



**SHE IS >**

**2022**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**



[www.sheismorethan.org](http://www.sheismorethan.org)

# SHE IS >

Existing so that every woman will live in freedom and know that  
**SHE IS MORE THAN** sexual injustice

## **AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR OF PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

Because of your unwavering support, She Is More Than had our most impactful year yet. Breaking nearly every operational record to date and *more than* doubling the number of victims identified and assisted within a single year. And it doesn't stop there.

From the re-launch of the new and improved Prevention Program, 'Arise,' to empowering survivor families with small business loans, and reaching more minors in Uganda with prevention and awareness resources than ever before, 2022 has been one for the books. **THANK YOU** for making all of this ,and so much more, possible!

The realities of human trafficking remain daunting, but our progress in the fight for freedom is remarkable.

Let's take a moment to celebrate the impact we made together as we continue to fight for her. Because **SHE IS MORE THAN** sexual injustice.



*Lauren Bernard*

**Lauren Bernard**  
Executive Director





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# REAL MEN DON'T BUY GIRLS. >



HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
IS HAPPENING  
EVERYWHERE

ACROSS OCEANS  
AND IN YOUR  
OWN BACKYARD

**WE SAY NOT ON  
OUR WATCH**

## OUR STORY

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She Is More Than began in the heart of A.C. Black. As a survivor of sexual abuse, A.C. knows how sexual violence can devastate a life. However, these very experiences ultimately became the driving force behind the launch of what is now a global anti-human trafficking organization.

In 2011, A.C. traveled to Uganda with another organization devoted to helping women and children with AIDS. While there, she encountered girls as young as eight being bought and sold in brothels. This could not stand. To combat these injustices, She Is More Than was founded shortly after in 2013.

We are now one of only three organizations in the whole of Uganda certified to provide restorative aftercare for teenage girls who have been victims of human trafficking and sexual violence. She Is More Than is also deeply passionate about our hometown communities in Central Florida, and we are active right here locally in a variety of ways.

# SHE IS >

## Vision and Mission

### Vision

Every woman will live in **FREEDOM**  
and know that **SHE IS MORE THAN** sexual injustice.

**The eradication of human trafficking and sexual slavery worldwide.**

That's a big task, right? Yes. The global conglomerate and devastation of sexual violence in all its forms is catastrophic. But we at She Is More Than believe that by implementing three proven steps, we can tackle and overcome these giants together to create a safer tomorrow for the vulnerable everywhere.

**PREVENT. RESTORE. PARTNER.**

### Mission

We know that every individual experiences trauma differently, so She Is More Than created a program that breaks the cycle of abuse and equips each survivor with the tools necessary to heal mind, body, and soul. Through prevention and awareness initiatives, holistic rehabilitation for survivors, and partnership with local communities and like-minded organizations, She Is More Than is making waves of impact in Uganda and in the U.S.





## MILLIONS OF SLAVES. A \$150 BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY. LESS THAN 1% ARE EVER RESCUED.

We believe in a world without slavery. For ten years, we've had our boots on the ground in the U.S. and Uganda working towards the eradication of sexual slavery worldwide. To see women wholly set free from sexual slavery mind, body, and soul.



## THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE ENSLAVED TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE IN HUMAN HISTORY. WE SAY NOT ON OUR WATCH.

### PREVENT.

To stop the demand and prevent the vulnerable from becoming affected, we raise awareness surrounding human trafficking and sexual abuse in schools and communities through outreach events and mentoring programs here in the U.S. and abroad.

### RESTORE.

We provide safe housing for survivors in Uganda to heal physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Through our trauma-informed program, we work with each individual survivor to break cycles of abuse and restore freedom at every level. So that she will truly know...

SHE IS MORE THAN a victim.

### PARTNER.

We know we can't tackle the giant of modern day slavery alone. She Is More Than is proud to financially and physically partner with like-minded patrons and organizations across the globe. Partner with us through your giving, time and resources, or sponsorship of a young survivor to restore freedom, hope, and a future to trafficking survivors worldwide.



# THE PROBLEM

Uganda has been identified as a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. Human trafficking in Uganda occurs on both transnational and internal levels. Victims of internal trafficking are mostly trafficked from rural and underserved communities to major cities, and are exploited in domestic service, street begging and vending, sexual exploitation including forced marriage and commercial sexual exploitation, and labour exploitation especially in the agricultural industry. Transnational trafficking in Uganda is multifaceted. Despite serious reports of ongoing human trafficking related exploitation, significant numbers of Ugandan nationals emigrate primarily to the Middle East and other Gulf countries yearly due to high levels of poverty and unemployment. There have also been reports of the trafficking of Ugandan nationals to neighboring East African States like Kenya for various forms of exploitation including labour and sexual exploitation. In addition to the trafficking of Ugandan nationals, nationals of other East African countries are trafficked into Uganda for exploitation in the agricultural sector, sexual exploitation, and domestic service. The Ugandan Government has developed important legislative and policy frameworks to combat human trafficking, but legal and policy gaps persist, and implementation remains inconsistent.

Furthermore, sexual and gender-based violence offenses are the most common and prevalent offenses committed in Uganda. Through 2005-2014, rape fluctuated substantially; it tended to decrease ending at 2.9 cases per 100,000 population. Worryingly, the Police Crime report for 2015 indicated that at least 1,419 cases of rape were reported countrywide. This rose to 1,572 in 2016, dropped to 1,335 in 2017, and rose to 1,580 cases in 2018. By the end of September 2022, members of the GBV Sector Working Group (SWG) managed 4,513 incidents, reported in the GBVIMS from all 13 refugee hosting districts in Uganda. The main types of GBV disclosed by survivors include psychosocial/ emotional abuse (32%), physical assault (24%), and rape (21%).

1 in 4 women are victims of sexual violence. But we believe **SHE IS MORE THAN** sexual injustice.

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1 SDG target 8.7 is to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

2 SDG target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. SDG Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).





# WHY THE PROBLEM HAS PERSISTED

Poverty is the most obvious factor that leads to the spread of trafficking of women in Uganda. Many young women fall victim to human trafficking by the false promise of high-paying jobs in other countries or larger cities. These types of cases almost always lead to sexual assault. The movement of people to seek employment creates a demand for sex workers in these cities and the vicious cycle continues. Poverty also forces many women into local brothels and home sex work to make ends meet for themselves and their hungry families.

Among various social factors that sustain the sex trade industry is the prevalence of stereotypes and constant discrimination against women. In Uganda, a female is discriminated against in all spheres of life and considered a burden to the family. This negative gender bias has led to rampant female infanticide and continues through the development process of a girl most prevalent in relationships, nutrition, health, and education. Consequently, women develop low self-esteem and often relinquish control over their own lives and bodies, leaving them powerless to resist the might of the patriarchy and easy prey to exploitation. It's simple: women left un-educated and un-empowered will always look to sources outside of themselves for help instead of looking within to their natural abilities to create a life all of their own.

Ugandan laws pertaining to prostitution make it easier to penalize prostituted women and girls rather than brothel keepers, pimps, and johns. The client is totally outside the purview of the act except in the case of minors, and even then, a prosecution with a possible conviction is complicated and costly for the victim.

Marriage places strong social demands on women which, if left unfulfilled, can create adverse and hostile circumstances for them in their families and in society. Additionally, the practice of dowry directly impacts the choice of a poor woman to enter into a financially viable marriage. Such practices lead to another prevalent form of human trafficking in Uganda; forced and/ or abusive marriages. If they choose to leave, divorce or desertion by the man has its own social stigma attached to it and often leaves the woman forsaken and desolate in the midst of an unsympathetic society. Some of these women will look for solace in the wrong places and, at times, enter into temporary relationships that further alienate them and perpetuate cyclical patterns of abuse.

According to the 2022 Trafficking In Persons Report: Uganda, corruption and official complicity in trafficking crimes remain significant concerns, thus inhibiting law enforcement action during the year. Observers reported police officers and immigration officials, particularly at airports and border crossings, accepted bribes to facilitate trafficking crimes or to warn traffickers of impending operations and investigations. Media and senior government officials reported high-level officials may have owned or been associated with some labor recruitment companies suspected of trafficking.

The problems may seem staggering and that is because they are.  
But **SHE IS MORE THAN** is part of the solution.





# SHE IS >

THEORY OF CHANGE

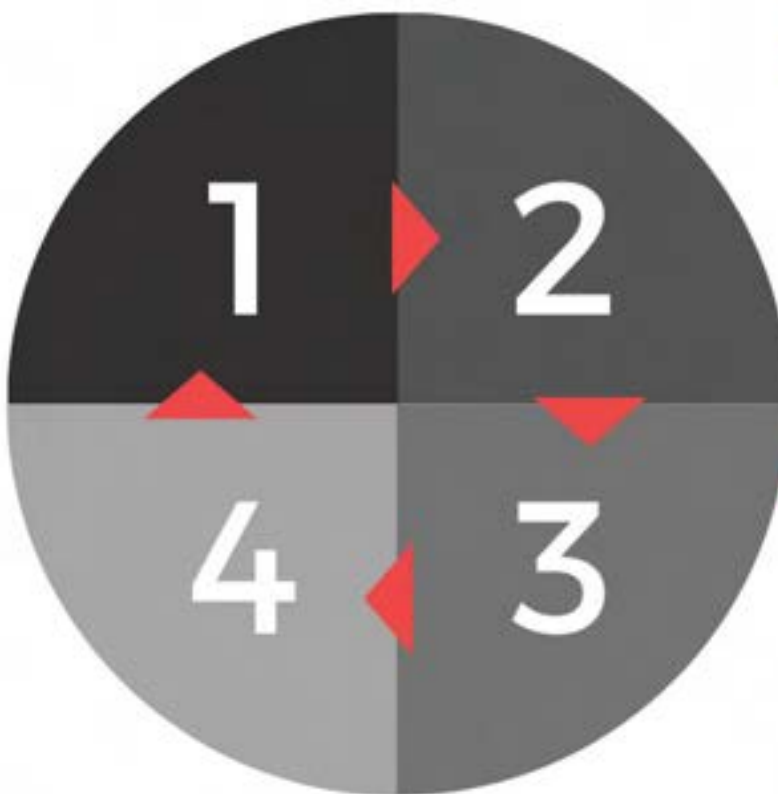
## 1 PREVENT

Pools of potential female sexual violence victims decrease significantly where programs that provide practical resources to keep at-risk girls out of vulnerable and desperate situations are present.

## 4 IMPACT

These steps will lead to a decrease in the local number of teen female sexual violence victims in Uganda.

As our programs expand, this impact will in turn be reflected on a national scale.



## 2 RESTORE

Equipping survivors of sexual violence with the psychological tools to effectively heal from their trauma can break cycles of abuse and empower the survivor to live the healthy life she is worthy and capable of.

## 3 EDUCATE

Educational opportunities give survivors of trauma and at-risk youth an abundance of new pathways in life that otherwise may have never been available to them.



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# WHY SHE IS MORE THAN WORKS

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## PREVENT. RESTORE. PARTNER.

### PREVENT

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Knowledge is power. Our goal is to stop the supply of victims and prevent the vulnerable from falling prey to sexual violence. We do this by creating awareness surrounding human trafficking and sexual injustice in schools & local communities both in Central Florida and Uganda. We want you to know:

- Who traffickers target
- How traffickers work to groom, lure, and trap victims
- The signs of someone being trafficked
- How people can protect themselves and their loved ones
- How you can join the fight to end human trafficking right where you are

### RESTORE

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We operate a live-in restoration facility in Uganda, Africa where over 150 survivors have come through our doors to begin healing from their trauma emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

“

**Florida ranks 3rd  
in the nation  
for human trafficking  
cases**

Every person processes trauma differently, so we created a program that does its best to break the cycle of abuse and equip each survivor with the tools necessary to thrive. While our survivors stay with us for 3-6 months they receive:

- Medical care
- Trauma-informed therapy
- Education & vocational opportunities

The need for our kind of care in Uganda is great, so we are growing to meet it! We are currently constructing multiple facilities on our forever property in Uganda where we will more than double the number of survivors we are able to house now. No more rent, no more small spaces, just 2.5 acres of secluded hillside property where little girls will be **FREE** to be little girls again.

In Central Florida, as members of the Seminole County Sheriff's Department human trafficking task force, we help identify trafficking trends and collaborate with other local organizations to serve our communities accordingly. Our current focus is on prostitute outreach and public school awareness initiatives.





## **PARTNER**

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It takes an army to take on the giant of human trafficking and the time is now to RISE UP and FIGHT TOGETHER!

If you are like us and want to see human trafficking come to an end in our lifetime, there are several ways we invite you to join the fight with She Is More Than.

### **Sponsorship**

Our survivor sponsorship program is designed to connect survivors of sexual violence and social justice advocates to achieve one common goal:

**LASTING FREEDOM** for the formerly enslaved.

Sponsorship carries a young survivor through the restoration program and into the aftercare phase, consisting of either education or vocational training.

\$75/ mo gives one survivor safe housing, trauma-informed therapy, medical care, a boarding school/ vocational education, school supplies, uniforms, and much more. These resources have changed every face you see above, and countless more, for the better.

### **Outreach**

Our Freedom Fighters in the U.S. and Community Action Teams (CAT) in Uganda are the legs we stand on! These teams help organize and run special events, promote awareness in local communities, maintain donor relations, identify trafficking trends, work with local law enforcement, participate in outreaches, and are our biggest advocates in spreading the word about the injustices of human trafficking.

### **Partner**

She Is More Than financially and physically partners with several like-minded donors, foundations, and organizations across the globe. We are proud to join hands with the likes of IJM, O.U.R. Rescue, The Hewlett Foundation, CRANE Network, and more.





2022

# THE IMPACT



36

## FREEDOM

Female, teen survivors of human trafficking and sexual violence rescued, rehabilitated, and repatriated.



## HELPING



4

## JOINING HANDS

New partnerships with local nonprofits in Uganda.

8

## COMMUNITY

Public school and community awareness outreaches.

86

## EDUCATION

Survivor education and vocational training enrollment.

6

## MEDICAL CARE

Major medical procedures and HIV treatment.

135

## RESTORATION

Survivors received trauma-informed therapy services.



## HEALING





## Empowering young survivors through education & vocation

Because of your generosity, 86 survivors were able to attend school and vocational training in Uganda!

- 49 students enrolled in primary and secondary schools
- 28 in vocational training and internships
- 9 in University

Here in the U.S., the free public school system is taken for granted by many. However flawed that system may be, it still provides basic education to all children from kindergarten through senior year across all 50 states. In Uganda and other parts of the world, children do not receive an education of any kind without paying school fees.

As you've read earlier, global poverty is a direct, primary contributor to not only hunger but to human trafficking, child marriages, and the commercial sex work industry.

At She Is More Than, we do all we can to break cycles of abuse AND poverty by providing every survivor with the opportunity for education or vocational training. Our survivors are only with us for a short time, therefore it is our job to do all we can to set them up for success in life outside of our home. In 2022, you have given 86 survivors the gift of education and a future that will shine brighter than their past.







# ARISE PREVENTION PROGRAM

**PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY EQUIPPING TEEN GIRLS TO RISE ABOVE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH SKILLS AND BUSINESS TRAINING.**

Of the various projects She Is More Than has launched or participated in this year, we are most excited about Arise Prevention Program in Uganda. The goal of freedom for every woman begins with no one becoming bound in the first place, and we achieve this primarily through community and public school awareness initiatives and Arise Prevention Program.

In 2022, She Is More Than was able to turn dreams into realities with the creation of a thriving program that brings the same healing and psychosocial resources available in our restoration home to young girls in the local community outside of our four walls. Arise meets three times per week for three months. At each meeting, attending enrollees receive a meal, trauma-informed therapy sessions, vocational and life skills training, small business management training, and trafficking/ sexual violence education. All of these combined resources are designed to empower the girl whose options in life have been limiting. We provide a safe space for girls who aren't able to receive a traditional education to gain a skill, receive any mental health care they may need, and be affirmed in their worth in order to graduate and say with confidence that they are so much **MORE THAN** poverty and sexual violence.



# SHE IS >

## ARISE RESOURCES:



Vocational training: Hair styling, makeup, crocheting, tailoring, manicure, soap making, candle making



Small Business Training



Budgeting courses



Career guidance



Trauma-informed therapy



Human trafficking and sexual violence education



In Uganda, women and girls aged 15+ spend 14.6% of their time on unpaid care and domestic work.

Empowering young women with a marketable skill provides more options for quality employment and long-term sustainable living.



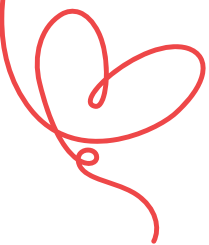
Vocational skills training empowers young people to engage in productive employment and avoid involvement in potentially exploitative work and behaviors.



Arise garnered **30** enrollees and **10** graduates in 2022, trained and equipped in the areas of hairstyling, tailoring, and makeup.

We are so proud to have been able to partner in these bright futures ahead!

A combination of factors have contributed to the involvement in sex work, including poverty and unemployment, lack of schooling, violence against children and gender-based violence as well as the influence of urbanization. Research has shown that for most adolescent girls and young women in Uganda, sex work is engaged in as a source of livelihood and survival since they lack other viable alternatives. It has been studied and proven that by providing young women with alternative livelihood skills is not only economically empowering but potentially reduces their vulnerability to sexual exploitation.



# THE **KYUSA** PROJECT

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE DECLINE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND POVERTY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FAMILY UNIT.

In Uganda's national language, Luganda, 'Kyusa' means change. This word alone encompasses all that we aim to achieve with the recent launch of our new economic empowerment program, The Kyusa Project. This program provides small business loans for survivor families and other members of our local community demonstrating fiscal responsibility but in need of that extra helping hand to make sustainable and lasting income a reality.

One large and often ignored factor in the holistic rehabilitation of a young trauma survivor is the family unit. In Uganda, as you've read, poverty is a primary contributor to sexual violence of all kinds. To resettle a trauma victim back into an environment of struggle can severely stunt the inner growth they've worked so hard to achieve as their focus shifts from healing back to survival. The last thing we want our survivors to worry about as they continue on the road to recovery is financially contributing to their households. These types of conditions often lead young girls to find work in brothels, bars, or on the streets as prostitutes simply to feed themselves and their families.

Not on our watch.

We are proud to say that in 2022, **FIVE FAMILIES** have enrolled in The Kyusa Project and received their small business loans. In addition to economic assistance, each family will also receive a series of trainings that focus on budgeting and management. When parents are able to safely provide, children are free to be children again.

Because **SHE IS MORE THAN** poverty.





# Creating Awareness

In 2022 She Is More Than had the opportunity to raise awareness surrounding human trafficking and sexual violence in **FOUR** public schools, both primary and secondary levels.

Male and female students, alongside staff and administration, were educated by our team on how to identify and report human trafficking and sexual abuse.

Unfortunately, in Uganda, sexual violence is largely accepted as a part of life. Abuse is rarely talked about, and in many communities, is as common as the seasonal cold. She Is More Than wants to change that.

Teaching children from an early age about inappropriate touch, how to say no, and how to speak out if abuse has happened is critical to creating a safer tomorrow for all. We are honored to have been tapped to help **#starttheconversation** in Uganda's schools.



## Spreading the Love



As much as we love sharing knowledge, we love sharing resources even more. Our dream in Uganda was not only to be a beacon of hope to young sexual violence survivors but a blessing to the community surrounding us.

This year, we were privileged to host **FOUR** community outreaches. Two food drives and two medical outreaches.

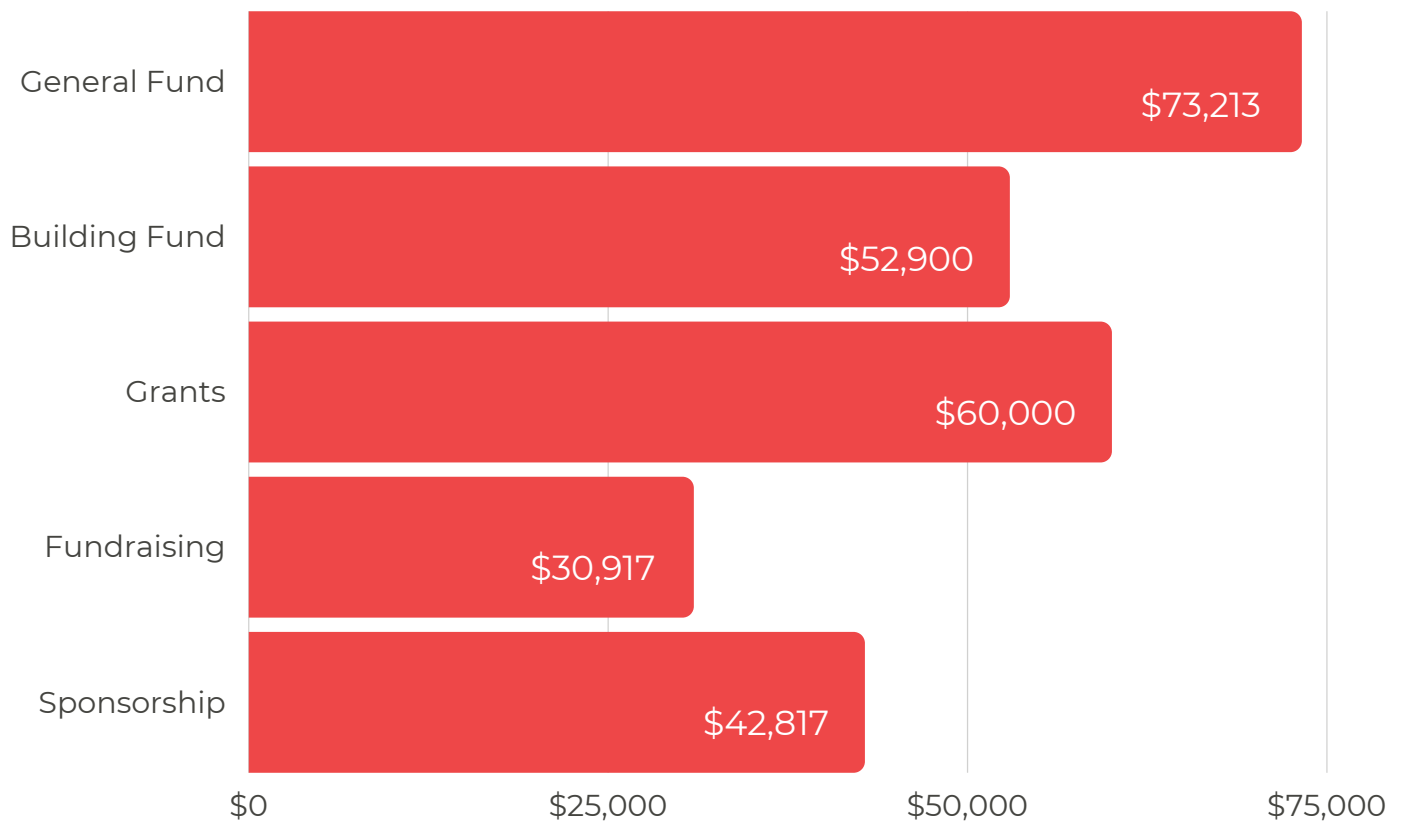
Over 200 families and members of our community were impacted by the generosity you helped provide. Meeting practical needs opens up the door to conversations and areas of influence we wouldn't have otherwise. The recipients may say they are grateful, but we consider ourselves the ones that are blessed.





# 2022 Income Review

\*Chart amounts rounded to nearest dollar

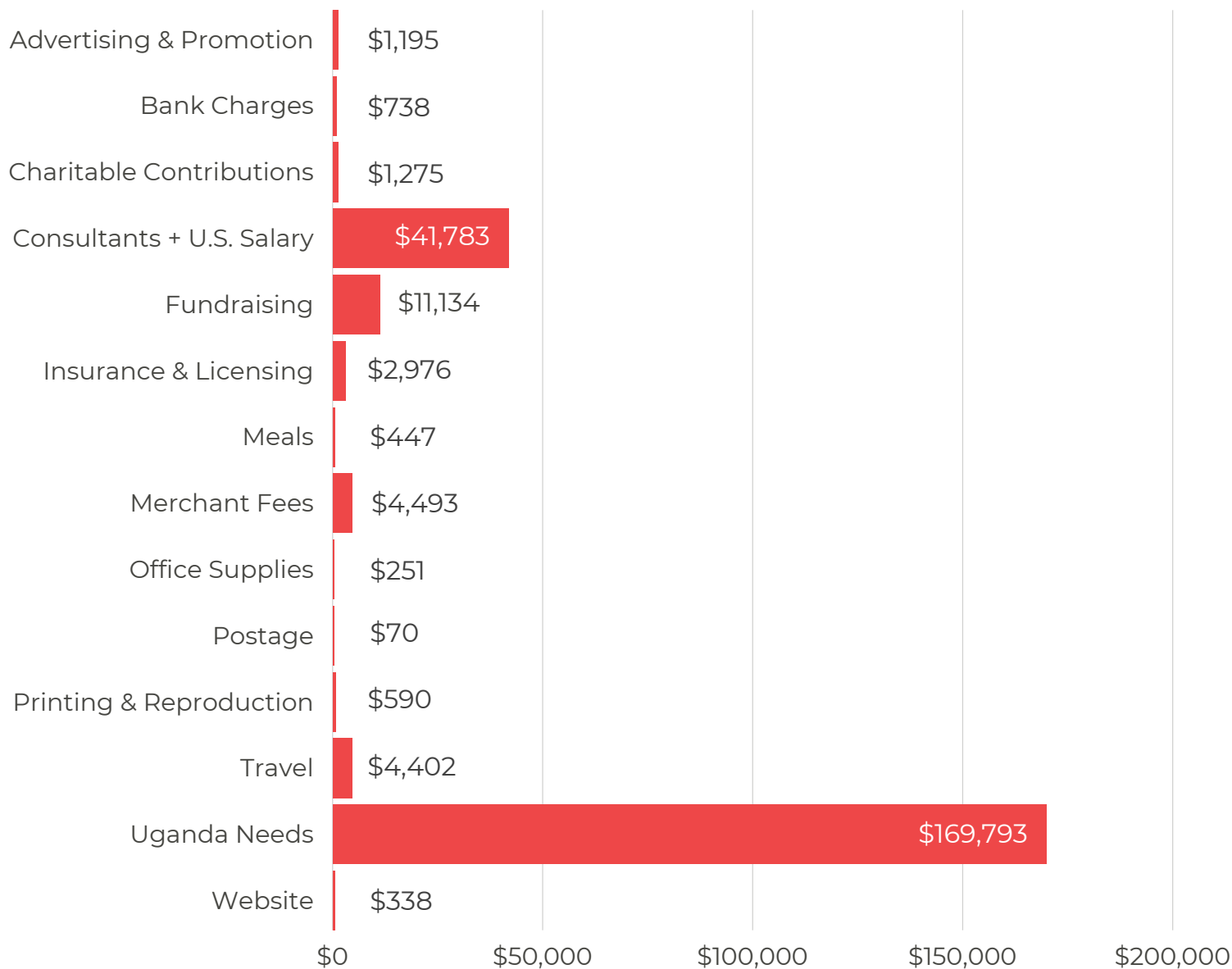


**2022 was a banner year for She Is More Than,  
and that is all thanks to YOU!**

**\$259,847.00**

# 2022 Expense Review

\*Chart amounts rounded to nearest dollar



**\$239,485.86**

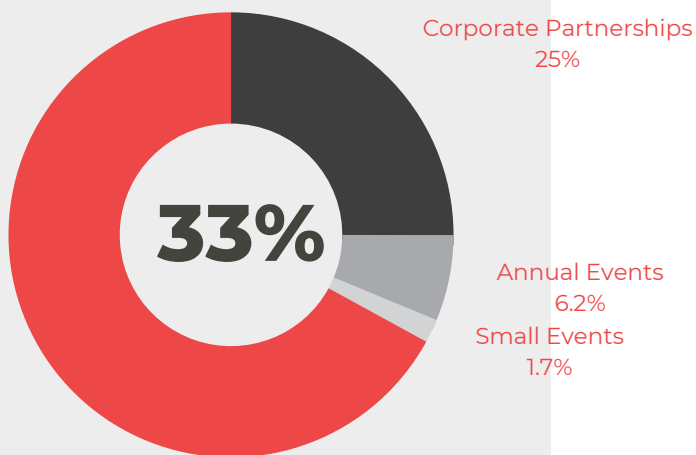
# FUNDRAISING



## COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE AN IMPACT

In the resolute battle against human trafficking and sexual violence, She Is More Than's unwavering spirit finds dynamic expression in fundraising initiatives that constitute a remarkable 33% of our annual income.

With a symphony of purposeful actions, we strive to orchestrate a transformative narrative, weaving together the threads of freedom, female empowerment, and lasting change.



At She Is More Than we primarily pursue funding options that are coupled with awareness. From the grand stage of our annual golf tournament, where swings of hope drive change, to the realm of corporate partnerships and grants that turn collaboration into catalysts for progress, She Is More Than propels the cause forward with each strategic stride.

Yet, it's the local gatherings like Bingo nights and online rallies around Giving Tuesday that infuse the movement against the giants of human trafficking and sexual violence with a sense of community, reminding us that change begins within our own neighborhoods.

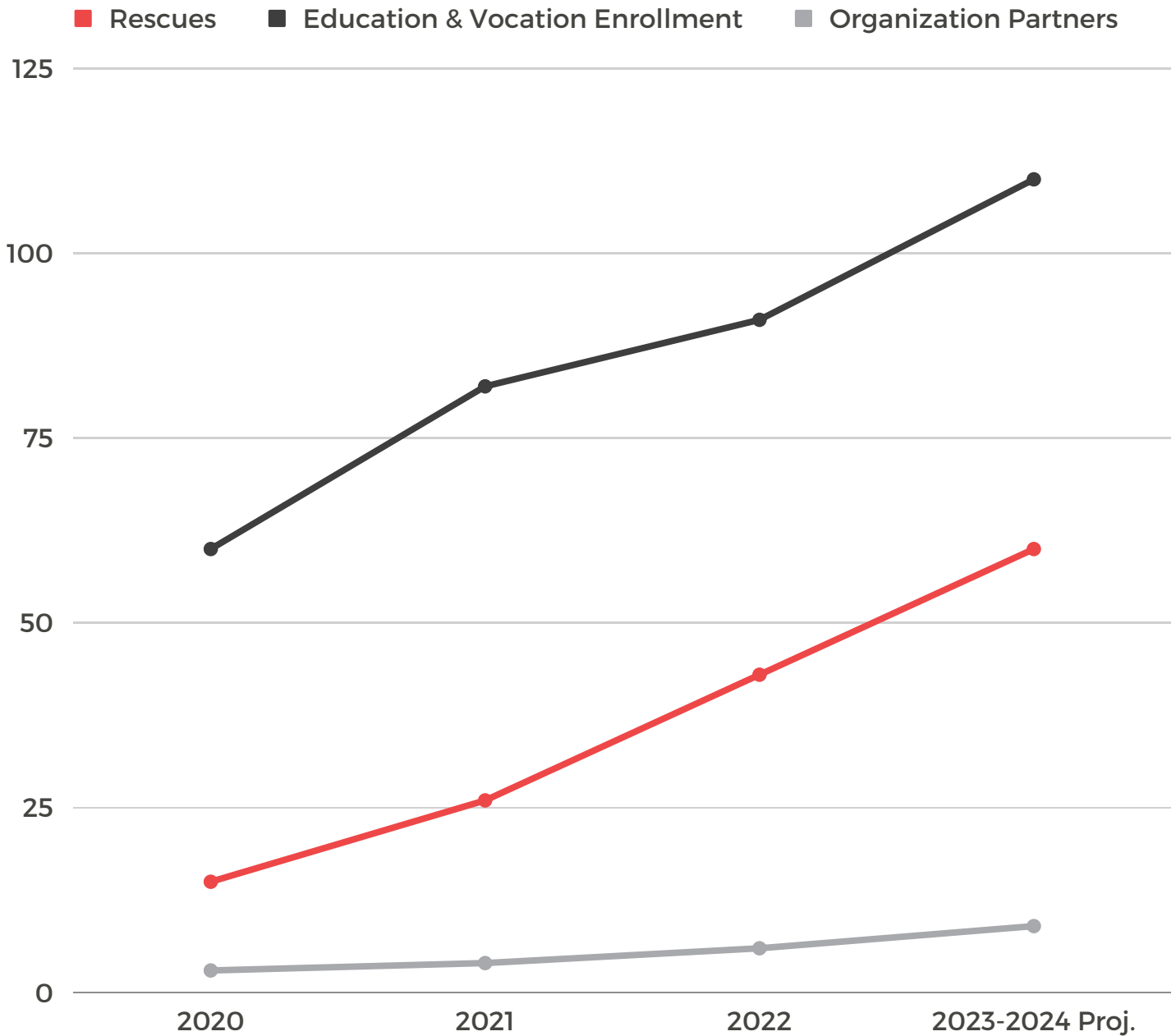
Every dollar raised is a life changed. As you have read before, fundraising efforts have directly impacted our survivors, sparked awareness, and supported women in the community in a number of ways.

Our fundraising tapestry weaves a story of empowerment, resilience, and unwavering dedication, embodying the essence of being so much **more than** the challenges we face.



# SHE IS >

## PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE



# OUR PARTNERS



**IJM**

**International Justice  
Mission**

[IJM.org](http://IJM.org)



OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

**Operation  
Underground Railroad**

[ourrescue.org](http://ourrescue.org)



**The Hewlett Foundation**

[hewlett.org](http://hewlett.org)



**Rescue One More**

[rescueonemore.com](http://rescueonemore.com)



**The Diamond Project**

[thediamondproject.net](http://thediamondproject.net)



**Mercy Childcare**

[mercychildcare.org](http://mercychildcare.org)

# CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER



**CRANE: Children At Risk  
Action Network**

[cranenetwork.org](http://cranenetwork.org)



**Armor Up Recovery**

[armoruprecovery.org](http://armoruprecovery.org)



**UGANET**

[uganet.org](http://uganet.org)



**Action Church**

[theactionchurch.com](http://theactionchurch.com)



**Dream Big Do Bigger**

[dobigger.org](http://dobigger.org)



# OUR TEAM

## UGANDA



WARDEN

Caroline Kimuli



COUNSELING

Grace Muzaki



ACCOUNTING

Hidaya Nangabi



HUMAN  
RESOURCES

Ann Kakerereza

# OUR TEAM

## UGANDA



HOUSE  
MOTHER

Precious Twikirize



SECURITY

Emmanuel Ekaju



DRIVER

Aron Igadira

# OUR TEAM

## U.S.A.



FOUNDER

Anne Black



EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

Lauren Bernard



BOARD CHAIR

Jerry Thomas



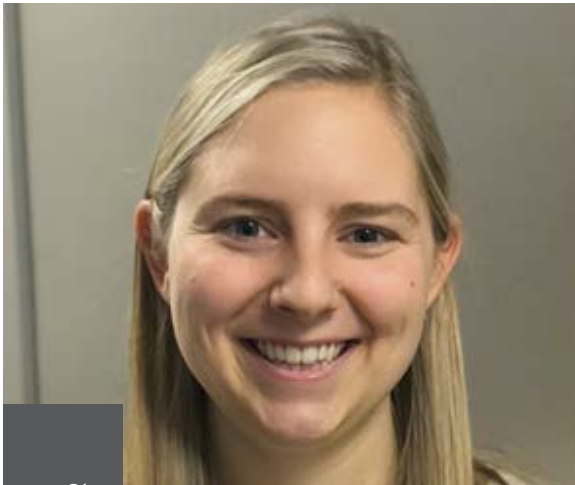
BOARD  
MEMBER

Melissa Vellequette



# OUR TEAM

## U.S.A.



BOARD  
MEMBER

Stefanie Spielberger



BOARD  
MEMBER

Dave Griffin




BOARD  
MEMBER

Melonie Rosenfarb



# THANK YOU



True and lasting **FREEDOM** for every female is a big ask.  
It is only together that we will be able to put an end to human trafficking  
and sexual violence in our lifetime.

Thank you for joining hands with She Is More Than. We are honored to fight  
this good fight alongside each of you in the year ahead and many more to  
come.

Because **SHE IS MORE THAN** sexual injustice.

## SHE IS



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[www.sheismorethan.org](http://www.sheismorethan.org)