



BUILDING BLOCKS IN AFRICA

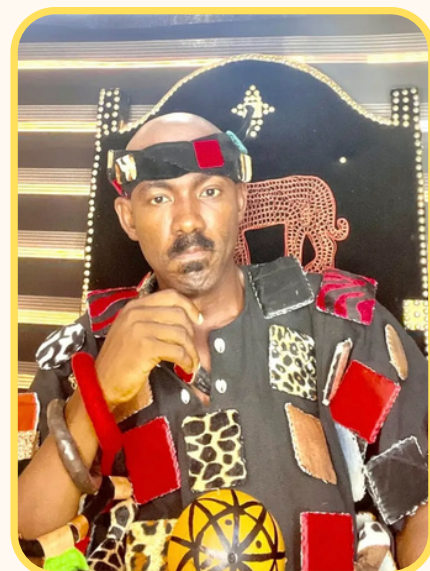
2023 IN REVIEW

~THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD~

Every year we get the chance to look back and see all the wonderful things that have been accomplished. You are all amazing and we cannot wait for you to see all that you made possible!

Big news in Ghana!

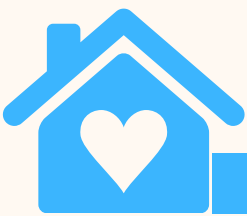
Thanks to his many meaningful contributions to the community, including building and running Porter's School, Papa was appointed village chief! As Chief, he is now called Nana Wirenkyi II. As it so happens, we were in discussions with Nana to have him change the school's name to have it reflect the community. Today we have the pleasure of announcing the school's new name - "Nana Wirenkyi Memorial School" - in honor of the previous village chief.



Nana Wirenkyi Memorial School

The school had quite the year in 2023. Thanks to our wonderful donors, the school purchased a new large bus at the end of 2022. The bus helped to stabilize attendance which means more stable income for the school. The income from the students' bus fees helped the school save 25% of the costs needed to pay for the new classroom block project. Nana broke ground in May and students moved into three classrooms the first week of January! Though there is still a good bit of work to be done to complete the building, it will be nice for each class to finally have its own room. When the school began, they taught 5 grades and 190 happy new students. Now the school has 10 grades and 303 students!

Plans for 2024 include finishing the classroom block, completing the retaining wall to keep the road and play areas from washing out when it rains, and putting in a playground. As the school moves closer to self-sustainability, we are changing how we will support future projects. In 2023, the school was responsible for 25% of the costs needed for larger projects. This year, the school will provide 50% of project costs! Our hope is for the board to move to an advisory capacity by 2027 without the need for financial support.



Mama Yaa's Home

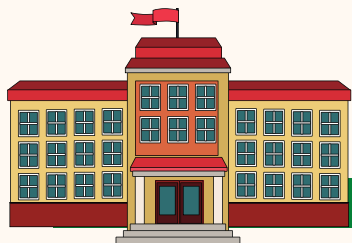
Over the last four years, Jane and Nana have lovingly cared for 33 children. At the time of Mama Yaa's death in late 2019, she had 26 children in her care. Jane and Nana immediately took them in and with your donations we helped them build a home. The government finally got the home officially registered in 2023. Jane and Nana had the choice to close the home to new kids but opted to make it a safe haven for kids in need of a temporary or permanent home. Every effort is made to reunite the kids with family when possible. To date, 7 kids have been reunited with their families.

We love seeing the kids thrive and grow. As they grow up, they are looking to their futures and we are grateful to our lovely friends and family who go above and beyond by sponsoring kids to pay for high school and technical training in addition to donating towards our projects. Angelina finished Fashion and Design school and Douglas is in mechanic training. Two of the older kids, Dorcas and Derrick are done with school and living at the home. They help to bring in money for food by working for Jane at the bakery.

Donations have helped immensely with providing food for the home. There were many months without electricity due to downed power lines and a blown transformer in the main city. Unfortunately, that meant no bakery as the mixing and kneading equipment could not be utilized. Thankfully the bakery was back up and running as soon as the power came back. Jane is able to make 600 loaves of bread each day, 6 days a week. The bakery profits provide almost 50% of the funds needed to support the home! We talked Jane into taking a salary to pay for the needs of her girls. She also pays a salary to her amazing assistant, Joyce.

In 2024 we are exploring additional projects to move the home closer to self-sustainability. Stay tuned for more info and maybe some requests to help buy farm animals!





Spring of Hope School for Girls

We started our work on the secondary school in Kenya differently thanks to lessons learned starting the school in Ghana. Our initial project was to validate the viability of sustainability projects to make sure the school will have a source of income before it starts. The community garden in Kenya has been beautiful and fruitful, even in times of severe draught. While we helped to expand the garden and add water tanks to be able to store more water and reach farther areas of the garden, the funds from produce sold have paid for the next planting season and allowed Noel to invest more in the garden. Noel recognized the high demand for capsicum (green bell peppers) and came up with the idea to build a greenhouse for year-round growing. She used profits saved from their produce sales and we helped with a little funding to complete the project. We are confident the garden will provide food, income and a great learning opportunity for the students when the school opens.

We had high hopes the school would open in January 2024, but the government changed requirements so now we have to build a few more buildings this year to get approval to open. The first classroom block was completed in the fall and the washrooms were started in November! Once the washrooms are completed, Noel will get to work on building the science classrooms block, administration block and kitchen. If everything goes to plan, Noel will be able to hire teachers and staff in the last quarter to open in January for the start of the new school year.

Even though there are no students yet, the community impact is tremendous. There is a groundskeeper on salary who lives on site, Noel uses all local labor to help with harvesting the garden and building the school, and all supplies are purchased locally. We are excited for all the good things happening this year to get the school up and running!





How you can help in 2024



Donate to one of our many projects! You can check out active projects on our website and donate to a specific one or just donate to our general fund. 99% of all expenses went to projects in 2023, the other 1% went to the boring stuff that helps us run things.

Check out www.buildingblocksinafrica.org for more information.



We are always looking for ideas for sustainability projects. If you have ideas, we would love to hear them! Just shoot us an email at info@buildingblocksinafrica.org.



Interested in joining the board? We would love to have you! If you are interested in volunteering to help with project management or social media, email us or message us on Instagram!

Thank you for everything you have done to support our projects. Nana, Jane & Noel wish to give you their sincerest thanks for helping them make positive change in their communities.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors
Building Blocks in Africa