

CFK Africa

1700 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

PROFILE

CONTACT: Ellie Hornthal, Writer  
252-339-3984. [elliehornthal@gmail.com](mailto:elliehornthal@gmail.com)

Dec. 5, 2023

WOULD YOU PICK UP THE STARFISH?



If 100,000 starfish were washed up on the beach, would you take the time to throw one in the ocean? What difference would it make? 99,999 would still be dead, right? Or would you take the chance and throw as many as your scarred hands could? Francis Kibet would. He said, “This is the story that drives me.” It shows where his passion stands and how his desire to make a difference is key to his success.

Kibet is the treasurer for the CFK Africa Board, an organization that he finds dear to his heart, though it may not be for conventional reasons. CFK Africa supports informal settlements

where necessities are not available to the majority. Kibet lived in an informal settlement for a year and a half after college.

He said, “I understand what it’s like to wake up at 2 a.m. and go get water because the electricity goes off at 3 a.m.” His connection is one of the primary reasons he has for supporting CFK Africa’s cause. He has been in these rooms with a single bed for ten people. Living through the lack of necessities caused him to have a better understanding of how the people in these communities feel.

He has two children, both in 8<sup>th</sup> grade who also add to his drive to better the community of Kibera. “If they grew up in Kibera how different would it be?” Given that he was from Kenya, his urge to grow these communities only grew once he realized he was making a difference. The need to give back to a community that needs him is something that Kibet noted numerous times.

CFK Africa has multiple initiatives that include public health, girl empowerment, education, and research which all help form economic prosperity in these informal settlements. As the treasurer for 4 years, Kibet explains how CFK Africa doing their piece on an individual and bigger level is allowing for more of a change to occur.

“We were there, we were able to help them when the world was burning around them, For me that is what drives me,” said Kibet. His strong emotions were showcased through the bravado in his tone, showing how truly passionate he is about CFK Africa and their work with informal settlements.

Due to non-profits having donors from the United States and other countries, Kibet brings up a previously asked question, “Do they come in for a few days take a few pictures and

leave?” He argues that instead, organizations like CFK Africa are there to give the people what they need to function and improve. The use of donors can be confusing, but there so many non-profits are CFK Africa that can partner with organizations like UNC-Chapel Hill and implement policies for better research.

The hope for expansion across Africa is there. Kibera one of their main informal settlements is one county. They have expanded into seven this year, showcasing just how large their mission has become and reiterating their ability to continue expanding in the future.

If you pick up one starfish. Then maybe you would be inspired to pick up another. This inspiration could inspire someone else. Your contribution could make a difference. Sometimes we all forget that what we do matters on a larger scale. CFK Africa is about giving hope to these communities that are malnourished of education and public health.

Francis Kibet threw a starfish into the ocean. He did it because he cares about his community. He did it because he had been in an informal settlement. He did it because he believed that he is giving back for the betterment of his children.