



2024 Annual Report

From Mike Barbee

2024 was a year to go deeper into the ministry areas of Shalom and we saw so many youth receive education, be discipled, finish their university and vocational schooling. It is a testimony of God's faithfulness, team dedication, and the steadfast giving by its many supporters year-in and year-out. My heart is very encouraged to see the maturity of the staff as the Rainbow family returned in February after being in the US for 5 months. When I visited in May 2024, I saw young staff members leading their teams and volunteers to distribute seeds, run the Shalom farm, minister to children and youth, take mothers and their children to hospitals, resettle youth, cook food for hundreds of kids, assess malnutrition, teach, counsel families, and disciple.

I hope you get a sense from the stories in this report of that same energy and heart to serve and give so much on the behalf of supporters like you!

- Mike

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Agape Football Club: A refuge for youth and vehicle for peace

-Rainbow Mike

Agape United began in December 2008 as a response to conflicts between the Shalom home boys and the shepherd boys of Lopedur village in Karamoja. This tension started with name-calling and escalated into slingshot fights. Efforts by Shalom Reconciliation Ministries to mediate the situation presented an unexpected solution: football. When given a chance to engage in the sport together, the two groups found common ground. This simple act of playing football laid the foundation for reconciliation, emphasizing forgiveness and understanding.

Over the past sixteen years, Agape United has shown how sport can drive social change. The team has become a hub for community development and spiritual growth. The team's overall impact is significant. They have received awards for their discipline and sportsmanship and have represented the Kotido district in several tournaments. Agape United has played a crucial role in peacebuilding, reaching out to neighboring communities and fostering new friendships. These efforts have helped to reduce longstanding tensions and have proven that positive changes can emerge from Karamoja.

Agape United Motto

**“Blessed are the peace makers,
for they will be called children
of God.”**



Through consistent guidance, funding, and mentorship, many of the young members have returned to education and graduated from vocational schools or universities. Agape United is more than just a football team; it's a pathway to leadership and personal discipleship and growth.

Recently, Agape United participated in the North and Eastern Regional League, which highlighted the talents and potential of youth from North Karamoja. Their example has inspired other regions to develop similar programs, demonstrating that positive initiatives can originate from Karamoja.

Agape United plans to expand its activities to include girls' football, basketball, and volleyball, providing more opportunities for young people to get involved in productive activities. The goal is to nurture a community space where youth can develop their skills and keep away from conflict. AU continues to work towards peace and unity in Karamoja, guided by the principle: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).



Things God put in my heart for Agape and the youth of Kotido:

1. The Lord showed me that working with these youth was a great opportunity to share the gospel and way to disciple the youth to become strong follower of Jesus and strong leaders in their community.
2. The other big picture was that this team understands conflict and got a great testimony of how God work in their hearts individually to offer forgiveness, love, reconciliation and peace to each other and that God was calling them to work for peace in Kotido, Karamoja and beyond.
3. I also discovered so many of these youth were school dropped out at primary level, and then there were some of the shepherd boys who wanted to go to school but their parents wouldn't allow them to go to school, some used to go to school once or twice a month.



Seed Loans Lead to Real Change

In Karamoja, empowering women and mothers with microloans has shown remarkable success, as they consistently achieve the highest repayment rates. Shalom Reconciliation Ministries (SRM) is leveraging this potential by disbursing seed loans to foster economic growth. In the fourth quarter alone, SRM distributed loans totaling three million shillings, with recoveries surpassing nine million shillings. In 2024, SRM gave loans to

Angeo Noel Tracy, a 24-year-old mother, exemplifies the program's impact; she used her loan to secure food and school fees for her children. Despite these successes, many young applicants lack crucial business skills. SRM advocates for training in business planning and management, coupled with guidance on identifying viable opportunities, to ensure sustainable development and empowerment in the region.

SRM's Commitment to Child Nutrition and Health

Shalom is dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth in their care receive well-rounded meals. At the heart of this effort is the Food and Nutrition Program, which provides special food and nutrition support to 70 babies and infants, as well as 75 children residing at the home. The program focuses on combating malnutrition through activities such as screening, enrollment, and health education for caregivers. Essential feeding equipment is distributed, and caregivers are educated on food and hygiene practices.

Recent achievements include acquiring new assessment equipment and successfully referring cases to partner organizations for further care. Despite challenges like limited funding and high rates of malnutrition, the program has made significant strides. High-risk malnourished children have been rescued, and many infants have recovered from nutrition-related illnesses, thanks to interventions like kitchen gardening.



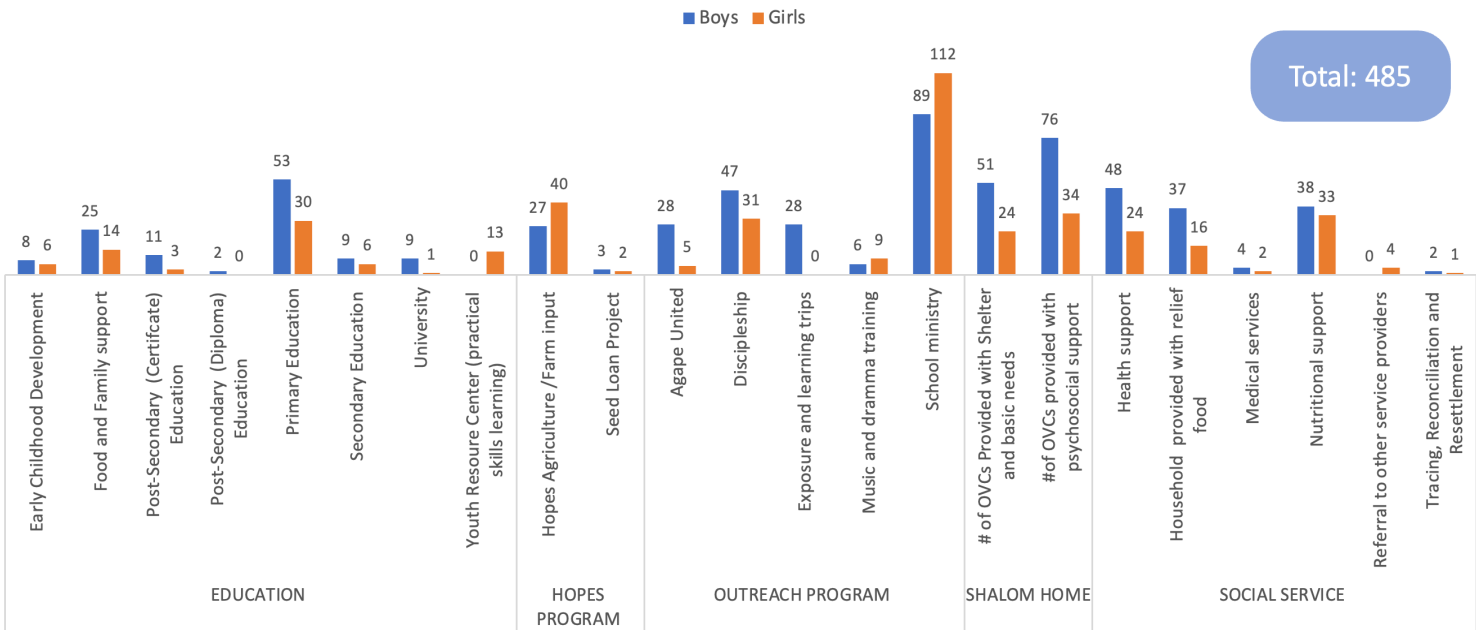
Update on Beyond the Rainbow School

The BTR School Project is moving forward by continuing to teach classes at Shalom Home. In 2024, there were over 90 students crammed into every nook and cranny at Shalom but the one-on-one attention these students receive from the 10 teachers was exceptional. SRM uses comprehensive approach that includes teacher devotions, lesson planning, and the distribution of learning materials. The project emphasizes both theoretical and practical learning, complemented by weekly assemblies and health parades. Students receive academic and career guidance, with achievements recognized at term's end.

Key successes include the integration of Bible study and prayer meetings, fostering a nurturing environment and strong relationships among teachers and students. The use of a Biblical curriculum has exceeded expectations, while academic counseling has notably improved student performance. Weekly assemblies continue to contribute to students' spiritual and physical well-being.



Your Impact in 2024



2024 Financial Report

	FY 2024	FY 2023
Support & Revenue		
Individual Contributions	\$174,685.26	\$170,354.76
Organization Contributions (Non-Grant)	\$17,718.58	\$31,904.76
Grants	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Various Income (Amazon Smile, etc.)	\$4,838.52	\$8,810.21
Total Support and Revenue	\$247,242.36	\$261,069.73
Functional Expenses		
General Fund	\$112,370.25	\$146,263.53
Rainbow Family Support	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sponsorship	\$53,592.95	\$65,761.47
General and Administrative	\$1,579.18	\$2,421.87
Special Projects (Incl. BTR School)	\$11,936.80	\$75,360.00
SMI Uganda Trips	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
International Volunteer Support	\$10,942.82	\$9,932.05
Total Functional Expenses	\$192,922.00	\$299,738.92
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$96,047.53	\$104,531.72
Net Assets at End of Year	\$150,367.89	\$96,047.53
Change in Net Assets	\$54,320.36	-\$8,484.19



Looking ahead to 2025

Spiritual Growth. Pray for more youth in Agape United to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, and for the discipleship efforts to foster spiritual maturity and boldness in living out their faith.

Muslim Agape Members. Pray specifically for the hearts of the four Muslim youth in the team to be open to the gospel, as one has already started attending Bible study sessions.

Safety and Reconciliation. Pray for protection during travels to South Karamoja and other districts, and for their presence to promote reconciliation and healing in communities affected by past conflicts.

Provision. Pray for resources to meet Shalom’s needs, including food, medical care, transportation, and funds to construct Shalom playing fields for basketball and football.

Peace in Karamoja. Pray for ongoing efforts to promote peace in Kotido and the broader Karamoja region.



For information on donating and more about the ministry, visit www.shalomuganda.com



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“Take care of the orphans and the widows in their distress.”

