



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear BTCTE Community,

What a year! 2024 has been a whirlwind of growth and achievement for Breaking the Chain Through Education. As we reflect on this past year of work, I am deeply moved by the transformative progress we've achieved in our mission to support formerly trafficked children in Ghana. This year marked several pivotal developments in our growth that I am thrilled to share with you in this annual report.

The completion of our Phase 2 campus in 2024 represented a significant milestone in expanding our capacity to serve more children in need. This new facility will strengthen our ability to provide comprehensive care and support throughout our beneficiaries' journeys to independence. Within the next year, more than 50 youth will be living at the campus, with access to clean water, spacious living spaces, community gatherings, and classrooms to facilitate their education.

We've also taken important steps to deepen our roots in Ghana by welcoming three new Ghana-based board members, who enhance our ability to serve our beneficiaries with greater cultural understanding and local expertise. Their insights will increase our effectiveness as they work with our existing team to improve beneficiary oversight, healthcare, and education.

Our model differs from the current status quo of anti-trafficking work, which focuses on freeing youth from trafficking but often does not address their long-term reintegration and trauma-healing needs. I'm proud to report that this year we've expanded our reach to include **14 new beneficiaries** while celebrating another cohort of **13 graduates** who have achieved independence. These successful transitions exemplify our long-term, comprehensive approach to care and rehabilitation. Many graduates are leaving the program to pursue their careers, start families, launch businesses, or pursue greater levels of involvement in their communities.

None of these achievements happen without you - our dedicated supporters, staff, and the larger BTCTE family. Your generosity and dedication continue to transform lives, one child at a time. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to support every child under our care. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.

With gratitude and optimism,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan Robbins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Evan Robbins
Executive Director
Breaking the Chain Through Education
erobbins@btcte.org

Transform a child's journey from trafficking to independence. Your donation to BTCTE provides comprehensive support that guides children through recovery, rehabilitation, education, professional development, and family reunification. With more than 100 children already supported to independence, your gift creates lasting change. Whether through financial support or sharing your talents, join us in bringing hope to trafficked children in Ghana.

Donate.



www.btcte.org/support

CHILD TRAFFICKING IN GHANA



Taken by Evan Robbins in 2015

The US State Department’s Trafficking in Persons offices produces an annual report on global responses to trafficking. The 2023 report for Ghana describes the nature of trafficking on Lake Volta: “Traffickers exploit children as young as four in forced labor in Lake Volta’s fishing industry and use violence and limited access to food to control victims. Traffickers force boys to work in hazardous conditions, including deep diving, and girls perform work onshore, such as preparing the fish for markets. Women and girls working in the fishing sector are vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation, including sex trafficking.”

(<https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/>)

CHILD TRAFFICKING IN GHANA: THROUGH THE YEARS

The Ghana Child Labor Survey Report found that approximately 36,600 children worked in fishing in the Regions bordering Lake Volta. ¹

2003

An operational assessment by IJM found that nearly three quarters of the children observed or interviewed working on the lake were age 12 or younger. ²

In 2014, the GSS Ghana Child Labor Survey found, in all three Regions surrounding Lake Volta, one in three children engaged in child labor, and 87.3% of those children suffered abuse. ³

2014

A qualitative study by the University of Ghana identified multiple forms of child endangerment, including “starvation, sleep denial, non-provision of clothes and health care, and denial of access to education.” ⁴

2015

In a study by Free the Slaves, child trafficking and exploitation was identified in 20 out of 20 communities in the Volta and Central Regions. 35% of households had experienced trafficking or exploitation. ⁵

2016

A report commissioned by the International Justice Mission and conducted by the University of Massachusetts and the University of San Diego found that 38% of children in communities around Lake Volta are suspected to be trafficked, with an additional 45% suspected to be engaged in exploitative child labor. ⁶

2022

1: https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_690

2: <https://www.ijm.org/ghana>

3: <https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/glss6.html>

4: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0145213414002208?via%3DIihub>

5: <https://freetheslaves.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Traffickings-Footprint-in-Ghana-April-2018.pdf>

6: <https://www.ijm.org/ghana>

2024 KEY METRICS OF OVERALL BTCTE IMPACT

Beneficiaries:



- 111 currently in our care
- 14 new beneficiaries
- 13 graduated



Gender

- 82 boys
- 29 girls



Average age

- 18 years old



Avg. \$ spent per child

- \$1200/year

81 Enrolled in Educational Institutions



- 28 in Primary School
- 21 in Junior High School
- 25 in High School
- 7 in University

30 in Apprenticeships



- Tailoring: 9
- Welding: 1
- Glazing: 2
- Electrical: 2
- Automotive Painting: 1
- Automotive Repair: 1
- Driving: 2
- Masonry: 3
- Tiling and Plumbing: 5
- Graphic Design: 1
- Music Production: 1
- Leatherwork: 1
- Automotive Mechanics: 1



Christiana and Evan Robbins. Both wore outfits handmade by Christiana—Evan's shirt and her own cap and gown, showcasing her craftsmanship and personal touch.

13 Graduates in 2024 in their profession



Trade:11

- Tailoring: 1
- Glazing: 1
- Electrical: 1
- Automotive Painting: 1
- Driving: 2
- Masonry: 2
- Tiling and Plumbing: 1
- Graphic Design: 1
- Music Production 1

University: 2

- Teacher
- Banker

BENEFICIARY HIGHLIGHTS

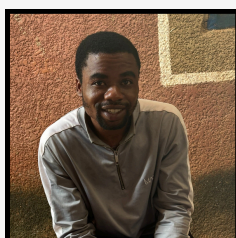
OUR GRADUATES

CHARLES BONNEY



Originally from Senya in Ghana's Central Region, he was sent to work on Volta Lake at a young age due to his family's financial difficulties. After spending nine years on the lake, he was rescued and reunited with his mother. Through BTCTE, Charles discovered his true calling in the tiling and plumbing trades, beginning his apprenticeship in July 2021. Upon graduating as a professional plumber and tiler, Charles established his own successful business and contributed to the construction of the BTCTE Campus in 2024. His remarkable journey from child labor to entrepreneurship serves as an example of how proper support, training, and comprehensive care can help youth victims of child labor overcome adversity.

JOHN ADU



From Senya, he was sent to work on Volta Lake due to his family's financial hardship. Following his rescue in 2021, John chose to pursue glazing through a three-year apprenticeship program, graduating as a professional window installer in 2024. He now works independently in his hometown and aims to become a leading glazer in Ghana. Through Breaking the Chain's support, John transformed from child labor to skilled tradesman. He now graduates from the program with a hopeful future ahead as a fully self-sufficient young man.

BENEDICTA AWUKUDZIE



Trafficked at age 5 to work on fishing boats in 2002, Benedicta spent three years before being rescued by the International Organization for Migration. After completing secondary education, she gained admission to the University of Ghana. Through her brother Never's connection to BTCTE, she secured sponsorship for her tertiary education, which covered tuition, living expenses, and essential items. Benedicta graduated with a BA in Sociology and Linguistics and is now pursuing work in the banking sector. Benedicta is an amazing example of the power of education, which has allowed her to reclaim her story and pursue a meaningful career.

OUR NEW BENEFICIARIES

BTCTE welcomed 14 new youth beneficiaries into the program in 2024. We are thrilled to bring them into our family as they work towards full rehabilitation and self-sufficiency. Say hello to Bethar, Joana, and Shadrach!

BETHAR BOETEY



From the age of five, Bethar worked in her aunt's fishing business instead of attending school. After her grandmother reported the situation, she was rescued but still faced challenges with basic necessities. In July 2024, BTCTE brought her into its care, providing comprehensive support and placement in a boarding school with full tuition and living expenses covered. She now aims to become a midwife.

JOANA TAWIAH

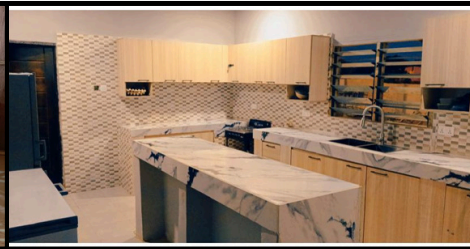


A 13-year-old trafficking survivor who endured forced labor in Ivory Coast, Joana struggled with poverty and unstable living conditions after relocating to Ghana. In 2024, BTCTE enrolled her in boarding school, providing educational support, healthcare, and living expenses. Joana aspires to become a nurse.

SHADRACH ADDO



Trafficked to Lake Volta at age of 16, Shadrach endured abuse and forced labor without access to education. After rescue and reunion with his mother, BTCTE began providing comprehensive support to Shadrach in 2024. Following his mother's recent passing, BTCTE has enrolled him in boarding school, where he now pursues his dream of becoming a teacher.



In 2024, BTCTE finally realized a significant milestone in the journey to expand the scope and quality of care for child victims of human trafficking. The official Breaking the Chain Through Education Campus, brought to life by Project Redwood, opened this year in Sogakope with accommodations for more than 50 youth beneficiaries to begin living full time at the facility while they progress through their rehabilitation and reintegration. A tremendous accomplishment for the organization, manifested from years of planning and partially built by beneficiaries themselves, will provide youth with high quality living spaces, a communal kitchen with fully potable water, outdoor green space, and two classrooms for educational activities. This campus represents the next step in our evolution: an ability to quickly intake child trafficking victims and ensure they are safely housed, fed, and supported. We are deeply grateful for each and every person involved in making this dream a reality, and we can't wait to show our supporters the impact it will have for years to come.

"I used to stay with my grandfather in a house without light to study, but after he passed away, BTCTE brought me to their campus to start my secondary school. Here, there are good classrooms to study, I live with my BTCTE brothers in peace and harmony, I feel secure in their electric-fenced house, I have access to portable drinking water and healthy food, and a good place to sleep each night. I am super thrilled to be here." – Elikplim Agbebo, Beneficiary

"The campus has become a vibrant part of the community, offering extra tutoring to local students, creating job opportunities, and boosting the local economy. It's not just a place of transformation for the beneficiaries, but also a beacon of hope and growth for the entire area." – Dickson Korleh, Staff in Ghana



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025 AND BEYOND

In 2025 and beyond, BTCTE will remain committed to combating child trafficking through holistic support. Our new campus enables us to expand beneficiary intake, enhance rehabilitation programs, and strengthen educational outreach in Ghana and the United States. By cultivating relationships with humanitarian organizations like the UN and USAID, enhancing volunteer opportunities, and leveraging donor support, we're scaling our efforts to provide comprehensive care for trafficking survivors and work toward ending modern human trafficking.

BENEFICIARY TURNED EMPLOYEE!



Seth Gamor is a former beneficiary who graduated from the program and is now returning to BTCTE to support the mission by mentoring the next generation of youth who are under our care. His experience as a former beneficiary will allow him to provide strong guidance to beneficiaries who are building new skills and learning to reintegrate into society.

Seth appreciated BTCTE's collaborative culture and approach to delivering care, which he describes as creating a *"family-like environment among beneficiaries."* Seth believes that what sets BTCTE apart is *"its holistic approach to beneficiary development, focusing on self-reliance and goal achievement. The organization motivates each beneficiary to pursue their dreams."*

Seth returned because he resonated with the organization's dedication to helping trafficked children, and because of the strong bonds he formed with other beneficiaries during his time with the organization. As a university student, he remained in touch with many of his peers and felt pulled towards giving back to the community that served him so well.

Looking ahead, Seth envisions BTCTE's beneficiaries excelling in their chosen fields of study or profession, which will elevate the organization's impact as a premier nonprofit specializing in post-trafficking child welfare. Still, Seth says there is still a lot of work to be done to increase public awareness of its psychological, emotional, and physical impacts of child trafficking. "People can help by speaking up and reporting incidents to authorities like the police, social welfare offices, child protection agencies, and NGOs" he says. We are so proud of Seth and cannot wait to see the impact that he will have on the lives of formerly trafficked children who receive care from BTCTE!

WHY SUPPORT BTCTE?

We deliver front-line work that heals victims of child trafficking.

TESTIMONY FROM A BENEFICIARY



My name is Benedicta Awukudzie, I am a survivor of child trafficking. At five, I was forced to work on a river for three years, preparing fish for the market. My tasks included cooking, fetching firewood and water, and casting fishing nets. I was rescued by the International Organization for Migration (IOM, a UN Migration Agency), but after two years, I still faced the same poverty that affected my family. Despite this, I completed my basic education, passed my exams, and was admitted to the University of Ghana.

However, my family couldn't afford university fees. Thankfully, my brother Never, also a trafficking survivor, connected me with Breaking the Chain Through Education (BTCTE), who generously sponsored my education. BTCTE covered my tuition, transportation, food, accommodation, and even essentials like a phone and laptop. Their support helped me graduate with a BA in Sociology and Linguistics. I'm deeply grateful for their role in transforming my life, and I'm now on my path to achieving my dreams.

WHY I CHOSE TO CONTRIBUTE



I first learned about BTCTE through my children's dance and piano charity performances in our town, Metuchen, New Jersey. The stark contrast between my children's lives and those of trafficked children in Ghana motivated me to act. Leveraging my marketing experience, I helped design and execute a successful fundraising campaign that reunited three trafficked siblings with their mother and enabled their return to school. I was drawn to BTCTE's comprehensive approach to helping trafficked children achieve independence. Their full cycle of support creates lasting positive impact. While monetary donations are essential, I encourage you to also consider how a contribution of your professional skills could make a difference. Every form of involvement helps change trafficked children's lives and brings hope to those who need it most.

Sarah Mullins, parent and BTCTE volunteer

Donate Now!



www.btcte.org/support

OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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US Based



Anthony Maxwell Amoakoh
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Elizabeth Angmornor
Ghana based



Michael Baer
US Based



Christina Bohm
US Based
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Case Worker



Emmanuel Entsie
Case Worker



Seth Gamor
Case Worker



Dickson Korleh
Accounting Manager



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Case Worker

US BASED



Carolyn Taylor
Director of Development



Jasmin Raab
Director of Operations

Consider joining BTCTE as a volunteer:

email us at infobtc@btcte.org





THANK YOU!

Contact Us


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