



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Ghana has a tradition for friends and family to throw powder on graduates after their ceremony to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.



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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear BTCTE Community,

This year, Breaking the Chain Through Education marks our 20-year anniversary. This milestone has led me to reflect on how we started and where we are today. As many of you know, in 2006, I read an article in the New York Times about a trafficked child in Ghana who was six years old, the same age as my daughter at the time. I brought the article to my students at Metuchen High School, and we decided to raise money for trafficked children in Ghana. That first year, we raised \$6,000.

In 2010, I went to Ghana for the first time. I joined a rescue mission to see firsthand the horrors of child trafficking, especially children working on fishing boats on Lake Volta. During the trip, we rescued five children. I spent time with them and knew that more needed to be done. In 2011, we became a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. We built a school for the village of Awate Tornu on the condition that they release their 20 trafficked children, and a year later, we went to Ghana to meet these children. After the rescue, I came to realize that no organization was providing long-term care and making certain these children were not trafficked again. We worked with our partner organization in Ghana to hire a social worker to check in on these children. This was the start of our journey to providing long-term support.

Over time, we realized that to provide the level of support our beneficiaries needed, BTCTE would have to hire its own staff and operate independently. This was a significant change, as we had no experience running an office abroad. Thankfully, we had mentors in America and Ghana who have guided us. After much effort, we secured an effective and dedicated staff. We have come a long way from these humble beginnings. Currently, we have 5 full-time staff members in Ghana who provide outstanding support for our 115 formerly trafficked children. We treat our beneficiaries as if they were our own children. We handle medical needs, education, food, housing, emotional support, and more until they are ready to live on their own.

I am truly humbled by our growth, which would not have been possible without your incredible generosity and support. From rescuing five children in 2010 to providing long-term care to 115 beneficiaries today reveals the evolution of our work and vision. But the journey is not over. This year, we have made strides in our U.S. fundraising operations. We have expanded our Board of Directors, created a Junior Board, and are in the process of establishing a University Board. We recently received our largest donation to date. We are working to secure new grants and create new fundraising events. With your support, we will continue to help victims of child trafficking have a bright future.

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

2013

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%3Dihub>

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

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

2025 KEY METRICS OF OVERALL BTCTE IMPACT

Beneficiaries:



- 102 currently in our care
- 16 new beneficiaries
- 9 graduated



Gender

- 69 boys
- 33 girls



Average age

- 18 years old



Avg. \$ spent per child

- \$1800/year

78 Enrolled in Educational Institutions



- 26 in Primary School
- 27 in Secondary School
- 20 in Junior High School
- 5 in University

24 in Apprenticeships



- Tailoring: 10
- Glazing: 2
- Driving: 1
- Plumbing: 3
- Tiling: 3
- Car Spraying: 1
- Carpentry: 1
- Electrical: 1
- Masonry: 2



Victoria, a BTCTE beneficiary.



9 2025 Graduates by Profession

Trade: 7

- Tailoring: 3
- Tiling & Plumbing: 1
- Metal Fabrication: 1
- Car Body Straightener: 1
- Leatherworks: 1

University: 2

- Woodworks & Design
- Civil Engineer

BENEFICIARY HIGHLIGHTS

OUR GRADUATES

LARWEH SETIAMEH



Larweh Setiameh was trafficked by his stepfather in 2017 at age fourteen and forced into child labour on Lake Volta. For two years, he endured harsh and exploitative conditions as a fishing boy. During this time, he suffered a serious accident when he was forced to climb a tree for firewood and fell, breaking his wrists and ankles. Through the intervention of the International Justice Mission (IJM), he received medical care and recovered.

In 2019, BTCTE partnered with IJM to enroll him in their aftercare program. Choosing vocational training, Larweh began a tailoring apprenticeship in 2020. BTCTE later supported him with a rented shop, industrial sewing machine, and startup accessories.

DICKSON NARTEY



Dickson Nartey, the first of seven children, was raised by his disabled single mother. Due to extreme poverty, he was sent to work with a fisherman on Lake Volta, where he endured years of hard labor and witnessed fellow child workers drown. Feeling hopeless and afraid for his life, his situation changed when he was rescued by International Needs Ghana.

BTCTE later took over his mother's care, providing full educational support, medical assistance, home support, and a wheelchair. Dickson completed his basic and secondary education and went on to study Civil Engineering at Ho Technical University, graduating in 2025. He is currently serving his National Service and aspires to secure employment or start his own firm.

DANIEL GAKU



Daniel lost his father at the age of five, and due to extreme poverty, his mother sent him to work as a child fisherman on Lake Volta at just eight years old. For six years, he endured severe hardship, including hunger, illness without proper medical care, and the complete loss of his education.

Following his rescue, BTCTE took full responsibility for his care and education, supporting him from basic school through senior high school, and all the way through university. In 2022, Daniel gained admission to Ho Technical University, where he studied Building Technology and graduated with honors. Today, he serves as a Teaching Assistant at the same university, a transformation made possible through the continuous care and support of BTCTE.

OUR NEW BENEFICIARIES

BTCTE welcomed 16 new beneficiaries into the program in 2025. We are thrilled to bring them into our family as they work towards full rehabilitation and self-sufficiency. Say hello to twin brothers Jean Luke & Jean Mark Korsah.



Jean, a 17-year-old from Asaafa in the Central Region of Ghana, was born in Ivory Coast. After his parents divorced, his mother left, and his father refused to enroll him in school, insisting he work instead. Determined to pursue education, Jean trafficked himself at age 11 to work on a lake so he could earn money for school. He endured three years of hardship, abuse, and starvation under his first master. After escaping, he worked for another master while secretly attending school. However, when his father discovered this, he redirected Jean's wages to himself, leaving Jean without financial support despite working for over two additional years.

Discouraged but still hopeful, Jean eventually returned to Ghana. Unable to locate his family, he stayed with an elderly woman who claimed to be a relative. He enrolled himself in school at Stage 7 but struggled to survive, working on farms, selling firewood, and fishing to pay for his needs. As a twin, he and his brother took turns working and attending school. In 2025, following intervention from Community Child Protection and the District Social Welfare Department, Breaking The Chain Through Education (BTCTE) enrolled Jean and his twin brother, Luke, in boarding school. BTCTE now provides their educational support, healthcare, and living expenses as they work toward building a brighter future.



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.

Mary Nyatuor



Mary was taken to the river by her mother, who was seeking better opportunities but later hired her out to a fisherman and his wife. For three years, Mary worked fetching water from boats and hauling fishing nets. After her mother passed away, her father sought help from International Needs Ghana, which facilitated her rescue and reintegration. She was enrolled in basic school but lived under limited care from her grandmother.

In 2024, International Needs Ghana handed Mary over to Breaking The Chain (BTC). After assessing her challenging home situation, BTC enrolled her in a boarding basic school. Considering her age, academic progress, and family background, Mary chose to pursue vocational training instead of continuing formal education. She was enrolled in seamstressing.

Mary now lives in the BTC Housing, where she enjoys a safe and supportive environment with proper sleeping facilities, hygienic washrooms, a spacious kitchen, and a sense of family among other beneficiaries. She expresses deep appreciation for the care and comfort she now experiences, describing BTC Housing as a place where she feels secure and well supported.

James Abotsi



James completed Junior High School while living with his grandmother. However, his father later took him to the river and hired him out to work as a fisherman. After a year, his mother brought him home to continue his education at Senior High School. Despite working at construction sites to support himself, he completed SHS with poor grades due to limited study time.

After graduation, his father again sent him to work on the river. After eight months, James left for Accra to find work and save money to pursue masonry apprenticeship, but his income was insufficient. In 2025, following intervention by the Social Welfare Department, James was released from the fishing community and later handed over to Breaking The Chain Through Education.

BTCTE enrolled him in masonry training, his desired trade. Within six months, James demonstrated remarkable progress, gaining skills in block laying, plastering, foundation filling, and floor smoothing. He now resides in BTC Housing, where he receives stable support, safety, and encouragement. James describes the housing as a peaceful and transformative environment that has given him renewed hope and excitement for his future.

HIGHLIGHTS OF GHANA STAFF

What makes BTCTE successful is the dedicated staff in Ghana. This staff is led by Dickson Korleh as our Country Director. Dickson oversees all operations in Ghana, and without his excellent leadership, we would not be nearly as successful. No major decision is made without input from Dickson, and we feel very fortunate to have Dickson leading our team in Ghana.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION!



Dickson Korleh - Country Director

At Breaking The Chain Through Education, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to build a future defined not by circumstance, but by potential. As Country Director, my commitment is to ensure that every resource entrusted to us is managed with integrity, transparency, and measurable impact.

With a Master's degree in Accounting and Finance and a strong background in financial management, I joined the organization in 2020 to strengthen accountability systems and operational efficiency. Today, that foundation enables us to maximize every donation, ensuring funds directly support education, skills training, mentorship, and long-term self-reliance.

Under our leadership, we have celebrated over 30 graduates who are now self-sustaining and contributing positively to their families and communities. As of the end of 2025, we continue to support more than 100 beneficiaries in active education and apprenticeship programs, each one representing hope, resilience, and transformation in progress.

To our partners and donors: your support does more than fund programs; it changes life trajectories. We are committed to responsible stewardship, clear reporting, and continuous improvement so that together, we can expand opportunity and break cycles of poverty through education.

We invite you to partner with us in building futures that last.

WHY SUPPORT BTCTE?

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

TESTIMONY FROM A BENEFICIARY

My name is Felix Kwame Agyapong, and I am deeply grateful for the life-changing support I have received from Breaking the Chain. They have cared for and supported me since 2018, when I was in Junior High School, and they continue to stand by me today as a Level 300 student at the University of Ghana.



From my early years in JHS, Breaking the Chain provided consistent care, guidance, and encouragement. Despite the challenges I faced, their support helped me stay focused on my education and successfully complete my basic education, progress through senior high school, and advance to the university level.

Beyond academics, the organization invested in my personal development through mentorship, moral guidance, and continuous motivation. Their belief in me helped me build discipline, confidence, and a strong sense of responsibility; qualities that have been essential in my journey to higher education.

Today, as a Level 300 student, I can confidently say that my academic and personal journey would not have been possible without Breaking the Chain. Their ongoing support gives me hope, stability, and the confidence to aspire toward a better future. They truly live out their mission of helping young people break free from limiting circumstances.

I am sincerely grateful for their long-term commitment to my growth, and I commend Breaking the Chain for the profound and positive impact they continue to have on the lives of many young people, including mine.

WHY I CHOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

I was part of the high school class that helped start BTCTE. Seeing the faces of children being sold into slavery, hearing that they received only one or two meals a day, worked from before sunrise until after sunset, and learning that some children as young as four or five were drowning to death after becoming tangled in fishing nets—it makes you want to run there and save every single one of them. Although that isn't possible, it truly breaks your heart to witness the sadness in their faces. We felt that if there was even the smallest thing we could do from our little 2.8-square-mile town in New Jersey, we would do it with everything we had.



Mr. Robbins didn't just travel there to rescue the children himself—he also worked to educate the families who had sold their children and the fishing boat owners who had purchased them. He saw the challenges that continued even after the rescues: the cost of shelter and care, and the heartbreaking reality of children being sold back into slavery. It was a vicious, never-ending cycle unless more was done beyond simply saving them. Because of his incredible heart and determination, Mr. Robbins took the initiative to build a shelter, create a school so the children could receive a basic education, and help them pursue trade school or college to expand their futures. He provided medical care and has even employed some of the very children he once rescued.

This is why I return every year to support BTCTE. He doesn't just rescue children—he gives them a future. That is what true charity is about: not short-term rescue, but long-term transformation. To know that children—and people in general—are still being trafficked in the 21st century is horrifying. But to personally know someone and a foundation that are actively creating change is exactly why I continue to come back. Mr. Robbins's big heart has helped create a world these children never thought possible. He gives them hope for a better life and shows them that there truly is light at the end of the tunnel.

I am proud to be part of what Mr. Robbins has built, and I can confidently say that together, we are making a difference in this world.

Christina Le, BTCTE alumni

Donate Now!



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Consider joining BTCTE as a volunteer:

email us at infobtc@btcte.org



THANK YOU!

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