



# MOBAK Foundation

## 2024 Impact Report

# Introduction

At MOBAK Foundation, we believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive, regardless of where they started. In 2024, we expanded our reach and deepened our impact across Trinidad and Tobago and beyond, ensuring that youth transitioning from state care are not left behind. Our mission—to empower youth through stable housing, education, mental health support, and life skills—continues to drive life-changing results.





Message from the Chairman

# Mr. Clyde Leon Baker

As Chairman of the Board Executive Committee, I am deeply honored to present this 2024 Impact Report. This past year, MOBAK Foundation demonstrated extraordinary growth, stability, and leadership in serving youth transitioning from care—while maintaining its heart and community focus.

Our Foundation has continued to rise to meet some of the most pressing social challenges of our time. The Untold Stories initiative was not just a research project—it was a movement. It brought together policymakers, youth voices, donors, and media, and challenged all of us to rethink how we support youth leaving the child welfare system. The board is proud of the national attention and policy conversations this project inspired. Its legacy will guide advocacy efforts for years to come.

At the governance level, I am pleased to report continued progress. The Board Executive Committee initiated strategic planning for 2025–2027 with the engagement of a seasoned external consultant. Additionally, the Finance, HR, and Programs Committees made significant strides—finalizing the audited financials, improving staffing protocols, and refining our organizational structure to enhance service delivery.

As we look toward 2025, I believe MOBAK is positioned for deeper impact and wider reach. But we cannot do this alone. I invite you to stay with us on this journey—and thank you for being part of this transformative work.



Message from the Executive Director

# Mr. Mobafa Baker

This has been one of the most pivotal years in MOBAK's history.

In 2024, we didn't just run programs—we shaped national conversations and policies. Our Untold Stories research project, with over 161 participants, illuminated the reality facing youth aging out of care. And so, we doubled down.

- 25 youth received direct support through housing and wraparound services
- 4,160 meals served
- 1,040 hours of counselling and mentorship
- Mojuisi, our social enterprise, continued operating while exploring expansion
- 1,120+ clients supported across Trinidad and Ghana

We also welcomed requests for support from young women and girls for the first time, which speaks to the growing reach and reputation of our organization. Together, we are not only changing lives—we are changing systems.

## Key Impact Areas

# MOBAK House Residential Program

Our flagship transitional housing program at MOBAK House in Chaguanas provided a supportive home for 13 full-time male residents, aged 18–24, transitioning from the child welfare system or homelessness. Residents received:



**Stable housing  
and daily  
support**



**4,160**  
meals served



**120 hours**  
of academic tutoring



**Access to  
mentorship, life  
skills, and  
emotional care**



**1,040**  
counselling/mentorship  
sessions



## Key Impact Areas

# Non-Residential Youth Support Program

In 2024, MOBAK significantly expanded non-residential programming, supporting an additional 30 youth—both male and female—who were not living on-site but faced similar vulnerabilities. These supports included:



**Rental assistance and move-in support (beds, supplies, food items)**



**Life skills training (budgeting, cooking, job readiness)**



**Academic tutoring and vocational referrals**



**Support in obtaining legal identification**



**Emotional/mental health check-ins**



# New Requests from Girls and Young Women

MOBAK received requests from girls for support. While residential services for girls have not yet been launched, the Board began exploring how to meaningfully expand programming to meet this emerging need.



# Untold Stories of Youth Transitioning from Care

This research initiative brought national attention to the realities faced by youth aging out of care. With 161 participants across sectors, the study revealed major gaps in preparation, housing, education, financial literacy, and emotional health.

The Untold Stories research initiative uncovered significant thematic areas impacting youth transitioning from the child welfare system.

These findings were grounded in lived experiences and reinforced by qualitative survey responses. The following core themes emerged:





## Untold Stories of Youth Transitioning from Care

### Preparing to Leave

71% of children felt their homes were not or only somewhat preparing them to leave care. Once they left, 50% of children and youth reported being unprepared. This lack of preparation increased vulnerability to poverty, homelessness, and emotional instability.

### Financial Management

100% of youth indicated that they received no financial education or support prior to leaving care. Many took 1–4 years to open a bank account, often due to lack of guidance, money, or required documentation.

A black and white photograph of three young people sitting outdoors. The person in the center is a young woman with curly hair, smiling and looking towards the person on her left. The person on the right is a young man wearing a cap, looking towards the woman. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a stone wall.

## Untold Stories of Youth Transitioning from Care

### **Absence of Key Documentation**

More than 70% left care without two valid forms of ID. 66% of these respondents said it took 1 to 4 years to acquire them due to confusion or lack of support.

### **Access to Education**

83% of children nearing exit from care were not attending secondary school. Of those out of care, 63% had not completed a full CSEC certificate, greatly limiting employment and further education opportunities.



## Untold Stories of Youth Transitioning from Care

### **Housing & Stability**

75% of youth left care without a housing plan. 16% experienced homelessness immediately after leaving, with 67% of those remaining unhoused for over 7 months, and 33% for more than a year.

### **Employment and Employability**

Youth formerly in care had an unemployment rate nearly three times the national average. 71% of those who struggled to find jobs had 4 or fewer CSEC passes, indicating a need for vocational and job-readiness support.

A black and white photograph of three young people sitting outdoors. The person in the center is a young woman with curly hair, smiling and looking towards the person on her left. The person on the right is a young man wearing a cap, looking towards the woman. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a stone wall.

## Untold Stories of Youth Transitioning from Care

# Health and Mental Wellbeing

While 89% received therapy during care, only 5% continued therapy after leaving. 53% said they lacked access, couldn't afford it, or were afraid to pursue services.

# Emotional Support

68% of youth reported feeling lonely often or very often in the past year. 21% considered suicide. 61% experienced extended periods of sadness or hopelessness that disrupted daily life.

A black and white photograph of three young people sitting together outdoors. The person in the center is smiling broadly, looking towards the person on the right. The person on the right is looking back at the person in the center. The person on the left is partially visible, looking towards the center. They are all dressed in casual clothing. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a stone wall.

**Untold Stories of Youth  
Transitioning from Care**

## **Self-Identity & Stigma**

94% of youth said the child welfare system affected their self-identity. Many felt blamed or stigmatized for being in care, though it was through no fault of their own.

# Recommendations



Develop structured transition planning before age 18.



Ensure access to IDs and financial accounts.



Integrate educational and vocational supports within care.



Fund long-term housing and mental health access.

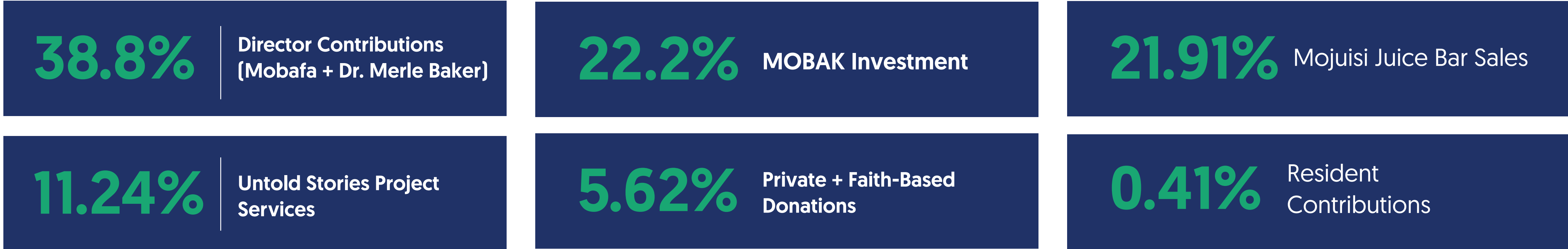


Promote interdependence through mentorship and connection.

# Financial Overview

The MOBAK Foundation saw considerable fundraising success and operational expenditure in 2024.

## Income Breakdown (by % of Total Income)



## Expenditure Breakdown (by % of Total Expenses)

