



**BRAVO SHOES COMMUNITY SUPPORT
(BSCS)**

BSCS

ANNUAL

REPORT

2022

Suite B9, 1st Floor, City Centre Complex, Plot 12 Luwum
Street, Kampala City, Kampala, Uganda



+256 772 438726



info@bravoshoescommunitysupport.org



Content

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND SECRETARIAT	4
3	BSCS PROGRAMS.....	5
3.1	BSCS Educational Program for Children.....	5
3.2	BSCS Economic Empowerment Program for Needy Families.....	6
3.3	BSCS Health & Nutrition Program.....	6
3.4	BSCS Extension Activities	6
4	IMPACT OF BSCS ACTIVITIES	7
5	COVERAGE, PARTNERSHIPS AND BENEFICIARIES	8
5.1	Beneficiaries.....	8
5.1.1	Sam Bright Muhindo	8
5.1.2	Acleo Muwanguzi.....	11
5.1.3	Peter and Paul.....	11
5.1.4	Elvis Bwire	12
5.1.5	Suubi Henry Kiyimba	12
5.1.6	Leila Hayat.....	13
5.1.7	Colin Kigenyi.....	14
5.1.8	Shakur Omiat.....	15
5.1.9	John (Name changed)	15
5.1.10	Yvonne Babirye	16
5.1.11	Bakka’s Grandma Gets Empowered.....	16
5.1.12	Amazing Girl Child Identified From Terego But Team Bravo Ended Up in Cell.....	17
6	OTHER ACTIVITIES	19
6.1	BSCS Celebrates World Brother’s Day with a Tour in South Sudan.....	19
6.2	Wind of Faith: How Kizito, the Youngest Martyr’s Death is Inspiring Children Today	19
6.3	BSCS Organization Commemorates Yvonne Namaganda on Heroes Day	20
6.4	BSCS Adopts Strategic Five-Year Plan 2023-27	20

1 INTRODUCTION

The Bravo Shoes Community Support (BSCS) was established in 2022 as a result of successful implementation of various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs by Bravo Shoes Company (BSC), which is known for selling go-back-to-school shoes for girls and boys. This initiative was taken by the company's CEO and Founder, Yesigye Brian Bravo whose desire was to expand the reach of CSR programs and similar social activities to various districts of Uganda. The organization was registered as a national level indigenous NGO in 2022 in accordance with the NGO Act, 2016, NGO Regulations, 2017 and all other laws relevant to its operation. Its office is located at Suite B9, 1st Floor, City Centre Complex, Plot 12 Luwum Street, Kampala City, Kampala, Uganda.

The main purpose of BSCS, as an organization, is to provide educational support to vulnerable, talented and orphaned children. More so, it helps the most-needy families of Uganda for purposes of their socio-economic strengthening. At the Bravo Shoes Community Support, concerted efforts are made to realize a world where every child has the right to a secure and supportive environment for his/ her growth and development. It is essential that children's rights are protected, and their voices are heard. The organization, on its own, and in collaboration with other partner(s) and / or government agencies, as and when required, works to empower communities to put children first with a view to create systems and structures that prevent the unnecessary separation of children.

In Uganda, the organization strives to take care of less privileged children and their families with a view to facilitate them to have an improved quality of life. While addressing the issues of poverty and vulnerability in Uganda, the organization works to protect the rights of children through education and individual transformational programs.

2 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND SECRETARIAT

The BSCS Organisation has two arms: The Board of Directors and Management Team. The two arms are responsible for conducting the affairs of the organization. The Board of Directors is mainly responsible for formulating and adopting strategic plans and policies. Its composition is given below.

	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Abbas Matovu	Chairperson
2.	Ms. Miriam Cherukut	Member
3.	Ms. Agnes Ndaaba	Member
4.	Mr. Naphtal Baguma	Member
5.	Mr. Bright Malere	Member
6.	Mr. Dawn Adams	Member
7.	Ms. Regina Seyire Titi	Member
8.	Ms. Nontutuzelo Nabudere Neumbe	Member

Table 1: Composition of Board of Directors

BSCS also has a Management Team which works as the Secretariat of the organization. It is supervised by the Executive Director (ED). The Management Team works to implement numerous programs and activities of the organization to achieve the set goals. The BSCS Management Team comprise of the following key officials.

	Name	Designation
1.	Yesigye Brian Bravo	Executive Director
2.	Bashirah Babala Papa	Volunteer - Secretary to the Board
3.	Kabajuma Doreen	Volunteer - Manager Human Resource
4.	Nakitto Nina Denise	Volunteer - Manager Finance
5.	Tumwesigye Ronald	Volunteer - Manager ICT
6.	Harriet Masika	Volunteer - Manager Programs
7.	Aloysious Kasoma	Volunteer - Manager Communications

Table 2: Composition of Management Team

The composition of Board of Directors and the Secretariat comprising of its team members is in tune with the programmes and activities of the organization, which are well-articulated in the organization's comprehensive 'BSCS Five Year Strategic Plan 2023-27' (placed at the Annex for reference).

3 BSCS PROGRAMS

Bravo Shoes Community Support works to identify poorest of the poor and the neediest families, and helps them with proper guidance and requisite material support to improve their socio-economic conditions. BSCS not only intervenes with these families and children, but also keeps in touch with them by conducting follow-up visits, monitoring progress in their quality of life and overall socio-economic condition. In this regard, BSCS has designed, and is working to execute the following specific programs.

3.1 BSCS Educational Program for Children

In Uganda, many children leave school before acquiring the basic skills and knowledge needed to thrive within society. Lack of education increases the likelihood of involvement in drug abuse, gangs, and other dubious activities.

Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. It has an uplifting effect on various aspects of the society. Education helps people make healthier and smarter decisions about their children, their livelihoods, and the way they live.

More importantly, education has a significant role to play in the fight for children's rights, both in teaching children what they can expect from adults and in showing adults the benefits of respecting their children's rights. Education gives citizens knowledge, skills, and confidence to build a better future. Education empowers children to become responsible citizens, who can ably and meaningfully contribute to nation-building.

There could be several challenging situations and compelling reasons, when needy children are not able to obtain education in their living settings. Some of these challenges include poverty, separation from their parent(s) or families, engaging in substance or drug abuse, being at risk of sexual abuse, child-labor, being neglected by their community, living on streets and/or in pathetic conditions due to any unforeseen reasons or similar other circumstances, etc.

The Bravo Shoes Community Support Organization, under '**BSCS Educational Program for Children**' is consistently working to ensure that the needy children of Uganda are able to receive quality education so as to thrive in the 21st Century. This Program is meant to identify such needy children living in difficult circumstances and make concerted efforts to enroll them in schools for quality education, nurture them, promote their hidden talent and build their career.

It is important to mention that BSCS has a special interest in girl child education. The organization is alive to the idea that educated girls are much more aware of their rights, and will have a better understanding of what is required to promote their own health, the health

of their family members and their overall wellbeing. An educated girl will become an educated mother and will make sure that her children also go to school. Therefore, it is important to empower girls so that they grow up healthy, educated, and be safe in life.

3.2 BSCS Economic Empowerment Program for Needy Families

A number of parents [especially mothers] find themselves helpless to support their families when they themselves lack the education or skills to find stable work. Households headed by single parents — especially single mothers — are often the most vulnerable.

Bravo Shoes Community Support provides skills training to single mothers who face stigma and discrimination, or women whose husbands have died or left their families or any similar [difficult] circumstances that translate to poverty or economically weakness. Whether it's sewing, gardening, starting a small business or raising livestock, BSCS Economic Empowerment Program equips struggling parents with tools, education and the skills they need to earn a stable income to meet their family needs and educate their children. The program helps such families become economically strong and self-reliant in life.

3.3 BSCS Health & Nutrition Program

BSCS Health & Nutrition Program provides relevant information about health and nutrition for children. The program also seeks to involve teachers and parents in nutrition related educational activities. The organization makes them aware of the critical role that diet plays in preventing chronic diseases and enabling overall good health.

3.4 BSCS Extension Activities

Under 'BSCS Extension Activities', the organization carries or participates in occasional activities or events, as and when required, which are deemed necessary to fulfill its objectives.

Such some of the important festivals or occasions include Christmas, New Year, World Brother's Day, Martyr's Day (in Namugongo), Heroes Day, etc.

4 IMPACT OF BSCS ACTIVITIES

The Bravo Shoes Community Support (BSCS) is creating a positive impact among vulnerable families in the areas of child education [with special interest in girls], health, women empowerment and economic empowerment.

Since its inception in 2022, BSCS has brought positive change in the lives of 'children at risk' and their families, hailing from different regions of Uganda. Regions in which our activities have been done include West Nile, Central, South-Western, and Eastern Uganda. All these activities have been done under the able leadership of Brian Yesigye Bravo, the Executive Director (ED) BSCS.

BSCS continues to strive to provide sustainable solutions to less privileged children by mitigating barriers and empowering their immediate caregivers.

In 2022, the organization interacted with numerous needy children and their families, and extended to them requisite help and support under its existing program(s). More than 14 deprived needy children belonging to different families across Uganda were significantly impacted through getting them enrolled in school with a view to provide them with quality education and training.

With its limited resources, BSCS has been able to make empowering interventions such as fundraising capital for the businesses of some vulnerable and needy families.

In 2022, the communities in Kasese, Mpigi and Kampala were adequately sensitized on the issues of family planning, child upbringing and women empowerment. One of the beneficiaries of the women empowerment program, is Nalunkuuma Teopista of Kibumbiro Busega along Northern Bypass who had a small business started up for her.

5 COVERAGE, PARTNERSHIPS AND BENEFICIARIES

The BSCS works in partnership with similar and concerned stakeholders to prioritize the needs of children and prevent their unnecessary suffering. In 2022, BSCS covered more than 14 vulnerable children and got them enrolled at Namuwaya Education Centre in Kirinya-Bweyogerere, Uganda. These children were selected from Bumanha and Karambi Sub-counties of the Luuka and Kasese districts respectively.

BSCS is grateful to the concerned district/ civil administration of respective places where these children and families hailed from, for allowing and facilitating to identify and intervene with them.

Bravo Shoes Community Support partnered with Fresh Kid-Uganda and provides these children with school shoes and other forms of help, as and when required, with a view to encourage them in their studies and overall personality development. BSCS is also grateful to Fresh Kid-Uganda for all their collaborative support.

5.1 Beneficiaries

5.1.1 Sam Bright Muhindo

Kasese District, in the Rwenzori Region of Uganda, has schools in hard-to-reach areas because its major parts are mountainous and surrounded by lakes and rivers, hence, making access to schools and hospitals, etc. difficult.

Sam Bright Muhindo is a male African child aged seven years. He is a dancer hailing from Bwera, a village in Kasese district. He was found living a desperate life. He is the 7th of his nine siblings. Prior to Sam's meeting with Bravo's Team, none of the children in the family was in a position to go to school. Surprisingly, at the tender age of 6, he was the breadwinner of his family. He was able to earn by dancing at functions in other villages, some as far as 5 kilometers from his home. Despite his handicap, Sam became an accomplished dancing star due to his untiring efforts and talent. His creativity, energy, and flexibility are top-notch. His home has never housed a television nor an FM radio; he has never been trained to dance; he had never gone to school, but he had an innate talent of dancing.

Sam's mother and her husband, Katsumbyo paint a wide picture of the community in Bwera. The family with many children of school-going age, has been struggling to take care of their children. Sam's mother, Itungo Sylvia is a 35-year-old, and a mother of 9. Her children are

aged between 2 and 19, among whom 6 are girls and 3 boys. Itungo became a mother at the age of 14 and her firstborn is 19 years old, now working as a housemaid in in Kampala.

At Lubiliha market where Itungo Sylvia works, the popular businesses range forex exchange, smuggling, salted fish fillet, fish skins, locally made palm oil, and salted silverfish got from Lake George and Edward. Sylvia and others assemble and pack tons of the smoked Fish which is later exported to DRC. Every morning, she treks about 8 kilometers to reach the marketplace. It was learnt that Bakonzo women carry loads between 30 kg and 35 kg on their heads to fetch water and move several kilometers as they hawk merchandise to earn a living.

Katsumbyo Julius, Sam Bright Muhindo's father, is known for his work as a storekeeper and/or a carrier of logs full of fish fillet and smoked skins. He deals in the fish business, and for each bag of salted fish packed, he earns at least 3,000 UGX, and packs each bag at 2,500 UGX only. This total of 5,500 UGX cannot feed such a family as the cost of living is steadily rising.

The main causes of poverty in Bwera are land laziness or idleness, alcoholism, lack of employment opportunities, and lack of access to credit facilities. Location, livelihood, education, and the marital status of household heads - all have an impact on the wealth and deprivation status of households in the village.

Itungo Sylvia, the mother of Sam Bright Muhindo, gave birth to her children locally at home and as such, Sam Muhindo's right arm got somehow tilted and he is disabled. This happened due to a complication while saving his life at the time of his birth. The family could not raise resources and he became a victim of circumstances.

Dancing in a rhapsody of outfits, Sam was happy to have won himself a deal from Petsyl Kidz Apparel for two years, which would ensure that he was appropriately clothed. Petsyl Kidz will continue to work closely in association with BSCS and extend support to his immediate family.

In February 2022, Sam's shoe-less dancing video at a local function went viral on various social media platforms with millions of views. Upon seeing this video, the Bravo Shoes brand sought to find him. After travelling about 500 kilometers from the capital of Kampala, we managed to locate the young man, and the rest is history.

Sam has been provided with a life-changing opportunity. Today he is enrolled at Namuwaya Education Centre, Kampala (Uganda) and continuing his studies on scholarship. Muhindo, like many African kids despite being predisposed to the pawns of poverty, is driven by ambition, infused with talent, and anchors a humungous ambition. Bravo Shoes Community Support will sponsor Sam's education up to the university level.

Sam Bright Muhindo is an ardent fan and a player of Ludo. Due to Sam's popularity, his siblings: Ronnet Bambu, Raymond Thembo and Brighton Bwambale, aged between 3 to 12

years, got themselves enrolled at Atlas Modal Primary School. BSCS also provides support to the siblings of Sam, and in fact, to the whole family, as and when required.

On June 24, 2022, Sam Bright Muhindo was appointed the ambassador, BSCS. On the same day, he took an oath to take the charge of over 600 students at King Solomon Junior School in Bulenga, Mityana Road.

Charlene 'Pinky' Irunga Kwikiriza, a Primary 5 student was sworn in as the new Head Girl in the warm company of Sam Bright MUHINDO, the Bravo Shoes Community Support (BSCS) Education Ambassador, who was a special guest of honor. Pinky is a 9-year-old charming loving girl, with the embodiment of a distinguished leader and a selfless unselfish being flowing in her veins and blood. She cares deeply about others. It was an important day in the history of the school and in the life of young Pinky and the day attracted the cameras from KSTV, a local television station.

Sam Bright Muhindo's influence is fast changing the lives of poor families in Kasese. Sam's mother Itungo Sylvia was living with keloids (scars) and her body had been itching for the past many years. The Bravo Team booked an appointment for her at Mulago National Referral Hospital for assessment of her health. Sam Bright Muhindo in the company of the Bravo Shoes Community Support team drove to Kampala to pick up his mother from the bus park. An expert at Mulago Hospital informed the BSCS team that Itungo will undergo specialized treatment to speed up her healing. She was registered in the hospital records and for a couple of hours, her assessment was done and she started receiving her treatment.

Sam Bright Muhindo participated in an annual dancing event ARAFAT 2022 at Freedom City on August 28, 2022. The young boy had a special cast performance. On the stage, the dancing star pulled his usual antics full of maturity and perfection with hundreds of eyes gluing on him. Sam Bright Muhindo thrilled everyone at the show and some joined him to pull off his rare strokes from a couple of songs from Mavo Culture among others. The dance fest attracted hundreds of participants including the young during the day and the adults at night. Lots of performances from Afro dance, Empere, Salsa among others were performed. The Dance Fest was coined to unite people from different backgrounds to showcase the craft and change the perception about dance to show people that you can dance to keep healthy.

On Christmas, Sam Bright Muhindo sent his heartfelt message,

“May Santa Claus bring to you surprise gifts in form of smiles and giggles, happiness and joy that last with you all your life... Merry Christmas and a wonderful Happy New Year to you.”

Bravo Shoes Community Support Organization has also planned to construct a very nice simple house for Sam's family.

The main role of Sam Bright Muhindo, the reigning BSCS Ambassador, is to champion education among the communities in the Rwenzori region and across the entire country. Muhindo steers the role to champion parents to take his friends back to school. In his role as an Ambassador, Muhindo is breaking the ceiling and giving education the real meaning following his fast transformation and the ability to prove to the world that education is worth everything.

5.1.2 Acleo Muwanguzi

Acleo Muwanguzi, a boy aged 12 years, was living in a single-room dilapidated house in Kasangati, Buyinza Zone, Gayaza Road, Kampala with his 72 year old father, Aloysius Bangula. His father was a stroke patient who could neither talk nor walk. Muwanguzi faced the tough challenge of taking care of his father to an extent that he had to sacrifice his education.

The boy who dreamt of becoming a technician or a mechanic of cars and motorcycles, was taken in by BSCS and he was enrolled at Namuwaya Education Centre, Kirinya-Bweyogerere. The Bravo Shoes Community Support Organisation provided Muwanguzi, enrolled in Primary 5, with all his necessary school requirements and facilitated him with scholarship to continue his studies. He was hosted to a delicious lunch by Team Bravo at Café Javas before he headed to join his new schoolmates at Namuwaya Education Centre.

Under the supervision of BSCS, Muwanguzi's 72-year-old father Aloysius Bangula is now under the free care of Biyinzika Ministries in Mukono, getting treatment for his high blood pressure and stroke. He is attended to by Dr. Ismael Musiime.

Muwanguzi vowed to reward his aging father with the benefits he will get from going back to school. He is extremely grateful for the valuable, help and support being provided by Bravo Shoes Community Support.

5.1.3 Peter and Paul

BSCS took up the initiative to help the twins named Peter and Paul found at Flobbetto Primary School-Hoima. Their mother was killed by their father in domestic violence. Their father was sentenced to life imprisonment. The children were abandoned by the community as well.

They also got enrolled at Namuwaya Education Centre. However, having come from a UPE primary school, they were demoted a few classes down. They needed more help in academics. The school is taking good care of these twins as it provided all their necessary requirements. BSCS pledged to provide them with school shoes until P7.

5.1.4 Elvis Bwire

One day, a barefooted 9 year old boy wearing a dirty old uniform with an oversize blue shirt and navy blue shorts was admiring a smart fellow age mate on the banner attached to the Bravo Shoes van in a proper school uniform with a pair of stockings and fancy shoes.

The 9 year old boy captured Bwire's attention but little did he know that even someone was watching him. This was Solomon Kitaka, a photographer by profession, who captured a life-changing shot of this dirty looking boy and his photo became viral on social media.

At that time, Bravo Shoes was doing their community social service. Bwire was Lucky that in his lost fear he went close to the van and the cameraman accelerated his luck. Subsequently, the City Centre Complex Shoe merchant, Bravo Shoes Company (BSC) awarded a full bursary to complete his Primary Section at Namuwaya Education Centre and promised that his scholarship shall continue until he completes his university degree.

Before getting in contact with BSCS Team, Bwire was a student of Walyembwa Primary School, Bumahna Sub-county, Luuka District. He was staying with his 76-year-old grandmother, Ruth Tebaryala. Ruth Tebaryala, with her five grandchildren had lost hope following the outbreak of the pandemic. However, the grandmother realized she was reading life on a different script as news came out that her grandson was acquiring a scholarship. She was overwhelmed by the news.

In the company of the Walyembwa Primary School Headmaster and the Bravo Shoes Community Support founder, Bwire looked emotional and composed, he said goodbye to those with whom he was grown-up. He finally headed toward Kampala, hundreds of miles away from those he knew better, to make his life better.

The spirit shown by Bravo Shoes Community Support has inspired many parents and students to continue having hope in education and the projects that the school will attract many other students lagging back home to rejoin school with a lot of expectations from Bravo.

5.1.5 Suubi Henry Kiyimba

Rose Nalwanga, a teacher by profession and a single mother of eight children is leading a tough life. She is surviving by vending firewood collected from her small garden of coffee and a few trees of avocados. She takes care of her seven children and hardly manages to make payment of their school fees in installments and hardly able to meet necessary household needs with an avalanche of loans from banks, microfinance institutions, local SACCOs, and individuals who can bear with her.

Suubi Henry Kiyimba left his home with a dilapidated funny-worthless-metallic box full of lags, old shoes, and maybe books (in the mind of people who cyber-bullied him) but to him, he was armed with catalysts that would help him achieve goals, desires, and dreams. His head was loaded with words of power from his single mother, Rose Nalwanga.

Suubi, a male undergraduate student at Makerere University, captured the attention of many Ugandans on social media when a photo of him surfaced on Twitter being trolled for his metallic case and 'Usofia' bag. He was ridiculed for carrying a metallic suitcase to college. Many pledged to turn his 'misfortunes' into success.

The story dominated the internet across the globe. BSCS reached out to him and awarded him a full university bursary to pursue a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Education (Economics) after attaining 17 points at UACE from St. Bruno Sserunkuma Secondary School Goli where he studied Physics, Economics, and Mathematics (PEM).

However, made got an offer from Joadah Consult and Development Infrastructure, a construction company, which offered Suubi a full sponsorship to his dream course in Mechanical Engineering at Makerere University. In August 2019, he was admitted in the said Bachelor's Degree course. Suubi had an obligation of school fees debt for an amount of Ush2 million owed to his high school where his UACE pass slip was withheld. His well-wishers contributed and collected Ush1.57 million on urgent basis. His other needs were a laptop, beddings, clothes, stationery, a suitcase, a mobile phone, and food which Ruth Aine, a blogger, published as Sssubi's needs list. Later, the 2 million school fees debt was cleared.

Suubi, with his three siblings join a handful of those whose careers have been fine-tuned by the Bravo Shoes Community Support. It has pledged to keep in touch and support Suubi Henry and his siblings. The organization shall continue to support them with school shoes in their entire school life.

Sometimes, Sssubi's mother seeks the help of Suubi, and she is happy that most of the time, Ssuubi comes through with something. She feels that many things have changed because of Ssuubi. She stated that she was no longer worried about shoes. Bravo Shoes came into their life and now even the community benefits from what she got from Bravo Shoes. She is really grateful to the organization.

5.1.6 Leila Hayat

Leila comes from Aii-Vu Sub County. She was living with her aging father and mother, who were dreaming of educating their girl child at a given standard but could not afford her school fees. Leila's father, Salim Ibrahim was now living in his native village Aii-Vu after getting

retired from a British American Tobacco driver job. It was learnt that there are thieves from Kampala who steal young girls and sell them to America and South Africa as slaves.

Team Bravo had an initial interaction with this family at their native place. Initially, the family was somehow doubtful but Leila's father later decided to bring this girl for education. The very quiet, reserved and visibly tired family managed to reach Kampala and headed straight to Bravo Shoes Community Support office before they could go drop Leila at school even though it was middle of the term.

Salim, his daughter Leila Hayat and his wife Afisa Salim took a tour of the Bravo Shoes showroom and came to know about other children who were picked under similar circumstances and are now studying in school. The family expressed their gratitude for all support and help provided by the Bravo Shoes Community Support.

Thereafter, Leila and her parents headed to school at Namuwaya Education Centre in Kirinnya Bweyogerere. On arrival, they were entertained by Sam Bright Muhindo, Elvis Bwire, Acleo Muwanguzi, and the school administration. Leila was received generously with applause and happiness from the entire school while the music would have touched down her spine. Their community will now watch Leila cruising up to the university with help and guidance from the Bravo Shoes Community Support.

5.1.7 Colin Kigenyi

Colin Kigenyi is a 9-year-old boy in Primary 2 at Busowa Primary School in Busowa Town Council, Bugiri District. Kigenyi became popular on social media for singing Doro- Dosa in exchange for *chapati*. The Bravo Shoes Community Support Team met Colin Kigenyi , his mother Farida Nangobi (aged 43 years) and his family at their residence. Kigenyi has been suffering from a strange condition that he could hardly settle at one place. He was, therefore facing difficulties in continuing his studies.

Nangobi Farida is a Councilor Representative for People and a mother of 12 children. Among those, three have already died. After failing to adjust with Kigenyi's abnormal condition, his father Watendera abandoned the family four years ago, leaving the other siblings at their fate.

Nangobi's job is permanent, so it was quite difficult for her to feed her family properly. Kigenyi's teachers were not able to deal with his condition. Bravo Shoes Community Support Team took Kigenyi to the Psychiatric Department of Jinja Hospital for his mental assessment. The team was informed that the boy was slow learner since he had a small brain. He had epilepsy and intellectual disability. The neurologist at the hospital advised that Kigenyi should

be on regular prescribed treatment to stop seizures every day. The doctor also suggested that he could be engaged in some skilling program and learning.

Kigenyi is unfortunate that he can't find a school for people with special needs like his own, in Bugiri.

Thankfully, Kigenyi was now improving as he awaits to go to school. In the meantime, Bravo Shoes Community Support Team offered to support his treatment which was scheduled on 28th of every month.

5.1.8 Shakur Omiat

Shakur Omiat is a 6 year old boy whose video went viral on NTV, a local TV station. Together with Judith Aguti, he was also a breadwinner of his family and used to take care of his grandmother by picking plastic bottles and selling them in the town of Pallisa -Teso Region Eastern Uganda.

His grandmother could not afford taking him to school. Team Bravo picked him up and he is now fully settled in school at Namuwaya Education Centre. Like other beneficiaries, Omiat will be supported by BSCS to continue his education in the best possible manner up to university level.

5.1.9 John (Name changed)

Incest is an inappropriate rare sexual activity, and majority of the victims (products) are experiencing their first encounter between the ages of 5 and 8 years. Incestuous families typically lack social skills and often isolated from other families and the community.

While in Budaka, roads led to Kavule Village Kakoli Subcounty, where Team Bravo tracked a family with a suspected case of incest that could have led to a new unusual human being at home. Let us call him John to avoid stigma. On reaching Kavule, a village of over 800 people, the team reached a place which had main home with homesteads and seven other grass-thatched houses belonging to grown-up youths.

The BSCS team interacted with a seven year old boy John, his 48 year grandmother, Madina Nawula and one of John's uncles, Maki Abubakar. The family of 16 members lost a father a few years ago.

Aisa Naula got pregnant at the age of 16 when she was in Primary 7. Later, Aisa got married where she gave birth to three other children but she exiled herself somewhere in Kampala.

Area LC 1 Chairperson, Changu Yakobo informed the BSCS team that so far, he had handled only one case in his office in the last eight years. However, understandably, a number of cases were not reported to the police.

John dropped out of school during the lockdown due to Covid 19. The Bravo Shoes Community Support Organisation team informed the family that they will identify a school for John and he'll be taken good care of. The family was happy with the kind of support being offered and provided by the organization.

5.1.10 Yvonne Babirye

Ntinda is also the home of Uganda School for the Deaf, the first of a kind in Uganda. The school was established in 1959 by the Uganda Society for the Deaf at Namirembe Hill. Uganda School for the Deaf is a specialized government-aided Primary School for deaf children. Here, Team Bravo met Yvonne Babirye, the 8-year-old girl who just lost her twin sister a year ago. Babirye could not hide the joy upon seeing the Bravo Shoes Community Support Team.

Babirye is one of the 250 students attending this school, her parents discovered that she was deaf after one year and they tried to save their daughter but in vain. She is now a student among other 25 students in a similar condition.

The school offers a special curriculum to the deaf community and additional vocational studies from Nursery to Primary Seven.

5.1.11 Bakka's Grandma Gets Empowered

Geraldine Rahim Bakka, a 4-year-old boy trended on the social media. The Bravo Team approached the family of Bakka at their place called Ghetto Land, a swampy area near the Northern bypass, which is a forbidden habitat of about 500 people, majority of them allegedly possessing a criminal background.

At the age of four (4), Bakka, who had already lost his father, was in the bad books of the local authorities and the Police for allegedly participating in night robberies. Bakka was probably fending for his family in which his mother Namugerwa Rebecca, aged 24, a mother of 2, was seen rotting on her sick bed. She was not in a position to move without aid. Thankfully, Bakka's grandma Nalunkuuma got some relief after receiving some money to run her dream business.

Bravo Shoes Community Support Organisation took it upon themselves to bring a change in Bakka's family, informing them that Nalunkuuma will now vend charcoal and serve the community which hated her most. The family was really in dire need of help. Team Bravo and

Nalunkuuma were taken to get a glimpse of how the business of charcoal works. The onus was on Nalunkuuma to live the life the community was over demanding from her family. Luckily, there was Bravo Shoes Community Support to make this come true.

The organization came in to help market the business to the community. Gaddimba Fagaro, the Secretary for Environment and Development, Kibumbiro LC Zone B also helped in the process of empowering Bakka's family for improving their economic condition. On the insistence of Team Bravo, Nalunkuuma offered free services to the people to cater to her tomorrow's client. The organization bought some of the biscuits to help Nalunkuuma to market her business. Her new stall had started attracting customers.

Team Bravo and Gadimba along with Nalunkuuma (Bakka's grandmother) lead the way to her neighbors for reconciliation and business. The good gesture of this business at its inception was well acknowledged by the community and largely welcomed.

5.1.12 Amazing Girl Child Identified From Terego But Team Bravo Ended Up in Cell

Terego is a district in Uganda's Northern Region. It is located approximately 360 square kilometers (140 sq mi) northwest of Uganda's capital Kampala, and it is popular for tobacco fields. An 8-year-old girl, Aseru Sharon child was randomly identified by Bravo Shoes Community Support Team back in June 2022. Aseru Sharon has a mother but she was abandoned for about 8 years when she was 3 months old and never returned home. The Bravo Team took approached twice to meet this girl and her family at their residence, first time in June 2022 and 2nd time in September, 2022.

Sam Bright Muhindo, the organization Education Ambassador, Western Region was to orient Aseru about life in school and her new role on Education Ambassadorship for girl child from West Nile. Like other needy children, the Bravo Shoes Support Team wanted to take the responsibility of imparting education to Aseru until she finished her university. However, both the 1st and the 2nd interventions yielded no result. The 1st one was already a waste, except that the girl Aseru Sharon was identified. During the 2nd intervention too in September 2022, the Team Bravo underwent a very bitter experience due to casual approach of local authorities with the Team Bravo who were prisoned for 8-13 days in cells at COS Omugo on the false allegation of human trafficking.

For the record, whenever the Bravo Shoes Community Support team travels for these activities, authorities from the local council, security, and councilors among others are informed and usually become part of the activities. The area Youth Council Faiza Esizo called Officer in Charge (OC) to come and be part of this deliberation. It was learnt that there was

some confusion with the district authorities who were doubtful on the activities of the organization and they wanted to meet them.

So, the BSCS team also met with them at the district headquarters which had the entire hierarchy from the ranks of the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), DISO, ISO, Chairperson LC 5, LC 3 Chairperson Aii-vu Sub County, and councilors among others. The BSCS was allegedly faulted for not involving the district authorities during this whole process.

Team Bravo was advised to go back and follow the right procedure, explaining that the NGOs at their place were required to sign an MOU with them and present the right documentation regarding its legality among others. After this meeting, the team learnt that they were under detention and no one was supposed to move. The Team Bravo was being asked curious questions. The following day, the team learnt that a file on human trafficking was opened after spending a night with 8 other suspects who (some) had spent between 8 – 13 days in prison over different crime-related cases. This experience was really disappointing but it gave learning to the Team Bravo to be extra cautious in future.

6 OTHER ACTIVITIES

6.1 BSCS Celebrates World Brother's Day with a Tour in South Sudan

Every May 24 is an International Brother's Day. Bravo Shoes Community Support traveled from Uganda to neighboring South Sudan capital, Juba to mark this day with different communities. One of them was St Lawrence Academy, a privately owned school, situated Northward of the Juba Hai-Referendum Residential area-two kilometers away from the main market. The 3-day journey was a tribute to our unending love for children and the spirit of brotherhood without borders.

St Lawrence Academy School is described as a beacon of knowledge with a team of dedicated, innovative, and competency-based human resources in school planning and management.

A visit to the world's newest capital city, Juba the capital and largest city of South Sudan, made the journey enterprising. The city is situated on the White Nile and also serves as the capital of the Central Equatorial State. There was no way we could live in Juba without saying good morning Juba Parents School fraternity, our beloved school on the mission to build new hopes and a positive mindset to make a brighter chapter in the children's life full of knowledge and learning.

The University of Juba is the largest university in South Sudan. The university roots back in 1977 and it is one of the top leading Academic Institutions in the Country. It has strategic partnerships across the world. Bravo Shoes Community Organization was blessed to have been warmly welcomed by this great institution.

In South Sudan, we visited the hero's tombs, as the exodus from Egypt: John Garang is seen as Moses, who led his people out from slavery and through the Red Sea, but died before entering the promised land.

6.2 Wind of Faith: How Kizito, the Youngest Martyr's Death is Inspiring Children Today

Bravo Shoes Community Organisation officials took some time on 3rd June, 2022 to monitor proceedings at the annual international Martyr's Day in Namugongo, Wakiso District where hundreds of pilgrimages turned up from different parts of the world.

BSCO interacted with some children who had arrived here from far off places travelling hundreds of kilometers to pay homage to the martyrs at Namugongo Martyrs shrines, where 21 Ugandans were killed for their faith.

6.3 BSCS Organization Commemorates Yvonne Namaganda on Heroes Day

Yvonne Namaganda, a 10 year school girl, died during the Buddo Junior School fire on April 14, 2008, as she tried to rescue her colleagues from an inferno that eventually killed 19 school children. On June 9, 2017, Namaganda was named a National Hero and the Uganda Parliament celebrated her heroism and recognized her as a national heroine.

The regional Buganda (Kingdom) Lukiiko (Parliament), also honored her with the “Mafumu ne Ngabo” or (Spears & Shield).

Bravo Shoes Community Organisation Support Founder Yesigye Brian Bravo expressed that Yvonne Namaganda’s heroic act represents a generation to come that can save a situation and be reliable.

“Am happy that as a country, we appreciate Namaganda and celebrate her life and the lives she saved on that day. That’s why as Bravo Shoes Community Organisation Support, we came out to touch on the lives of children with the hope that we can transform more lives,” Brian stated.

Among these lives, there so many Namangandas and Sam Bright Muhindos, we shall continue doing our best!” he said.

6.4 BSCS Adopts Strategic Five-Year Plan 2023-27

The Bravo Shoes Community Support Organisation (BSCS) has a unique team of professionals on the Board of Directors to plan and supervise the organization’s programs and activities of helping the vulnerable communities. The newly appointed nine-member Board of Directors comprise of professionals belonging to different social and economic backgrounds, which include lawyers, social scientists, and bankers. The Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive ‘BSCS Five-Year Strategic Plan 2023-27’ during December 2022 (placed at the Annex for reference).

During the board meeting, the Board Chairperson Nsamba Abbas Matovu stated that the new board will drive better levels of compliance and accountability. He said that the board will strategically push the organization with a strategic approach and seriously mobilize the necessary resources to create the desired impact as per the mandate of the organization. The Board stressed that in the next five years, the organization’s financial resources and strategic efforts should be increased and specific committees should be constituted to take-up specific tasks.