



CANOPY LIFE
INTERNATIONAL

BUILDING
BRAVES

Capital Campaign
CASE FOR SUPPORT

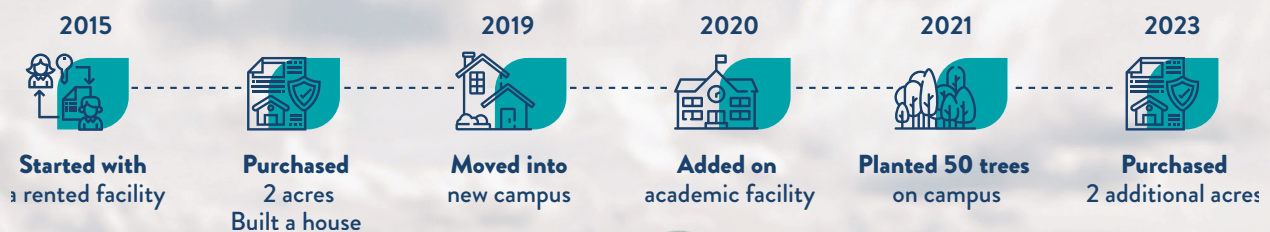
THE HISTORY OF CANOPY LIFE INTERNATIONAL

In January 2015, Canopy Life Academy opened with just 10 fourth graders in a rented house in Nairobi. However, our story started much earlier. From her first trip to Kenya in 2003, our founder Christi Baker Gordy was inspired by the potential and beauty of the Kenyan people. This passion grew in 2007 when she met Abbu Odhiambo while on tour with the Daraja Children's Choir of Africa. Abbu and Christi were moved by the life-changing transformation they witnessed in their choir students. However, this transformation would often diminish if not disappear altogether after the students returned home to Kenya. After years of dreaming and planning, Christi and Abbu were driven to create a safe environment where vulnerable children in Kenya could grow into their full potential and **become agents of transformation** for their communities. This dream became Canopy Life Academy.

Canopy Life has faced many challenges over the years including neighborhood hostilities, corruption, and the COVID pandemic which suspended programs for a majority of 2020. However, God's grace and provision protected the mission through these hardships" and forged a depth of ownership and perseverance in our team that would not otherwise have been realized.

Today, Canopy Life continues to grow, currently serving 48 students in 5 classes (2 residential cohorts and 3 nonresidential high school cohorts). The 4 core programs of Innovation, Spiritual, Academic and HomeLife continue to build next generation leaders with a holistic approach to student development.

CAMPUS



THE CHALLENGE:

Students from rural communities in Kenya face insurmountable odds without a structure of support. Limited opportunities and resources leave them unprepared to be a productive part of the social structure. These insurmountable odds include:

36%

of the country live below international poverty line

LESS THAN
50%

will complete high school

1 in 2

will witness or be victims of domestic violence.



OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to **empower vulnerable children to become Godly innovators** who can end the cycle of poverty in their communities.

Through a residential boarding school, we provide students with the tools they need to become agents of change in Kenya. Our holistic approach to leadership development includes a critical thinking classroom, spiritual development, entrepreneurial training and environments for emotional healing.

OUR VISION:

We are committed to a future where these **students become agents of transformation** to bring innovative solutions to the spiritual, social and economic systems in Kenya.

These students will start business and solve problems that lead others out of poverty, starting with their families and communities.



WHERE WE ARE GOING:

As a learning institution, **our vision is a campus of 200 residential students in grades 4-12**, including a thriving residential life, beautiful and peaceful grounds, and engaging, interactive spaces for learning, worship, emotional growth and social connection.

However, Canopy Life is currently facing a critical need. Our school's growth and programs are restricted due to lack of residential, instructional and administrative spaces. **A unique challenge we face as a boarding school is that growth must occur in both the academic and residential areas simultaneously. Classroom space must increase at the same rate as the residential space to house these students.**

Additionally, our 4th-9th grade students are educated on-property by Canopy Life faculty, while high school students (10th-12th) attend local private schools. This is not ideal.

Our immediate goal is to expand our high school offerings on-campus in time for our current 7th grade students to attend Canopy Life when they reach high school (*10th grade*). In order to register as a high school, we must first have the appropriate facilities available.

We currently operate in 2 buildings (*1 residential facility and 1 academic facility*) on 4 acres in Koma Hill, Kenya. This year, Canopy Life will acquire an additional 2 acres of land, bringing our campus property to 6 acres, and we are now considering a \$1.62 million dollar capital campaign to fund additional residential and academic buildings.





THE FUTURE OF CANOPY LIFE INTERNATIONAL

PHASE 1

2 Residences: \$650,000 (16,475 sq ft/ \$39 per sq ft)

2 residential buildings with capacity to house 60 students, 8 college interns, several support staff and a 2 bedroom apt in each home for house parents. One of these residential buildings includes an additional story with apartments (1340 sq ft each) for our Home Life Director, Campus Pastor and their families. This staff housing will meet a critical need for them to be on campus late into the evening and on weekends, when a majority of home life and spiritual guidance take place.

1 Academic Building: \$170,000 (4700 sq ft/ \$36 per sq ft)

This building will provide an additional 6 classrooms including spaces for classes, teacher resource rooms, library, innovation space, and home economics practicals. While immediately necessary to serve additional students, this facility will also have the capacity to serve our primary school at full capacity.

Land Acquisition: \$140,000 (4 acres)

Land in the Koma Hill area is becoming exponentially more expensive. Inflation, demand, proximity to Nairobi and our own improvement of the area (bringing water, electricity and road access), is driving up the land cost at alarming rates. While we will not build on them immediately, we need to secure the adjacent acreage to our current 4-acre plot to be used for our future growth and maintain distance from other development.

Property Asset Maintenance and Program Fund: \$120,000

These funds will be reserved for the maintenance of and establishment of the programs that will use these facilities (*replacement and repair fund, initial staff and furniture costs, etc*)

Campus Site Development/External Works: \$490,000:

There is extensive site development required for these projects. These developments will be proactively completed to **serve all future campus expansion**. This includes: an additional septic system, new power connections, water storage and tanks, waste water management, rain water mitigation, site preparation, walkways and driveways, etc.

Included in this are **renovations to our current residence** in order to expand the **capacity of the kitchen and to utilize other spaces as a Counseling & Spiritual Center**, as well as a **soccer pitch** for the students.





FUTURE CLASSES



FUTURE RESIDENCE





THE CASE FOR SUPPORT

Your help in funding the construction of new residential and academic facilities and land acquisition will have a **direct and immediate impact** on the entire Canopy Life community, providing the ability for us to **add 30 more students immediately** and lay the groundwork for our future growth.

With proper and dedicated spaces for innovation, home economics, literacy, counseling, music, and worship, our programs will immediately become more effective in serving not only our current students with greater quality, but also all future students.

This project is so much more than land and buildings—it is the obvious next step towards our campus vision. These facilities will create new environments for us to raise up young men and women using biblical principles as we seek to empower vulnerable children to become Godly, innovative leaders. **This is true strategic planning, and we need your partnership and support to make this vision a reality.**



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

BUILDINGS:

2 Residences:	\$650,000
1 Academic Building:	\$170,000
Land Acquisition:	\$140,000
Campus Wide External Works:	\$490,000
Asset Maintenance & Program Fund:	\$120,000
Fees:	\$50,000

TOTAL COST:\$1,620,000

FAQ:

Why the urgency?

- The most pressing issue is the need to offer high school programs to our students instead of sending them to other institutions. Our goal is to provide high school by 2026, which will allow our current 7th grade cohort to attend classes as Canopy Life Academy through graduation. These facilities will enable us to register as a high school and provide environments for high school programs.

Why these buildings? (why so many buildings)?

- The holistic nature of our work means that we have to provide both residential and academic spaces whenever we add students.
- At a minimum, we need to provide separate housing for each gender of the 2 residential cohorts we currently serve.
- COVID delayed our steady growth and now our programs and administration needs are beyond capacity. We are currently renting tents to provide workshop space for the Innovation program.

Why more property?

- We are extremely proud of the master site plan that was designed collaboratively with our Kenyan staff and the EDG Atelier architectural team. This plan is exciting but it is also expansive, taking a minimum of 6 acres for essential buildings – not including additional land for beauty, privacy, distance from neighboring developments and unplanned future projects. Because the cost of land is increasing rapidly, we cannot wait for future campaigns to begin securing the surrounding land or we will price ourselves out of the area. Additionally, we are making the surrounding property more valuable with the development we ourselves are doing: water source, electricity to the area, development of the road access, etc.

