



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Butanuka Community Academy students celebrate Christmas with joyful dances and vibrant smiles.

Table of content.....	Page 2
Note from the Founder.....	Page 3
Who we are.....	Page 4
Year in review.....	Page 5
Education.....	Page 7
Livelihood and Community Engagement.....	Page 9
Community health and Nutrition.....	Page 11
Spotlight: Program leaders driving change.....	Page 13
Looking ahead.....	Page 14
Our partners & Financials.....	Page 15
Our Leadership.....	Page 16

NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Friends and Partners,

2024 has been a year of renewed connection, growth, and tangible progress for Dreaming for Change. I had the privilege of returning to the United States, reconnecting with longtime friends and supporters, and serving as a Visiting Scholar at Appalachian State University. Through over 20 presentations, site visits, and meetings, I was able to deepen relationships and share the evolving story of our mission.

In Burundi, our dedicated staff continued to lead with heart and commitment—driving forward every achievement you'll read in this report. We launched a Community Farming Program in partnership with Springhouse Farm, and hosted the Segal Family Foundation for the groundbreaking of a 12-classroom school building—a major step in our commitment to quality education.

Our Butanuka Community Academy was ranked first among 38 schools in Mpanda, Bubanza Province, and our financial well-being program reached 1,200 women and girls through village savings and loan associations. As part of this program, we also launched a new vocational training initiative, culminating in a powerful graduation ceremony attended by the Chief of Party and his delegation from YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa.

We were honored to welcome potential donors who visited our programs on the ground and saw the impact firsthand. We also celebrated the opening of our American Shelf program, approved by the U.S. Embassy and housed in a new building constructed with support from American friends.

These milestones reflect the strength of our team, the trust of our partners, and the resilience of our communities. Thank you for believing in this vision and being part of this journey. With gratitude!

Janvier Manirakiza
Founder & Executive Director



Community members gather in large numbers for the annual meeting to reflect, share and plan together.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



OUR MISSION

To promote human dignity and social development through access to educational opportunities, agriculture, financial well-being, health and protection services to help children, families and communities achieve a positive transformation.

IDENTITY AND CORE VALUES

We are a **family-centered community development** organization focused on serving disadvantaged children, families and communities, to make vital changes that tackle the root causes of poverty, illness, injustice and gender inequality. At the heart of our work is a rights-based approach to development, a belief that even the poorest individuals have the right to a life of dignity. We are committed to empowering people, not just helping them.

OUR VISION

Dreaming for Change's vision is to build healthy, peaceful and educated communities in Burundi.

OUR VALUES

Integrity: We act consistently with D4C's mission, being accountable, honest and transparent in what we do and say.

Commitment: We work together to provide our services to the most vulnerable people in an effective way.

Diversity and equality: D4C serves the needy without regards to gender, age, religion, race and geography.

Community-driven: D4C seeks to establish a strong community engagement to ensure participation in all activities. We place communities at the center of our development activities.

OUR APPROACH

Child-focused community development: All children have the same rights, set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. All children should have the rights to education, health care, clean water, food and nutrition, protection and livelihoods. Dreaming for Change works at the grassroots level in villages to help communities make real and sustainable changes, so that their children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Community Participatory approach: Dreaming for Change considers community participation as a strategy of involving beneficiaries and other stakeholders voluntarily in the process of solving their own issues. The approach leads a community to feel greater ownership and commitment to the development projects.

Holistic approach: Dreaming for Change implements a holistic model to community development with well-integrated programming because the issues and problems affecting children, families and the community are many and interconnected.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Oscar, our Education program coordinator, shares a playful moment with preschoolers in the classroom.



“Our American friends and supporters graciously organized a welcome dinner for our founder, Janvier, celebrating years of collaboration, compassion, and shared purpose.”



“Back to school, ready to thrive; Thanks to your support, we provided essential school kits to 189 children from vulnerable families, ensuring that no child is left behind.”



“Celebrating resilience; After recovering from acute malnutrition, 85 children and their families gathered to mark the end of their journey in our porridge program. With smiles and porridge ingredients in hand, they head home nourished and empowered.”



“Sowing change; In partnership with Springhouse Farm, we launched a pilot farming program designed to boost local agriculture, increase yields, and nourish families.



“Breaking ground, building futures; With the support of Segal Family Foundation, we launched the construction of a 12-classroom primary school that will expand access to quality education for children in Bubanza.”



“In our American Shelf library, launched in 2024 with support from the U.S. Embassy and our American friends, girls now have access to books and computers that spark curiosity and build confidence.”

YEAR IN REVIEW



“One community, one vision. During our annual gathering, the families we serve came together to reflect on the past year, share challenges, and shape the future of Dreaming for Change. This photo captures the spirit of unity, trust, and collective purpose that drives our work.”



“A celebration of women’s empowerment — Dr. George Kosimbei and his delegation joined our cultural group and YALI alumni in marking the graduation of 325 women and girls trained through the ‘She Rises for Change’ project implemented by Dreaming for Change under the Transformation Fund.”



“Governor Cléophas Nizigiyimana praised D4C for its strong impact in community development and women’s empowerment, urging partners like YALI RLC EA and USAID to continue supporting such transformative work.”



“Welcoming our guests: Dreaming for Change was honored to receive two visitors from Partners for Equity for their first site visit, exploring opportunities for future collaboration.”



Proof of possibility: These two university students shared how D4C’s support shaped their journey from rural schools to higher education in Bujumbura. One is now studying midwifery, the other accounting; a true testament to the power of opportunity.



A proud mother celebrates her son's academic progress as she holds his school report card with joy.

In 2024, Dreaming for Change made significant strides in the field of education, ensuring that both children and young people in Bubanza Province, especially those from vulnerable backgrounds, have access to quality learning opportunities. The focus of our education program remained on creating an inclusive, sustainable, and holistic learning environment for individuals of all ages, while also empowering educators and fostering community involvement.

Some key achievements in 2024:

In 2024, Butanuka Community Academy (BCA) ranked 1st out of 37 schools in Mpanda Municipality with a score of 95.2% in the official exam. This success reflects our commitment to child-centered learning, strengthened by U.S.-led teacher training, and the use of active teaching methods like play, storytelling, and foundational literacy skills. BCA offers a safe space where children learn not only academics but also leadership and empathy preparing them to thrive in school and in life.

Dreaming for Change made significant strides in expanding educational opportunities for young people, particularly girls from rural communities. Through our **“Rural Girls Scholarship Program”**, we supported 40 girls with school fees, uniforms, kits, tutoring, and mentorship; ensuring they not only stay in school but thrive.

Two of our scholarship recipients are now attending **university in Bujumbura**, studying midwifery and accounting, a powerful reflection of the long-term impact of this initiative.

Complementing this effort, we launched the **American Shelf**, a dynamic learning space built with support from our American friends and equipped by the U.S. Embassy with books and computers. The American Shelf has quickly become a hub, offering youth a space to explore new ideas and connect with the world through reading and digital literacy.



172 children enrolled at BCA



30,600 nutritious snacks served to children through our BCA school.



189 children from other schools received school kits to go to school.



Youth at the American Shelf spent over 192 hours building computer literacy skills and 144 hours reading books.



14 BCA teachers participated in a three-day intensive teacher training workshop led by our American educators.



40 high school girls received full scholarship



2 university girls received full scholarship



4 tutors offered 288 hours of extra-lessons to 40 high school girls.

SPOTLIGHT

Our high school girls wearing their new uniforms and hold their school kits provided by D4C.



From the left to the right: Juliette Irakoze and Anne Marie Nininahazwe, two university scholars of Dreaming for Change.

This year, we are proud to highlight Anne Marie and Juliette, the first university scholars from our high school girls' program. Their education journey is a testament to the power of support and opportunity.

Thanks to the generosity of our American friends, Anne Marie and Juliette were able to pursue higher education at Université Lumière de Bujumbura. Both girls, hailing from rural villages, have shown incredible determination in their studies. Juliette is passionate about accounting, while Anne Marie dreams of becoming a midwife, a career that will allow her to make a difference in the health of rural communities.

After completing their first two semesters, Anne Marie and Juliette have demonstrated **strong academic commitment**, with both making **satisfactory progress in their respective programs**.

Anne Marie and Juliette's success is not just theirs alone, it is a collective achievement that highlights the life-changing impact of education and the unwavering support of our donors. We are excited to see them continue their academic journeys and eventually contribute to their communities in meaningful ways.



Christine's growth: from shyness to confidence.

Christine, an 8-year-old in Grade 3, is the youngest of 11 children in her family. When she first joined Butanuka Community Academy (BCA) in Grade 1, she was a shy and isolated child, struggling to connect with others. However, with the support and nurturing environment at BCA, Christine has developed remarkable self-confidence over time.

Today, Christine is not only more outgoing but also excels academically, with a particular love for Math. Her journey from a timid child to a confident student reflects the power of a supportive educational environment in helping children overcome their challenges and discover their strengths.

This transformation was made possible thanks to the ongoing teacher training provided by our U.S. educators. Their efforts have equipped our BCA teachers with the skills and knowledge to better support and nurture students like Christine, fostering an environment where each child can grow and succeed.



Women hold up a large bar of soap they made through our entrepreneurship program funded by USAID through the Transformation Fund.

In 2024, the Community Engagement and Livelihoods Program empowered women, youth, and families in Butanuka, Muramba and Buterere through inclusive initiatives that promoted financial well-being, vocational training, and food security. From expanding Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and launching a new community farm to delivering hands-on training in soap making and modern agriculture, the program focused on building household resilience and community well-being. With new staff members and active community participation, we strengthened local leadership and introduced sustainable solutions to reduce malnutrition and hunger, combat gender-based violence, and foster long-term growth.

With a holistic approach that integrates economic empowerment, food security, and the fight against gender-based violence, this program continues to shape a more resilient and hopeful future for everyone involved.



1,200 women and girls involved in 48 VSLA groups of Butanuka, Muramba and Buterere.



60 women and girls participated in the soap-making program and launched 6 small businesses.



Among 48 groups, 26 shared out \$40,685. Some bought lands, pigs, cows and started small businesses.



25 farmers representing 25 families were recruited in the farming initiative.



75 household kitchen gardens established and improved food security and nutrition for 75 families.



940 Kgs of vegetables harvested onsite and distributed to BCA students.



More than 5,000 active community members came to volunteer onsite.

SPOTLIGHT

A woman feeds her cow with freshly cut grass as part of her daily livestock care routine.

The Power of Collective Savings: A Story of Growth and Empowerment

My name is Edyssa Hacimana, and I am married with eight children. Our journey toward financial stability began when I joined a local savings group in Gatagura village. This group provided me with the support, savings opportunities, and access to credit that I needed to improve our lives.

With the help of the savings group, I saved money each week and accessed low-interest loans. In the second cycle, I received a credit of BIF 500,000, which allowed me to start a business **selling palm oil**. This venture not only generated income but also taught me valuable financial management skills. By the end of the cycle, I had saved enough to **purchase a cow**. Today, the cow has a calf, providing my family with fresh milk. I generate income by selling extra milk. This has greatly improved our family's living conditions and helped cover essential expenses, such as health costs and school fees for my children.

As an empowered woman, I have gained respect in my village and inspired other women to improve their lives. Through the savings group's support, I have transformed my life and am now a model of success and empowerment in my community.

Empowered by D4C: Mrs Julienne's vision for a better tomorrow



My name is Julienne Mpawenimana. Today, I stand here with great pride, grateful for the opportunity to share my story. As an elderly woman, I've never encountered an organization like Dreaming for Change (D4C), which truly cares for us, the rural people. While our politicians rarely visit, D4C has consistently supported and empowered us.

I am a proud member of a VSLA group from Nyomvyi, and through our collective efforts, we've been able to save and invest wisely. With the guidance and encouragement from D4C, I was able to purchase land, improving my livelihood and creating new opportunities for my family.

This journey has taught me the power of hard work, community, and the tools D4C has provided to shape our future. I am grateful for the chance to stand here today as a testament to the impact of D4C's support, and I hope my story inspires others to work together for a brighter tomorrow.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND NUTRITION



A mother feeds her baby with nutritious porridge provided through our community nutrition program.

In 2024, Dreaming for Change strengthened health and nutrition in rural Butanuka through a holistic, community-based approach. We increased home visits, enabling our team of health professionals and “light mothers” to identify malnutrition and other illnesses early.

A total of **426 severely malnourished children** and those living far from our nutrition site received weekly take-home rations of porridge and sugar. In addition, **35 women showing signs of malnutrition were also supported** with nutritional care, reflecting our inclusive approach. By the end of the year, **194 children recovered and were discharged**, and **85% of those monitored showed significant weight and growth improvement**.

Awareness sessions on hygiene, nutrition, and family planning were also held to strengthen community knowledge. The introduction of **kitchen gardens** further empowered families to grow their own vegetables and improve daily meals. Through prevention, education, and direct support, this program continues to build a healthier and more resilient generation.



Community nurse Philbert delivers nutrition education to women and children using a visual image box for better understanding.



Philbert, our nurse, administers medication to a child with an infection as part of our basic health services.



426 malnourished children served nutritious porridge.



We supported 35 malnourished mothers with porridge, nutrition education and home garden support.



194 children recovered from malnutrition.



40 home visits in Mpanda were organized by our nurse and trained light mothers.



18,000+ cups of porridge served to fight child malnutrition.



776 community members participated in various health education and awareness sessions.



165 children with minor infections and wounds received first-line care.



Over 12,000 kg of fortified porridge flour were distributed to accelerate recovery from malnutrition among children and mothers.

SPOTLIGHT

BEFORE



AFTER



A Mother's Hope: The Journey from Malnutrition to Healing

My name is Béatrice Nitunga, and I am from the village of Gifurwe (in Butanuka). I am a mother of four children, one of whom is my daughter, Irumva Aniesse. Today, I want to share our journey with you: When my daughter was just four years old, she began showing worrying signs of malnutrition. This was due to inadequate nutrition, something I didn't understand because I was unaware of the essential nutrients required for her growth and development. I noticed her hair losing its natural color and her cheeks becoming swollen, which deeply concerned me.

Despite my own good health and stature, my daughter was suffering from a condition I didn't know how to address, which felt paradoxical. I visited several rural health centers in search of help, but nothing seemed to work. Then one day, a kind friend told me about a place in Butanuka where a Nurse was helping children with malnutrition. Despite my doubts, I decided to give it a try. When I arrived at Dreaming for Change's center, I was greeted warmly by the team, and they immediately took charge of my daughter.

Thanks to their dedicated treatment and nutrition program, my daughter began to recover rapidly. Today, she is healthy, thriving, and even starting school. Seeing her play and learn fills my heart with joy. I thank God for this incredible transformation.

I am deeply grateful to the leaders of the organization for their tireless work in helping children like mine. Thanks to their efforts and God's grace, my daughter is alive and full of energy.

Additionally, the staff at Dreaming for Change taught me how to start a kitchen garden at home, so I can now provide fresh vegetables to my children. This has helped improve their nutrition and our overall well-being.

I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to the generous donors, whose support for the nutrition and porridge program has made a real difference in the lives of children like mine. Thank you to everyone who supports this vital cause. Your work is making a real difference in the lives of children and families in our community.



Hermes Ntaconayigize, Community Engagement and Livelihood Coordinator



Hermes has been with Dreaming for Change since day one, when there were no funds, no buildings, and only a dream. A trained lawyer with a heart for justice, he stood beside the founder when the vision was still taking shape. Over the years, Hermes has become the driving force behind our achievements in financial well-being, women’s empowerment, and community engagement. His deep commitment, humility, and leadership continue to shape the soul of our work and the strength of our impact.

Nadege Kavyinabuhiye, Preschool Director



Nadege Kavyinabuhiye serves as the Preschool Director at BCA and has been with Dreaming for Change since its founding. She was there when we launched our very first preschool cohort and has remained a central figure in the growth and success of the program. With a university background in psychology, Nadege brings a strong understanding of child development and emotional well-being into the classroom. Over the years, she has worked tirelessly to strengthen the quality of early learning, train and mentor preschool teachers, and ensure that every child begins their educational journey in a safe, nurturing, and joyful environment.

Arcade Arakaza, Facilities and Human Resources Manager



Arcade Arakaza serves as our Facilities and Human Resources Manager at Dreaming for Change. With a background in civil engineering, Arcade brings strong technical expertise to oversee construction projects, infrastructure development, and maintenance across our sites. In 2024, he coordinated all the technical aspects of our primary grade classrooms expansion project. Dedicated to quality and hands-on supervision, he often spends the entire week in Butanuka to oversee ongoing activities at the community center.

LOOKING AHEAD



Our community drummers perform traditional Burundi rhythms at D4C community center.

1. Education: Expanding Access and Improving Quality

- ✓ Continue the expansion of Butanuka Community Academy, adding more classrooms and improving facilities.
- ✓ Launch the home-based early childhood development program to reach an additional 100 children in rural Bubanza.
- ✓ Establish a teachers' training center that will train, prepare, and retain visionary teacher-leaders who promote active learning, critical thinking and foundational skills that inspire creativity and future entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Upgrade our American shelf into a fully operational American Corner equipped with internet, books, computers, to conduct online researchers, host lectures and seminars and provide cultural exchanges between USA and Burundi.

2. Livelihood & Empowerment: Economic Strengthening

- ✓ Launch Community Farming School and Train Rural Farmers: Establish a community farming school to provide in-depth training for rural farmers on modern agricultural techniques, sustainable practices, and business skills.
- ✓ Launch Entrepreneurship Program: Create an inclusive entrepreneurship program that benefits both women and men within the community. This initiative will combine business skills training with hands-on vocational education, including soap making, baking, and sewing, welding, construction, etc...

3. Community Health & Nutrition: Enhancing Well-being

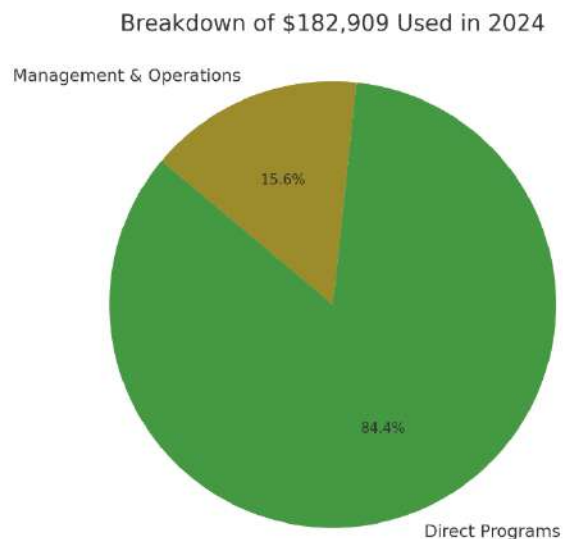
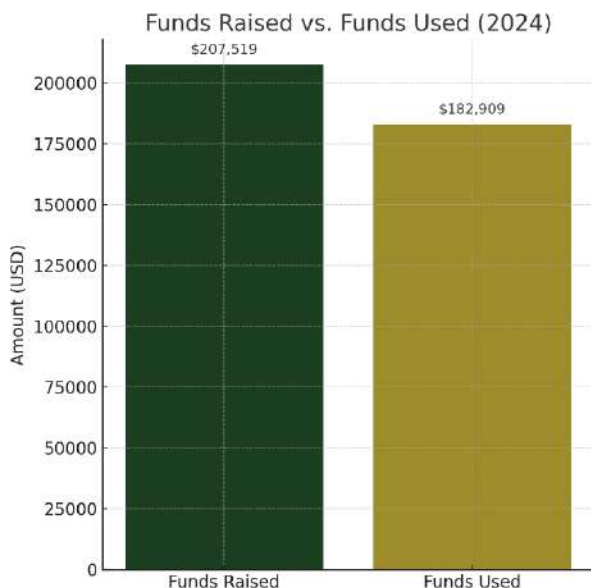
- ✓ Expand our health and nutrition program by training additional community health workers and extending services to more households.
- ✓ Enhance the nutrition-sensitive agriculture program, equipping more families with the tools and knowledge to grow nutritious food, thereby improving food security.
- ✓ Launch the "Community Health Worker" program alongside the "community ambulance" service to promote healthy behaviors, identify health issues early, guide individuals to appropriate health services, and monitor referred patients. Ultimately, we aim to establish a full-fledged maternity clinic to support maternal and child health.

In 2024, Dreaming for Change raised a total of **\$207,519** to support its mission of empowering communities in rural Burundi. The majority of funds were invested in our expanding education program, particularly in the construction of new classrooms at Butanuka Community Academy and the launch of new learning initiatives. Additional resources supported key programs in nutrition, community health, livelihoods, and infrastructure development including initiatives that advanced financial well-being and empowered women through vocational training and entrepreneurship. We are deeply grateful to our donors and partners whose generosity made this impact possible.



FINANCIALS

REVENUE	2024	2023
Carryover	22,233	\$4,010
Contributions	116,086	\$115,086
Grants	47,650	\$19,500
In-kind	8,550	\$8,680
Other income	13,000	\$5,172
TOTAL REVENUE	207,519	\$152,448



OUR LEADERSHIP



Dreaming for Change is guided by a committed and diverse leadership team across Burundi and the United States. Our Burundi Board of Directors provides strategic oversight, ensures accountability, and brings deep local knowledge to every decision impacting our community programs. Meanwhile, our U.S. Board of Directors plays a vital role in supporting international partnerships, governance, and fundraising to sustain and grow our mission. Together, these dedicated leaders embody the values of integrity, collaboration, and service, ensuring that Dreaming for Change remains grounded in its vision while expanding its global reach.

BURUNDI TEAM

Elsie Charlène Dusabe
Janvier Manirakiza
Aline Hakizimana
Emmanuel Nsabimana
Gloria Niwemahoro
Fédor Rucumuhimba
Néstor Ndikuriyo
Lyse Irakoze
Joseph Ntirandekura
Thierry Nisabwe

USA TEAM

Connie Green, President
Barry Thomas, Treasurer
Gael Wood
Jean Fiedler
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