



## Imprinted On My Mind Forever!!



Inside the Kibera Slum, raw sewage flows freely

Visiting the Kibera Slum in Kenya is a privilege of a lifetime. Imagine a one square mile piece of land filled with hard orange dirt, tens of thousands of 10x10 mud shacks. These shacks are often home to 5 or more people with no running water or toilets. The people living here have to purchase drinking water and pay to use a public toilet that has limited open hours. If you are fortunate, you may have a mattress and one light bulb. They often have a piece of fabric covering the mud cut out doorway for privacy. I have visited these homes and it's a joy to meet these amazing families. They have the same needs, desires, and dreams that all of us have, they just have very little opportunity and financial resources. The only way a child can attend school is if they are individually sponsored through

International Needs. For those who are not sponsored, attending the Bible Clubs supported by Living Threads is their hope for a brighter future in this world and for all eternity.

Each time I visit Kibera, I leave behind a part of my heart. It is a place of intense poverty but filled with an abundance of love and joy radiating from beautiful children eagerly wanting to touch, hug, and talk to you.

On one particular trip, we had the opportunity to gather 650 of the children from the Bible Clubs for a day of worship, games, lunch, and other activities. I had the privilege of standing at the front of the food line to personally meet each child and give them a piece of bread. ***"I'll never forget that day, it's imprinted on my mind forever!"*** One little boy, around 6-7 years old looked at me with his big brown eyes and held up two fingers. He was asking for two pieces of bread. It broke my heart to tell him "no" because I could only give him one slice or others would go without. I actually wanted to hand him the whole loaf!! Can you imagine telling your hungry child or grandchild they could only have one piece of bread? It's unfathomable to us.



Activity day from the Bible Clubs gathering

As Living Threads was developing our transition plan, one question I asked myself, "how can we NOT do more for these children?" Some say, "but there are thousands of children, can you really make a difference?" Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40, *"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* Living Threads is committed to continue to serve and provide for these kids in the name of Jesus!! ~ Jill Dannenberg, Executive Director



# Sewing/Quilting for Kenya

As you know, we are transitioning from making memory quilts to sewing and quilting for the children living in the Kibera Slum. We anticipate all our current memory quilt orders will be completed by the end of May 2025. We will then transition into "Sewing/Quilting for Kenya". One of the items we will be making are baby quilts for the "Teen Mom" program. The photo to the right is our volunteer, Mary Schutte who visited in 2022 and is holding one of the babies from the program.



Other items they are in need of that we will be making are:

- Baby & Small child quilts (many do not own a blanket)
- Simple feminine girl dresses (similar to those shown)
- Heavy aprons for the Bible Club cooks
- Worship skirts
- Still exploring other ideas with Kenyan staff according to their needs and wishes.



**WANT TO HELP?** You don't have to sew to help. Please see our **WISH LIST** below and consider helping by providing any of the supplies listed. Please watch our website updated lists as we fully transition and live into this next season of sewing/quilting for Kenya!

- ⇒ Minimum 1 yard cuts of cotton quilting fabric. Kenyans love color! Please stay away from fabrics that are light/white and/or have a white background.
- ⇒ 1.5-3 yard pieces of cotton fabrics for quilt backings for baby and child quilts.
- ⇒ 1.5 yard pieces of cottons/knits for girls dresses
- ⇒ 1.5 yards of 58"/60"wide fabrics for aprons (heavier fabrics like denim, home décor, twill, etc.)

## Quilts Delivered to Kenya!

On January 22, 2025, one of our Board Members, Mark Ismond went with a team to visit the Kibera Bible Clubs. If you've been to the Living Threads ministry center you've seen many sample quilts on display in our halls. Thirteen of those quilts were taken down, packaged, and sent with the team to deliver our first batch of quilts to the Kibera Bible Club children!!



First quilts delivered to Kibera on Jan. 22, 2025

*"Ooooh the quilts are so lovely, I loved them all! It was very hard to decide which child would get a quilt amongst so many. Helen and Monica have already identified some of the very needy children who will benefit from getting the quilts and they will start delivering them on Feb. 1st. Thank you for your love and dedication to the Lord and to us." ~ Njambi Mbugua, Deputy CEO, Homecare Spiritual Fellowship.*



## Why I Volunteer at Living Threads . . .

"I met Jill Dannenberg in 2015 and quickly learned about Living Threads. Within five minutes of talking with her, I knew I was being led to volunteer there.

Volunteering at Living Threads checked all my boxes... 1) provided a service to others, 2) provided comfort to those in pain, 3) provided help to those suffering from poverty in tangible ways (being Jesus with skin on), and 4) provided a creative outlet for me doing something I loved to do. Little did I know that God was going to bless me with an entire group of extended family within Living Threads - my "Stitchin' Sisters" - who have taught me all kinds of new sewing/quilting skills.



Volunteer, Katie Warners

As Living Threads transitions away from memory quilts and into sewing for the children in Kenya, my boxes all continue to be checked. His kingdom continues to grow with the spread of the Bible Clubs in the slums of Nairobi. Lives and hearts are changed forever.

For the last decade, the quilts I made comforted grieving families and helped to provide warm memories, whereas now, the quilts I make in the future will take away some of the suffering in the slum by providing warmth for a baby or a child who would otherwise be cold. God continues to use Living Threads to provide for those whose need is great. I am honored to be a part of His provision." ~ Katie Warners

## Why We Donate to Living Threads . . .

"The mission of Living Threads Ministry has been and will continue to be to share the love of Jesus by providing for the spiritual and physical needs of impoverished children living in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. I love that our donations go toward this important mission. When I see the photos of the slum, as well as the children being fed and taught at the Bible Clubs, I am assured that these children are shown the truth of the gospel and the love of Jesus.

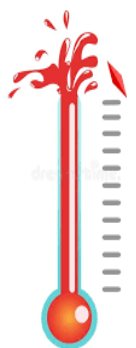
This awesome ministry of Living Threads gives each donor the opportunity to be supportive of God's work where we are not able to go ourselves. There could be no greater joy than to reach the people living in Nairobi, Kenya to know Jesus who came to earth to be born, to die, to rise, and then ascend into heaven and now is seated at the right hand of God. It is God's will that no one will perish. God's desire is for these people to enter into eternal life with Him. We want to continually give to the ministry of Living Threads that provides and shows the love of Jesus to a suffering and needy community. This giving will impact our obedience as well as the eternity for thousands of people." ~ Ken & Bev Rinzema

## Match Yields 200%!!

We are humbled and overflowing with gratitude that God used **YOU** to provide "*immeasurably more than we could have asked or imagined*" for our Winter Match campaign.

A Living Threads partner generously donated \$10,000 to challenge us with a Winter Match Campaign. Through your sacrificial giving, you met the challenge by gifting an additional \$21,095.00. Together with their initial match gift, **a total of \$31,095.00 was raised!**

God has encouraged and blessed us with your generosity. **Thank you "SEW" much!**



## Bible Block of the Month



Our 2024-25 Bible Block class is called, “*Jesus Our Joy*”. Sixty-nine students come to study the book of Philippians together and then make a portion of the quilt each month. The class will be completed in May 2025.



100 S. Pine St. #145  
Zeeland, MI 49464



## LONGARM QUILTING—10% off

Our longarm quilting department is open and accepting quilts for edge-to-edge quilting until May 1, 2025. To show appreciation to our customers we are offering 10% off **ALL** edge-to-edge quilting services. We carry quality battings and threads, and provide exceptional customer service. Our turnaround time is currently 2-3 weeks!

Please stop in and allow us to serve you. Our hours are Mon.-Thurs. 9:30-4pm.

We are located within City on a Hill, follow the signs to the Living Threads

Ministry Center. Before our discontinuation of longarm services to the public, a list will be available of local longarm quilters to contact for all future quilting needs. Thank you for all the support over the past 5 years!!

It's been a joy and privilege to serve our fellow quilters.

**Our annual Living Threads Benefit Dinner will be held this fall. Watch for more information to come.**



# 2025 TRANSITION UPDATE

As we move forward in our transition, it's our desire to keep you informed and communicate well on the process and updates. As we transition away from memory quilts and focusing on sewing and quilting for the Kibera Bible Clubs our Mission Statement has been slightly edited to reflect this change and reads as follows:

## UPDATED MISSION STATEMENT

*To share the love of Jesus by providing purposeful community for volunteers and meeting the spiritual and physical needs of impoverished children.*

- We are excited to share that we will be keeping one of the longarm quilting machines for quilting our Kenya baby/child quilts. Two of our longarm staff have committed to volunteer their time to come in weekly and longarm quilt these child quilts!!
- Our volunteer quilters/sewers are excited about the future sewing projects at Living Threads and I'm pleased to report we have 100% retention!! As we currently do, **ALL** sewing will take place at the Living Threads ministry center which fulfills our mission statement to "*provide purposeful community*" for our volunteers.

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## TRANSITION TIMELINE

- New memory quilt client orders have ceased. Volunteers are working on current memory quilt orders with the goal of all projects completing by the end of May.
- The Longarm Quilting department continues to be open to the public. However, May 1st will be the final day that new quilts will be received for longarming.
- Bible Block of the Month classes continue strong with the final class to be held on May 15th.
- Approximately June 1st, we will begin our new "Sewing/Quilting for Kenya". The current longarm room will become our new and larger "Martha" sewing room!!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 19-25: Mission of the Week at Maranatha**  
Living Threads Ministry along with our ministry partner, International Needs, have been chosen to be the Mission of the Week at Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference. We will be presenting our ministries and raising awareness of needed funding to open two more Bible Clubs in the Kibera Slum. Please join us anytime that week; all sessions are open and free to the public.
- **Benefit Dinner: Fall 2025—Date TBD**  
Our annual Benefit Dinner is a great way to gather and share what God has and is doing through Living Threads. We value this time to thank and update all our valuable partners!!
- **November 3-6: Quilt Retreat in Shipshewana**  
We will hold our next retreat at the Bluegate Garden Inn in Shipshewana, Indiana. This is a favorite of many as we gather to share our skills and joy of quilting with a spiritual focus.
- **2026 Kenya Trip**  
We are currently working on planning a 2026 Kenya trip to visit the Bible Clubs. There will be the opportunity to go on a Safari adventure too! More information will be shared as details become available. Please pray about joining us!!

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why are you making this transition?**

*Over the past few years, our team has noticed a significantly reduced demand for memory quilts, a core part of our ministry since our inception. We have also faced the challenge of finding additional skilled quilters, especially from a younger generation, to grow and sustain this part of our ministry.*

## **Will your new sewing projects go directly to Kenya or will you sell them to raise money for Kenya?**

*Once our new sewing projects are determined by our Kenyan partner, we will be sewing items for them as they indicate the need. The items made at by Living Threads will be delivered to them via future trip participants or shipped through a carrier located in Texas.*

## **Will you be selling your sewing machines?**

*No, we are keeping all our sewing machines because we will still be gathering to sew for the Bible Clubs and children of the Kibera slum.*

## **Will the volunteers still gather for community at Living Threads?**

*Yes, we will be holding ministry sewing at Living Threads where our volunteers will gather and have purposeful sewing and a caring community. ALL sewing for Kenya will take place at the Living Threads Ministry center. Volunteers will be scheduled by our Operations Director, Michelle Grabill so sewing machines can be used to their maximum. We will NOT be offering drop in sewing.*

## **How long will you be offering longarm quilting to the public?**

*We will be offering our Edge-to-Edge quilting services to the public through May 1st. We are offering a 10% discount on our quilting as a way to express our appreciation to the quilting community for their support over the past 5 years. Any quilts brought in by May 1 or before will be completed and returned in 2-3 weeks.*

## **Will there be future Kenya trips?**

*Our current plan is to offer a future Living Threads group trip in 2026 to visit the Kibera Bible Clubs, meet the children, and learn more about our partnerships with International Needs Kenya and Homecare Spiritual Fellowship of Nairobi.*

## **How will the Bible Clubs be financially supported in the future if you are no longer making Memory Quilts which supported the Bible Clubs?**

*Since the beginning, Living Threads has been committed to financially supporting the Kibera Bible Clubs so any child living in the slum has the opportunity to attend and learn about Jesus. That will not change! We are actually stepping into a deeper relationship with them by focusing our sewing/quilting efforts on their needs. Support for the Bible Clubs will come from our current reserve fund and future fundraising efforts.*

## **How will Living Threads be funded so the ministry can continue to serve?**

*Since Living Threads' inception in 2010, we have always been and will continue to be 100% donor dependent to provide for our annual budget and sustain the ministry. We are confident we are following God's will and fulfilling His call. We "walk by faith" that God will provide through the generosity of His people through donations and fundraising events. We believe ministry is a team effort and partnership. We cannot do ministry alone and need fellow Christian brothers and sisters to walk with us serving the Lord and His people.*

## **What will staffing look like after the transition?**

*Jill Dannenberg will still be our Executive Director as well as Michelle Grabill will still be our Operations Director. Both will be working reduced (part-time) hours.*