

# crossing thresholds

Crossing Thresholds Inc. works in the Kibera Slum of Nairobi, Kenya. We find local partners. We build schools. We take volunteers to work in these schools. Everybody is somehow changed.

## HOW WE WORK

- ✓ Identify, empower and employ local community leaders who have a vision to transform the lives of children
- ✓ Build schools where children can access nutrition, learning, health care, music and dance.
- ✓ Lead volunteer trips to stretch the boundaries of cross-cultural learning & service.



## HISTORY & PROJECTS

Crossing Thresholds (CT) founder, Carter Via, was first introduced to the Kibera Slum of Nairobi, Kenya in 2007. Kibera is the second largest slum in the world and home to more than one million Kenyans. Half of the population is under the age of fifteen. Tens of thousands of children do not have access to schools and only one percent of kids will graduate from high school.

### DRUG FIGHTERS SCHOOL

CT was incorporated in 2008, after which we began a collaborative school-building initiative with grassroots leader, **Agnes Musau**. Agnes and CT worked tirelessly together for five years to transform an empty, dirt lot into a school campus with ten classrooms, office space, a kitchen, dining hall, dormitory, and counseling center. Drug Fighters Primary School and Feeding Center now serves over 300 children in grades one to eight and, simultaneously, offers residential care to nearly 30-orphaned students.



## FACING THE FUTURE SCHOOL

In January 2011, CT established a partnership with **Simeon Ajigo**. Simeon's vision was to create a safe environment in Kibera for the children of single mothers. Simeon's vision quickly grew to include a preschool, primary school, health clinic, and community outreach program for at-risk teenagers in the slum.

**Facing the Future School (FAFU)** serves 325 children and provides each student with two meals per day. To further enrich the learning environment, CT helped launch a dynamic music program, a variety of sports programs, and much needed medical and therapeutic services.



## MOBJAP SCHOOL

The Mobjap Primary School has been built not once, but twice. Its founder and director, **Asanya Bernard**, began feeding and educating children many years ago. In 2016, the original school was built and dedicated. It was home to 350 children. **In December 2017, a tragic fire swept through the neighborhood and destroyed Mobjap. For Asanya and the community, it was a devastating blow. Almost immediately, we began to fundraise for the purpose of re-building their beloved school. The outpouring of support turned into the Big Build – a 10-day Thresholds trip (June 2018) with 66 volunteers committed to a new and improved learning center for these kids. Sometimes, dreams come true.**

## THRESHOLDS HIGH SCHOOL

From the outset of our work in Kibera Slum, we worried about our students upon graduation from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Less than 10% of those graduates have the opportunity to attend high school. To counter these realities, we began working with local community leader, **Lawrence Kabuthi**, in 2013. Lawrence approached Thresholds with a proposal to build a high school for orphans in a community 100 miles north of Nairobi. More than willing to negotiate, we collaboratively agreed to create a boarding school with space for local orphans AND rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders from Kibera. In February 2016, the high school opened its doors with an inaugural Freshman Class of 42 students. In January 2019, we will welcome our fourth Freshman Class.

## Trips to Kenya

**2019 Trip Dates: January 4 – January 13 ♦ June 28 – July 7**  
**Mt. Kilimanjaro Charity Climb: July 7 – July 15**

Trips to Kenya are a dynamic and essential part of our mission. Only 9 days in length, these intensive experiences give volunteers the chance to learn about Kenyan culture and the realities of global poverty. Trips are also about connection and engagement. During the trip, we are onsite at our schools in the Kibera Slum. At the end of each trip, volunteers have an opportunity to spend several days on safari at one of Kenya's premier national parks.

