YOUR SUPPORT & KIBERA’S SUCCESS
A note from our Executive Directors

Over the past few months, we have seen very impressive impact in Kibera. Naturally, we wanted to share that impact with you. From January to May, Carolina for Kibera (CFK) spent $372,176.85. Those funds supported remarkable work: 9,901 patients were treated at the Tabitha Medical Clinic; 2,016 youth registered for our soccer league; 131 students earned scholarships; and 1,500 girls were protected through our girls’ center. Your support made this possible!

In April 2013, CFK opened its brand new nutrition center called Lishe Bora Mtaani (“Nourishing the Community”). The center enrolled the first 35 of the severely malnourished children under 5 years. The ‘treatment’ period for every child is about 8-12 weeks. As you will read, having access to nutritional care is vital for children’s daily survival and future development. We are proud to begin this initiative and to see it grow.

In April, the U.S. and Kenya staff spent some time together on the same continent! Hillary’s whirlwind two-week trip to the U.S. began with stops in New York, Seattle, and San Francisco to meet supporters and participate in 2 screenings of Without a Fight. Then, Hillary and the Chapel Hill team spent 3 days in planning and strategy sessions. Upon returning home, Hillary reported, “I feel stronger, deeper, and more rounded for having had this experience. I was glad to share our priorities in Kenya for the next 3 years with the U.S. office and improve our coordination and collaboration on fundraising and planning.”

Your generous contributions help improve the lives of Kiberans every day. Thank you for your continued support, and for believing that everyone deserves access to opportunity, regardless of where they are born.

Tuko Pamoja (We are together),

Leann Bankoski & Hillary Omala
CFK Executive Directors

SHOES AND NUTRITION: THE INVISIBLE LINK

By: Elizabeth Masibo, CFK Health Intern, and Ben Haggai, Community Health Program Officer

The ancient Chinese philosopher, Lao Tzu, once stated, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” On a sunny Monday this past April, TOMS® Shoes generously donated footwear to 13,950 Kibera children, giving each of them a new pair of shoes with which to begin their journey.

TOMS is a for-profit company based in Santa Monica, California, which designs and sells shoes on what they describe as a “One for One® Model.” When TOMS sells a pair of shoes, a pair of shoes is given to an impoverished child.

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After obtaining and paying back her loan, Safia’s business has grown five times!

When you live in a place with very few resources—no hospital, only one or two schools, almost no jobs to speak of—moving somewhere else is often the only way to survive. Safia grew up in the arid village of Modogashe in Northeastern Kenya, a place where jobs and education are scarce, especially for women. With 4 children to care for, migrating to Nairobi seemed like the best option for building a life for herself and her family. Several years after arriving in Kibera, Safia is the proud owner of a vegetable stall, which she calls her “Green Grocery.” She started her business in 2010, but struggled to make ends meet for two years. Between paying rent and her children’s school fees, she did not have much left to invest in her grocery.

ONE LOAN CAN GO A LONG WAY

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When given the resources and the opportunity to work hard, it’s amazing how much you can achieve. Peter, a bright student from Kibera, knows this for a fact. With help from Carolina for Kibera’s Sports and Education Programs, Peter was able to attend school and to work diligently towards creating a better future for himself.

Peter is determined to help others succeed as well. His first exposure to CFK was through the Sports Association. Upon joining, he became a youth educator within the program and from there discovered his passion for both learning and teaching. In addition to playing soccer, Peter led community outreach events where he taught life skills to younger players.

Excited about his future, Peter hopes to attend the University of Nairobi where he would like to study civil and structural engineering. While at university, he will undoubtedly further build his leadership skills and inspire others to do the same. And in the meantime, he continues to demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment as he works with CFK to affect positive social change.

CFK partnered with TOMS to provide a simple way for children to stay healthy and safe. By August, TOMS had pledged to donate 40,000 pairs of shoes to children of Kibera.

There is a definite—and often overlooked—relation between a child’s feet and his or her well-being. So it was no coincidence that Liske Bora Mtaani, CFK’s brand new nutrition centre, was chosen as one of six distribution points for the donated shoes. The centre’s goal is to boost the health of Kibera children who have experienced malnutrition. Often, nutritional deficits can actually be tied to a child’s lack of basic footwear. Numerous Kiberan children play wearing flip-flops or no shoes at all. Those lucky enough to own a pair of shoes have often severely worn them out. As a result, their feet are left susceptible to rusted metal, sewage pipes, and parasitic worms. All of these hazards can lead to infections, anemia, and other long-lasting health conditions. Having sturdy footwear goes far beyond basic comfort—it can actually determine the long-term health of the wearer.

THE CFK SPRINTERs: NEW UNIFORMS, NEW INSPIRATION

The members of the Carolina for Kibera Jump Rope Team, the CFK Sprinters, could barely contain their excitement when they heard from their coach David that the much-anticipated uniforms had finally arrived. As the newest initiative of CFK’s Sports Association, jump rope seeks to teach young athletes the power of teamwork and creativity in a fun and healthy way. When everyone finally saw the 64 new uniforms, they agreed that the color, fit, durability, and design were “awesome.” Here are what some jumpers had to say about them:

Merry, 13: “The logo and the appearance are attractive and catchy—everybody likes them.”

Idah, 11: “They were designed in a good way, and now the group can easily be identified.”

Brian, 16: “They fit everybody and we are comfortable using them.”

In short, they’re perfect.

Read more at: cfk.unc.edu/jump-uniforms

Want the latest & greatest updates from Kibera? Join our email list: cfk.unc.edu/signup
An interview with CFK supporter, Hugh Sigmon...

When UNC alumnus, Hugh Sigmon, first learned about Carolina for Kibera, he never expected that he would share so many connections with Kibera, a slum outside of Nairobi. It all started with an issue of UNC’s alumni magazine focused on charities and NGOs. Of all those featured in the magazine, Hugh remembered CFK for its story and its unique approach to development.

In fact, that brief article on CFK left such an impact on Hugh that he and his wife decided to travel to Kibera while on vacation in East Africa. There he saw CFK’s work first-hand, and understood the need for that work to continue. He recalled, “Walking around, there’s just overwhelming poverty as far as the eye can see.” But he was moved by CFK’s efforts to bring positive change to those living there. He explained, “We met people and we saw first-hand the work that CFK was doing, as opposed to a glossy brochure that said it was doing this.”

Another moment brought Kibera and CFK even closer to home for Hugh. While touring the office, he saw a framed photograph of UNC’s 2003 Women’s Soccer Team—his wife’s niece, Raven McDonald, helped lead the team to their national title. Reflecting on that moment, Hugh said, “The world is a very small place if you really sit down and analyze it.”

That additional connection helped inspire Hugh’s continued support. After returning from Kenya, Hugh and his wife brought back stories from Kibera to their church. Driven to help in any way that they could, they offered a pitch to their church’s Social Justice Committee to support CFK. Based on their visit, they felt compelled to make a case for contributing to CFK. Moved by their testimony, the committee honored their request!

Now that Hugh has realized these connections, and created some of his own through his church, he has pledged to continue supporting CFK in any way that he can. At the conclusion of our interview, Hugh shared a parting thought: “There’s still a lot more to be done, but it’s an amazing thing. These relationships can last a lifetime but go in amazing directions.”

Learn more

The past couple of months have been full of growth and wonderful stories from Kenya. Check out more stories at cfk.unc.edu/blog, where you can learn about:

» Lorine’s new Safe Spaces for girls
» Soccer programs, both globally and locally
» Sophia’s unbelievable jump rope skills
» The Tabitha Clinic’s mission to scale up health services for women

Also, get to know our volunteers currently on the ground in Kibera at cfk.unc.edu/volunteers!

Want more stories every month?
Sign up to receive email updates from Kibera cfk.unc.edu/signup

Thanks for your support!

You can make an impact in Kibera by donating today!

Please use the enclosed envelope or visit cfk.unc.edu/give