



Annual Report 2023/2024

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OUR MISSION

Bright Futures Child Aid and Development Fund Australia is an Australian based Christian aid and development agency committed to providing a simple, direct and effective means for Australians to contribute to the sustainable alleviation of poverty. Bright Futures works in partnership with established community-based agencies in developing countries in providing vital education and development programs which address the causes of poverty and offer prospects of a better life.

GOVERNANCE & LEGAL

Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia Ltd ABN 76 803 488 074 is a public benevolent institution and company limited by guarantee, approved by the ATO as a Deductible Gift Recipient – Item 1 (DGR1) and a registered charity and reporting entity with the ACNC – www.acnc.gov.au

BOARD & STAFF

Board Directors:

Sarah Spiker, Board Chair
Roger Bryson, Deputy Chair
Lee Haakmeester, Treasurer
Fred Chilton
Philip Good
Lynton Stacey,
Carl Ginger
Deepa Mathew
Cameron Bryson

Staff Members:

Jack Snelling, Chief Executive Officer
Deb Mugford, Community Engagement
Judy Howie, Communications
Rachelle Hosking, Communication & Marketing
Paul Madden AM, Company Secretary (Vol.)

BANKING & AUDITOR

Bank:

Bright Futures Australia – Overseas Aid Fund
Westpac BSB: 035-002
Acc: 392116

Auditor:

BDO Audit (SA) Pty Ltd, Adelaide

STANDARDS

Bright Futures is committed to transparency, good development practice and the protection of children and vulnerable people. As a charity registered with the ACNC we undertake an annual review of activities and practice and comply with the ACNC external conduct standards.



PATRON- HON HIEU VAN



Bright Futures continues its work on behalf of its partners in India, Kenya, Uganda and Pakistan.

At the core of Bright Futures philosophy is 'empowerment', working with established community-based agencies to deliver services, from schools and vocational education to healthcare. Bright Futures works to create greater capacity and resilience in the communities they serve.

Bright Futures and its Board are highly regarded, and I am proud to lend my name to them as Patron.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – SARAH SPIKER



FY 2023/24 was another milestone for Bright Futures, with funds raised again breaking records. We were able to remit more than \$400,000 to our project partners in India, Pakistan, Uganda and Kenya for a range of projects from mosquito nets and school lunches to land purchases and new buildings.

The Sandy Running Festival in April was a highlight, however, May saw devastating floods in Kenya, dislocating thousands of residents of Nairobi's slum areas. Bright Futures' supporters responded with great generosity through our Floods Appeal, empowering our Kenya partner Dorcas Creations to be at the forefront of providing desperately needed relief to those affected.

In June we hosted Bishop Nelson Onono-Onweng, founder of our Ugandan partner, the Bishop Onono-Onweng Foundation, at events with supporters. The Bishop's story of rebuilding after the devastating civil war in northern Uganda was inspiring.

The year also brought two new Board members to the Bright Futures family, Cam Bryson & Deepa Mathew and we are so delighted to have them bring their skills and experience to the Board.

Next year marks 20th Anniversary of Bright Futures, and it will be a year of great celebration of all that has been achieved bringing hope to some of the most impoverished communities in the world. So much has been achieved since that first gathering at Paul and Barbara Madden's home in 2005.

It is with sadness I will be stepping down as Chair at our AGM in December. I will be working with Australian Volunteers International in Sri Lanka for 10 months. I hope to be able to continue serving as a Board member and contributing to Bright Futures which has been such an important part of my life for more than 18 years. Thanks to all our volunteers, supporters, donors and most of all, our incredible partners who make up the Bright Futures' family. It has been a great honour to be part of this wonderful journey.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT – JACK SNELLING



Financial year 23/24 has seen Bright Futures make further steps toward long term sustainability and growth to ensure we can continue to serve our partners in the service of marginalised communities in India, Pakistan, Uganda and Kenya.

Large donations were received for capital projects such as the purchase of land for a new school by our partners Bangalore City Mission. We had a wonderful opportunity to participate in The Funding Network's crowdfunding event where we were represented by our persuasive Chair, Sarah Spiker, pitching to donors and raising \$60,000 for the fit out of the just constructed Women's Empowerment Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

I had the great honour to attend the opening in November of the Women's Empowerment Centre which will be a beacon of hope for residents of the Kamae community where our Kenyan partner Dorcas Creation works.

Safe drinking water is a key to improved health outcomes, and thanks to Love in a Cup and many others, new wells have been established in Uganda and water filtration plant in Pakistan. These projects radically reduce the incidence of water borne illness.

For many years meetings of the Project Management Group meetings have been a feature of the Bright Futures calendar, giving an opportunity for supporters in Adelaide to gather and hear the latest about the work being done by our partners. During COVID and since these meetings slow down but we have relaunched under a new banner of Friends of Bright Futures. We will meet three times a year to hear directly from our partners and from those who have had the opportunity to visit projects.

Finally, thank you to Judy Howie who has been on the staff team since 2017 and finished paid employment with us in June. Judy, and her husband, Rob have been stalwarts of Bright Futures since the earliest days. Judy remains involved as a volunteer and I am very grateful for her dedication.

In March, we welcomed Rachelle Hosking as Communications and Marketing Coordinator. Rachelle is passionate about international development, first sparked when she spent time in Uganda with Watoto in 2019. She has been working hard to build Bright Futures profile on social media as well as increasing the flow of information to donors.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers, Board members, donors, staff and partners for all they do bringing hope to all the communities we serve. My special thanks to outgoing Chair, Sarah Spiker, who has been wonderful to work with and has such a deep knowledge of International Development. Next year will be a wonderful year of celebration as we mark all that has been achieved in the last 20 years.

Bangalore City Mission

Since 2005, Bright Futures has partnered with Bangalore City Mission (BCM) to support impactful development projects across more than a dozen underserved and quarry communities. This initiative, which focuses on education, healthcare, and community development, reached over 15,000 people last year alone.



Education: School-Based and Early Learning Programs

BCM's school, Sinclair's High School, began in 1989 with only eight children and has since provided education to 10,000 students from the quarries and other impoverished areas. With a land grant from the Karnataka government, recognizing BCM's exceptional work during COVID-19, and funding from Bright Futures donors, a second school campus is now being established in Rajankunte to serve even more students in need.

Vocational Training and Women's Empowerment

Equipping women with vocational skills remains central to BCM's mission of empowerment. This year, four vocational centers offered training in tailoring, handicrafts, and jewellery-making to 250 women from quarries and villages, giving them the tools to build small businesses and financial independence. Savings and self-help groups further support these efforts, creating pathways out of poverty for many families.

Healthcare Access and Community Well-being

BCM provided healthcare services to over 3,500 people, in collaboration with hospitals and local health providers, through medical camps. Additional initiatives, such as community clean-ups, borewells (funded by Bright Futures), and health awareness programs, are improving access to clean water and healthcare, leading to healthier communities and better quality of life in the areas served by BCM.



INDIA

Global Gospel Ministries

The partnership between Bright Futures and Global Gospel Ministries is dedicated to supporting children's education in the village of Youngson Abad and offering vocational training for vulnerable young women who have left school. In this remote rural area, access to education has long been a challenge, especially for girls, and ongoing security risks further limit access to clean water and medical care.

Empowering Young Women Through Vocational Training

This year, the vocational training center provided over twenty young women from Youngson Abad and surrounding areas with essential tailoring skills, helping them pursue employment or self-employment. This training equips them with alternatives to risky domestic work, which is often the only option for those without education.



Education for All: A Safe Learning Environment

Bright Futures, in partnership with Global Gospel Ministries, supports the school in Youngson Abad, which serves students from the village and nearby areas. Most families in the community rely on subsistence farming or work in brick kilns, where debt-bonded labor (modern slavery) is common, even affecting children. The school prioritizes a safe learning environment, with razor wire, metal detectors, and security personnel in place. With 320 students enrolled from grades 1 to 9, 60% of whom are girls, the school provides a vital path to education in a challenging region.

Clean Water for a Healthier Community

Access to clean water is crucial for the health of both students and the community. This year, the water filtration system was upgraded to ensure a reliable daily supply of up to 12,000 liters of clean water. This essential service continues to be a priority for the partnership, providing a foundation for improved health in the area.



PAKISTAN

Dorcas Creation Kenya

Founded in 2012, the Bright Futures / Dorcas Creation partnership focuses on empowering women, men and children living in impoverished communities in Nairobi through access to vocational and business skills training and education for children. The focus is on building capacity in ways that create a sustainable pathway out of poverty.



Responding to Crisis: Flood Relief and Recovery

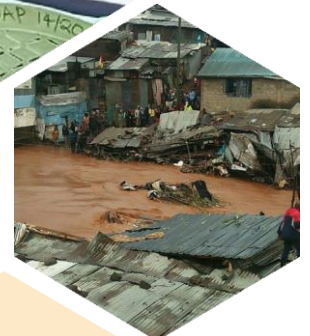
In April and May devastating floods displaced tens of thousands of households in Nairobi, leaving families homeless and vulnerable to waterborne diseases. Thanks to funds raised through the Bright Futures Flood Appeal, our partner Dorcas Creation were able to provide essential support to those affected, including beds, food, clean water, and access to medical care. While recovery will be a long journey, this support marks an important step in helping these communities rebuild and regain stability.

Nawiri Mama – Helping Mothers and Children Flourish

The Nawiri Mama (Flourishing Mother) program continues to engage the most marginalised families in the informal settlements. Hundreds of mothers and children with a disability receive basic therapy skills training so they can better contribute to the physical and cognitive development of their children. The program does not stop there, however with mothers receiving jobskills training and engagement in mutually supportive groups that socially and economically empower. Meanwhile children receive specialised treatment from a physiotherapist.

Empowerment Centre Opening

In November last year, Bright Futures CEO Jack Snelling joined Dorcas Creation founder Jane Thuo to celebrate the grand opening of the new Dorcas Creation Womens' Empowerment Centre in Nairobi. For over a decade, Bright Futures and Dorcas Creation have worked together to provide training and support for thousands of women, empowering them to rise out of poverty. Previously this work was carried out in substandard rented spaces. This purpose-built facility will enable even greater opportunities to bring hope and transformation to struggling households and communities.



KENYA

Bishop Onono-Onweng Foundation

Founded in 2010, as the civil war in Northern Uganda came to an end and people began returning to their communities, the Bright Futures/Bishop Onono-Onweng Foundation (BOOF) initially concentrated on supporting people in rebuilding their lives through agricultural production. As the community stabilized, the focus expanded to today's core initiatives in education, healthcare, and access to clean water.



Lukodi Health Centre: Vital Healthcare

The Lukodi Health Centre each year provides consultations and treatment for nearly 4,000 adults and children from this rural area. Birthing services were provided to over 200 expectant mothers resulting in safe births. Vaccination continues to be an important aspect of care for adults and children, including those with HIV/AIDS.



Clean Water for Healthier Communities

Access to clean water is an essential requirement for a healthy life. In many of the communities in which the partnership works access to clean water is limited. That's why, over the past decade and in the current year also, Bright Futures and BOOF have been establishing clean water access through the drilling of borewells. The most recent has been at a community identified locations near Lukodi serving hundreds of households.

Education for Refugee Children

Thanks to the support of donors, 24 children of South Sudanese refugees are continuing in their secondary education, opening the door to a brighter future and expanded opportunities.



UGANDA

Financial Summary 2023/2024

Bright Futures Child Aid and Development Fund Australia

ABN 76 803 488 074

	2024 \$	2023 \$
REVENUE		
Donations and Gifts	553,663	492,885
Interest Received	1,583	1,201
Other Income	8,421	10,522
TOTAL REVENUE	563,667	504,608
EXPENDITURE		
Funds to International Programs	428,620	412,040
Program Support Costs	6,702	5,318
Fundraising Costs	10,166	3,638
Accountability and Administration	36,272	30,032
Commercial Activities	545	-
Employee Costs	72,145	85,212
Rent Expense	3,222	5,238
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	557,672	541,478
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	5,995	(36,870)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	5,995	(36,870)

The full audited financial report by BDO Audit (SA) is publicly available on the Bright Futures website and on the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) charity portal at www.acnc.gov.au Copies also available on request to Bright Futures Office – P: 08 7225 7175 E: office@brightfutures.com.au

Your Feedback Matters!

We invite your feedback about matters concerning our governance or operations. If there is a matter of concern to you our Complaints Policy can be found under "Policies" on the Bright Futures website. To lodge a complaint or provide other feedback, please contact Bright Futures Board Chair, Sarah Spiker M: 0423 027 912 or CEO, Jack Snelling, M: 0457 528 800 E: jack.snelling@brightfutures.com.au

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