



## Bwoga Elementary Library (BEL) Initiative Q1 REPORT

## Executive Summary

The BEL Initiative continues to grow, creating opportunities for the Bwoga community. Thank you so much for your support. Indeed, through your generosity, many Bwoga kids will continue to have access to books and other educational resources.

**Library Operations:** The library was officially opened in December 2023. [If you missed the news article about the library opening, I have attached a copy to this report]. Currently, we are working on stocking the library with books, furniture and computers. The library continues to host the BEL Holiday Reading Program for primary (elementary & middle) school kids. In addition to the reading program, the library is running a basic computer training program for high school students, and a weaving-skills training for a group of Bwoga women.



The finished library (December 2023).





Left: Some high school students from Bwoga learning basic computer skills

Right: Basket Weaving Moms displaying baskets they have crafted as part of their weaving-skill training.

### **BEL Scholarship program**

The number of beneficiaries of the BEL scholarship program increased from 15 in 2023 to 21 in 2024. BEL greatly appreciates the new sponsors who have joined the cause to support these children..

The benefit of having a sponsor for a student is profound. Sponsors not only provide financial support but also develop meaningful relationships with the students. They may serve as mentors, and occasionally check with the students to track their progress.

Our goal is to increase the number of BEL scholarship beneficiaries to 25 by the end of this year. On average, sponsoring a child costs about \$450 per year. This scholarship covers the main aspects of the student's education, including tuition, fees, room & board, and school supplies.

If you are interested in making a difference in a child's life by sponsoring their education, please reach out to BEL via email at [belprojects19@gmail.com](mailto:belprojects19@gmail.com). Your support will have a lasting impact on the lives of these students and their communities.



Some of BEL's scholarship beneficiaries standing in front of the library before heading to school ( February, 2024).

### **Holiday Reading Program**

Our 2024 Holiday Reading program commenced on May 6th. The reading program's theme is "Leadership and Responsibility." The reason for highlighting this theme is especially to remind the kids of a key goal of the library (transforming their community through leadership), and their role in taking great care of this wonderful resource. We hope that this reading program (and others to come) will continue to empower our Bwoga kids to take ownership of the library as their own and recognize the lasting impact it will have on future generations.

To make the theme relevant, students will participate in a variety of activities, including making crafts and offering community service (e.g. cleaning around the library and the Bwoga community health center). Additionally, as part of the Holiday Reading program, BEL aims to help Bwoga kids close academic gaps in English (reading, writing, and grammar) and in mathematics (essential math sense).





Some pictures from last year's Holiday Reading program.

Left: Students engaged in a crafting activity (making a dress from rags/newspapers).

Right: Students giving community service (picking trash around the local church)

### **Looking Ahead and Fundraising.**

BEL will be hosting a summer fundraiser in July 2024, in Louisville, KY. We will also host the BEL's virtual fundraiser in December 2024. More details about these fundraisers will be shared later.

To achieve its mission of transforming the Bwoga community, BEL relies on the support and contributions from people like you. Your generosity makes it possible for us to keep the library open and running its life-changing programs, including the Holiday Reading program, and the BEL scholarship fund.

Indeed, your generosity and support have been instrumental in enabling all of BEL's work. We express heartfelt gratitude for your support, sure that it will have a lasting and profound impact on the Bwoga community. If you would like to continue supporting BEL, donations can be made through our [GoFundMe](#) page or directly on our [website](#).

Furthermore, we invite you to stay informed about BEL's progress and initiatives by subscribing to our newsletter through the following link: [News Form](#).

Together, we can affect meaningful change and leave a positive imprint on the lives of those we serve.

Thank you so much!  
Peter for BEL Team