



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

STRENGTHENING BONDS A WORLD AWAY



**NEW CANAAN YMCA
FAFU CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**



STRENGTHENING BONDS CHANGING LIVES

Our Partnership with Facing the Future (FAFU) Education Center

Thank you for your interest in our Facing the Future (FAFU) Child Sponsorship Program. Our goal is to provide opportunities to build relationships between our Y families and the children of the FAFU Education Center located in Africa's largest slum, the Kibera settlement of Nairobi, Kenya.

Our Y partnership began with FAFU in 2007. At that time, FAFU was comprised of 120 children in a one-room schoolhouse. Thanks to donations from our Y and community members, we have assisted in the purchase of land, building multiple structures—including a growing health center, and a playground. Throughout the years, we have provided the children with school supplies, food, mosquito netting, plus additional financial and hands-on support. We also provide support and tools to help FAFU become self-sufficient in serving the youth of Kibera.

FAFU is led by Simeon Ajigo, a man whose mission is to provide Kibera's youth with a chance to become educated in a safer environment, build self-confidence, and gain skills to eventually serve as a change agent for the Kibera slum.

Through our partnership with FAFU, we are helping to educate, feed, and support over 350 children in Kibera. The staff and children at FAFU continually remind us of the importance of making human connection across the globe. We now invite you to join us in experiencing the impact and fulfillment of these meaningful relationships.





WHERE FAFU CHILDREN LIVE

About Kibera

- Kibera is the largest urban slum in Africa and the second largest in the world
- Approximately, one million residents live in Kibera which is 630 acres or the size of Central Park
- More than 100,000 orphaned children live in Kibera
- Kibera is not recognized as a formal settlement by the Kenyan Government; therefore, there are no public services available, including schools
- Main streets have busy local commerce
- Roadways/alleys are filled with garbage and human waste
- Kibera has a 50% unemployment rate, where day labor is the most common job
- The average home is a one room shack approximately 12'x12', divided by a curtain and with basic furniture
- These shacks are built of mud, cardboard, tin, and a concrete or dirt floor, with no running water or bathroom
- Rain overflows from alleys into their homes



Outside FAFU



Inside FAFU

WHERE OUR CHILDREN LEARN, GROW AND THRIVE

About Facing the Future Education Center

Facing the Future (FAFU) Education Center

FAFU is known to be an oasis for the children of Kibera, providing a safe place to learn, grow and thrive. In most cases, FAFU is the children's only source for food and clean water.

- Serving over 350 children each year
- Ages 18 months through 15 years
- Children attend day care, pre-school and grades 1-9
- Children are educated according to Kenya's curriculum
- Children are fed two meals per day
- Extracurricular activities include recess, music, theatre clubs, teen mentorship and a women's empowerment program, providing skill enhancement in the making and selling of jewelry to support FAFU
- Each year, FAFU children travel to a National Music Festival where they have been awarded first place on many occasions
- An on-site Health Center provides the Kibera community with emergency and maternity & child healthcare, lab/diagnostic services, treatment for common illnesses, a pharmacy, as well as educating the community with medical/disease information

After FAFU

All students in Kenya must take a high school entrance exam to determine eligibility to attend a local or private high school outside of the Kibera walls as there are no high schools within. In 2023, students taking the exam passed with the majority admitted to prestigious high schools around the country. For the past three years, FAFU has been considered one of the top ten academic giants in the sub-country and is steadily climbing the academic ladder. This amazing accomplishment is the result of the positive and nurturing environment at FAFU and the care and attention FAFU gives to their students and their education. FAFU is breaking boundaries as they provide students with the tools needed to succeed .



STRENGTHENING BONDS CHANGING LIVES BUILDING A FUTURE

SPONSOR A CHILD

Making personal connections with a needy child across the globe makes a huge impact. The New Canaan YMCA's FAFU Child Sponsorship Program is a perfect opportunity for you and your family to make a difference in a child's life, make a new friend, and feel confident in the knowledge that you are helping to build a better life for a vulnerable child.

For less than a dollar a day, you can provide a FAFU student with:

- One year of education and school supplies
- Two meals per day
- School uniform
- Medical supplies and check ups

As a Sponsor, you will receive:

- Three scheduled video calls during the school year (one per term)
- Letter writing opportunities
- An acknowledgement letter for tax purposes

Sponsorship Donation:

A one school year commitment

One sponsorship: \$360 per school year

The sponsorship program allows our donors to foster a relationship with a child at FAFU for the duration of one school year. If you would prefer to make a one-time donation of \$360.00 without committing to maintaining contact with a child, we would welcome your donation designated to the FAFU Child Sponsorship Program.

The FAFU Child Sponsorship Program is designed to sponsor students in grade four each year, enabling every FAFU student the opportunity to experience a sponsorship. Each new school year, returning sponsors are paired with a new fourth grader.

www.newcanaanymca.org/fafu

"When I see FAFU, I see a blue sky, I see a bright future."

Meet two of our FAFU children

Natasha N.



Gender: Female

DOB: 10/7/2014

Siblings: Two Sisters

Favorite color: Pink

Favorite food: Beef

Favorite subject: Mathematics

Hobby: Skipping rope

Aspires to be a teacher

Emmanuel M.



Gender: Male

DOB: 4/12/2015

Siblings: Two Brothers, Three Sisters

Favorite color: Black

Favorite food: Pilau

Favorite subject: Kiswahili

Hobby: Hide and seek

Aspires to be a doctor

2024 FAFU CHILD SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION

(Completed form with payment should be placed in an envelope and submitted to Diana Riolo.)

ADULT SPONSOR #1

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

ADULT SPONSOR #2

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CHILDREN IN SPONSOR HOUSEHOLD

Name & Age: _____ Name & Age: _____

Name & Age: _____ Name & Age: _____

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

_____ One sponsorship @ \$360 / per child

_____ one-time donation without committing to maintaining contact with a child at FAFU

If you would like to sponsor a specific child(ren), please print name(s) below.

If no name(s) is(are) listed, the YMCA will assign a child(ren) to you.

We would like to share your experience: If you would like to remain anonymous, please check here _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

___ Check Amount _____ Check #: _____ Date: _____

(Payable to New Canaan YMCA)

___ Cash Amount: _____ Date: _____

___ Credit Card Amount: _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for supporting the children at Facing the Future Child Education Center!

An acknowledgement letter for tax purposes will be mailed to you.