Always Moving Forward
A Note from Our Executive Directors

As we sit together in the CFK office in Kibera, going over the numbers for the past few months, it is hard not to be moved. From June to August, Carolina for Kibera spent $258,510.27, which led to great impact: 8,262 patients received care at the Tabitha Clinic; 105 malnourished children were treated at our new nutrition center; 882 youth registered for our soccer league; 45 girls enrolled in arts classes through our girls’ program; and 13 students earned scholarships to attend college. Thank you for your continued support to help make this possible.

Numbers are one way to measure impact. But impact is more than metrics and statistics. It’s also about helping people recover what poverty has taken from them. For the girls in our Daughters United program, living in Kibera is dangerous and disempowering. We want to change that.

Leann’s trip to Kenya in August marked the first time that she saw the land where the new center for our Daughters United program (Binti Pamoja) will be built. The center, which you can read about in this issue, will provide girls in the Binti program their own permanent facility where they can safely gather and express themselves. Knowing that they will soon have a permanent space makes them feel valued; knowing that it’s possible because of your support is powerful.

Every time one of us travels beyond Kibera or Chapel Hill, we are reminded of our ever-growing network of friends and the opportunities that result from those friendships. Just last month, the jump rope team traveled to Orlando, Florida to compete in the World Jump Rope Championships, where they learned new skills, made friends, and earned some medals. Our student volunteers also just returned to the U.S. after working with staff on several projects in Kibera. We welcome them back and thank them for their time with us.

With these connections and opportunities, we are improving the lives of Kiberans. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to your friendship for years to come.

Tuko Pamoja (We are together),

Leann Bankoski & Hillary Omala
CFK Executive Directors
A NEW, PERMANENT SPACE FOR DAUGHTERS UNITED

“Will I become successful in the future? Will I finish my education? Who will listen to me? Why do I feel shameful about my body? Will we have supper tonight? Who can give me the support that I need? If I tell them what happened, will anyone believe me? These are some of the questions that girls in Kibera ask themselves continuously because of the poverty that they face.” – Zara Musa, 18

In Kibera, adolescent girls are marginalized and more vulnerable than their male counterparts. Because Kibera is a microcosm of many of the world’s most distressing issues—including poverty, the spread of HIV, gender-based violence, and lack of women’s rights—it is critical that girls have a safe physical and emotional place where they can express and develop themselves.

CFK’s Daughters United program (Binti Pamoja in Swahili) has been supporting girls for over a decade. Through several creative activities like group discussions, drama, photography, and others, the program gives young women space and confidence to explore the issues that they face. Since it was founded, the program has expanded to reach over 1,500 girls each year. Now, we’re looking to expand even further.

Currently, the Binti Pamoja program’s main location is a rented, one-story building. With the program’s growing need for space, the program leaders decided it’s time for a step up. So, thanks to the support of the American Jewish World Service, CFK purchased a site that will be the home of a brand new center for girls!

The new center will be a 3-story, multi-purpose building that is dedicated to the young women of the Binti Pamoja program. It will provide three times the space that the program has now, which can be used for classes, counseling, and arts activities. The girls are involved in designing the building, making the center very much theirs and a place where they can thrive.

The new center will be more than just a building—it will be a testament to the rights and importance of young women in Kibera. It will demonstrate that safe havens for girls are needed, and that we believe in their power to help build their community. It will also be the first of its kind in all of Kibera, and perhaps all of Nairobi. In a place where girls are disregarded more than they are welcomed, this new center will help establish their place in the community and help them better their own lives.

YOUTH PROFILE: JACKLINE, THE MENTOR

Jackline’s introduction to soccer was sudden: when she attended a tournament where there weren’t enough girls to participate, her sister volunteered her to play. Originally a participant in the Daughters United program (Binti Pamoja), Jackline joined the Queens Soccer Team, an elite women’s team organized by CFK, after graduation from the Binti Core Program in 2009. She’s been an active soccer player ever since.

With her experience leading group discussions in Binti, Jackline was well-positioned to serve as a peer educator with younger girls in the Sports Association and has recently become a coach for girls under 12. “I’ve really grown in my confidence as a facilitator,” she said. With that confidence, she can begin to build the better future for her community that she desires. “I’d like a free community, free from violence where more people have knowledge on how to not depend on others but to be self-sufficient.”
AN INTERVIEW WITH PAST CFK VOLUNTEER, LIZ HALL

During her internship, Liz worked with Taka ni Pato (Trash is Cash), a community-managed solid waste management and recycling program. We reached out to her about the time she spent in Kibera and received a response that was so wonderfully detailed that we wanted to share as much of it as we could.

**CFK: How did you get involved with Carolina for Kibera?**

Liz Hall (LH): I found out about CFK through Duke’s Global Health website while I was looking for a summer internship. CFK’s mission seemed to share the exact sentiment I felt toward development and its relationship with conservation and public health. I really appreciated CFK’s approach to community development. I also loved how involved and dedicated CFK remained with the community. It definitely wasn’t a “suitcase NGO” like other NGOs in developing nations that so many people complain about.

**CFK: Why did you get involved with CFK?**

LH: I got involved with CFK because of my strong interest in the interaction between conservation and development, particularly in developing nations in Africa. I realized in college that conservation is so much broader than just preserving forests and protecting animals. Multidisciplinary approaches to conservation and development have recently been promoted and encouraged by lots of institutions, but at the time I volunteered, it felt like wildlife conservation and urban development were thought of as two separate disciplines that never intersected. I wanted to focus on how researchers could promote development and conservation together, using strategic approaches to solve issues on one side without thwarting efforts on the other.

**CFK: What projects did you work on while you were in Kibera?**

LH: I worked with Taka ni Pato (“Trash is Cash”), a program of CFK that seeks to create sustainable job opportunities through the promotion of recycling and environmentalism. Specifically, I worked with women’s and youth groups in Kibera to start small businesses that reused and recycled locally-available materials, such as paper, beads, and string. Most of the women’s groups were developing businesses to create and sell greeting cards made from recyclable paper, while the youth groups were modeling a business to make and market briquettes, an alternative fuel source to charcoal made out of recycled materials. My role was to help provide any support the groups needed, whether it was conducting small courses on business management or helping to promote the businesses.

**CFK: What was the most meaningful thing that you took away from your time in Kibera?**

LH: My experience working with CFK and in Kibera in general was my first real exposure to cross-cultural exchange. I had studied abroad in South Africa the previous semester, but it was an American program and did not challenge me to work outside the context of my own cultural norms and comfort zone. I think one of the greatest things I got out of my time with CFK was a better understanding of what it means to collaborate with people in a sustainable and effective way. I still grapple with how to respectfully embrace a culture while remaining true to myself and completing tasks effectively, but most of the time I return to the lessons Carolina for Kibera taught me about being patient and truly listening to the needs of local residents.

**“Carolina for Kibera taught me about being patient and truly listening to the needs of local residents.”**

Every summer, CFK sends a small number of students to Kibera to develop and complete projects in collaboration with CFK staff. Get to know all of our past volunteers at cfk.unc.edu/volunteers
A LOOK AT CFK’S ANNUAL GIRLS’ SOCCER TOURNAMENT

By: Josh Gaskill and John Wirges, Student Volunteers with CFK

For the first Saturday of our summer volunteering with Carolina for Kibera, we were asked to go down to the Sports Association’s annual Girls’ Soccer Tournament to take some pictures. We both enjoy taking pictures, so we decided it would be fun. Our hope was that we could learn more about the community by engaging with an activity so universally enjoyed, and by actually getting to walk through Kibera and spend the day surrounded by what CFK does. Luckily for us, we were able to get several great shots. Take a look! You can check out more photos from the tournament at cfk.unc.edu/soccer-pics

Learn more

In the past couple of months, we have seen lots of wonderful stories from Kibera. You can read more at cfk.unc.edu/blog, where we have featured stories about:

» The jump rope team’s recent trip to the U.S. to compete in the International Championship Tournament
» UNC nursing student Lisandro’s reflection on his time in Kibera
» The Tabitha Clinic’s new breastfeeding training
» John’s admission to college

Want more stories every month?
Sign up to receive email updates from Kibera

cfk.unc.edu/signup