in a local school, ensuring they received wholesome meals, and constructing a modest but sturdy house to replace their crumbling shelter.

The transformation didn't stop there. Jaja Elias was welcomed into our women's group where she not only found support, but also a sense of belonging. Surrounded by other women who understood her pain and shared her journey, she began to rebuild her life. The group became her community: she was no longer alone.

Today, Jaja Elias is supported to ensure she and her family meet their basic physical needs like daily sustenance; she receives guidance and counsel along with other caregivers and families in our sponsorship program; her grandchildren now thrive in school, brimming with potential and a hope for a better future; and she is encouraged in love and faith by a community who cares for her and the wellbeing of her and her grandchildren.

Jaja Elias' story is a powerful reminder of what can happen when love, faith, and community come together. With your prayers and support, we are committed to shine Christ's light into the darkest corners of the world and transform lives, one family at a time.

Matthew 5:16

*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*





# OUR COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK:

Collaboration is key to our mission. By working alongside families, local government, and partner organizations, we have expanded our impact throughout Uganda and the communities we serve. Through collaborative efforts, we trained parents and caregivers of children with disabilities and partnered to seek justice in a child defilement case. To enhance education accessibility, we collaborated with schools to welcome vulnerable children and received support from generous sponsors and donors, enabling us to shine Christ's light in our communities and throughout the world.



*For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.*

1 Corinthians 3:9

# WHAT'S COMING FOR 2025?



Shine the Light of Christ in our communities through service and outreach.



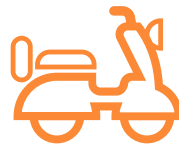
Support teenage mothers and school dropouts with practical skills to help them dream again.



Reach teens with the message of making responsible, Godly choices.



Walk with families of children with disabilities to ensure access to physical therapy and specialized care.



Purchase a motorbike to ease community movements, home visits, and reach hard-to-access areas.



Pray for the means to access clean water both at our center and in the community.



Develop a community office at our center to enhance efficiency and community engagement.



Stay tuned as we create a new safe space for children, youth, and families to grow and thrive!



"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." – Mother Teresa



# FINANCIALS

**US DOLLARS**

We uphold transparency and accountability by responsibly managing resources and ensuring they directly impact the communities we serve. Through ethical stewardship, regular reporting, and collaboration with stakeholders, we remain committed to our mission of shining Christ's light.

INCOME	
CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES	\$545.93
EDUCATION SUPPORT	\$8,618.44
GENERAL MINISTRY FUNDS	\$22,810.06
MISSIONARY SUPPORT	\$10,980.67

EXPENSES	
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	\$160.00
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$1,494.19
MISSIONARY SUPPORT	\$9,387.80
UGANDA PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$30,925.00



# FINANCIALS

EXCHANGE RATE: 1 USD = 3,500 UGX



## UGANDAN SHILLINGS

INCOME	
	112,157,624
EXPENSE	
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	605,600
CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS	1,187,000
COMMUNITY OUTREACHES	8,551,000
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS	14,653,000
GROUND MAINTAINENCE	4,173,500
MEDICAL AID	75,000
OFFICE EXPENSE	21,173,000
PAVILION AND RESTROOM CONSTRUCTION	46,432,500
SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM	4,059,500
TRAVEL AND MEETINGS	1,173,000
VEHICLE EXPENSE	3,495,000







With hearts full of gratitude, we take this moment to appreciate each of you - our dedicated volunteers, our esteemed Board of Directors in the U.S., our faithful sponsors and donors, our committed prayer partners, and all those who take time to send words of encouragement. Your support has been a pillar of strength in our mission to bring the light of Christ to vulnerable communities. Because of you, we continue to stand as a hub of hope.

Our volunteers - your selflessness in giving your time and energy ensures each child and family receive opportunities for growth and experience the love of Christ.

To our Board of Directors - your guidance and leadership keeps us anchored in purpose and vision.

To our sponsors and donors - your generosity transforms lives, giving children access to education, families' access to empowerment, and communities' access to Christ's love in action.

To our prayer partners, your intercession strengthens us daily. We have seen God move in mighty ways, opening doors and making a way where there seemed to be none.

And to those who take the time to write letters and speak words of encouragement - you may never fully know how much your words mean. In challenging moments, your words remind us why we press on.

Thank you for sending Africa SOL to be a light in the darkest places. Your partnership is making a difference and together we are changing lives for the glory of God.

May He bless you abundantly as we continue this journey of love, hope, and transformation.

With love,  
The Africa SOL Team



# GET IN TOUCH

We appreciate your support and interest in our mission at Africa Shade of Light.

AFRICASOLMINISTRIES.ORG/GETINVOLVED



Africa SOL Ministries

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