

Co-Director Trina Donelle Mboya - Profile

Trina was born in Australia and completed her nursing training in 1992. After several years she started travelling and working internationally. In 1996 she served as a volunteer nurse in Nepal working with ADRA in a clinic. From there she went to Shanghai, China as an English as a second language teacher. She then spent several years working as a nurse in Chattanooga, Tennessee U.S.A , before returning to Australia to do her Critical Care Nursing. On completing this she travelled with a friend to Saudi Arabia to work in a Liver Transplant Stepdown Unit. It was while in Saudi that one of her trips took her to Kenya – her first time to Africa where she met Joseph..... this was the beginning of her African Story.



In 2011 Trina migrated to Kenya and married Joseph Mboya. She then got her nursing registration in Kenya and worked in several hospitals. During this time she would look up at the partially constructed classrooms on the school property from the back door and wonder what it would be like if the school was functioning.

Trina then decided to try and do something about it. In 2012 she returned to Australia to work in order to raise funds for a borehole – as water is everything. She decided to design a fundraising calendar of Kenyan wildlife as she loves photography, and had many pictures from her first visit in 2010 to Masai Mara. From this in 2013 construction recommenced in the school of the 3 unfinished classrooms and a pit latrine. During this time Trina gave birth to her firstborn Dec 15th 2013, by emergency C/S and then in the first week of Jan 2014 the school opened its doors to the first student. Trina was blessed to have her mother here for 6 months to assist her. Both of her parents have been very supportive of the school and have visited every year up until Covid.

Over the years the school has been blessed by the support of Mr and Mrs Pink (Trina's Parents) as they have raised money for a further 3 Primary classes (Stone structure), a boys dormitory (stone) and during Covid a 3 classroom Pre – primary structure (metal and Iron sheet). During this last 9 years they have also been instrumental in getting 2 school vans, school furniture's and a myriad of things for the school. They have also played a key role in finding sponsors for currently more than 40 needy children in the school.

Trina gets to travel back to Australia around ever 4 years, the last time was Nov 2022. This time was very different as her Father underwent open heart surgery a week after she got home, and this time she really noticed a change in her parents who have slowed down a lot since she saw them in 2019 – Dad is now 83 and Mum 78. She also realised that something needed to change as her parents have aged a lot and now things needed to be done differently. They have a legacy that they have heavily been involved in - now it is to relieve them and let them retire and relax a bit to enjoy their twilight years.

Trina and Joseph now have 2 boys who are also schooled in Schield Centre, have a very close involvement in the school, and is affectionately called Auntie T by the students, parents and teachers. Over the years she has worn many hats, accountant, cleaner, graphic designer, social media manager, building overseer, procurement, school van driver, teacher, administrator, cook, counsellor, parent, social worker, school nurse amongst others.... stepping in to do anything that necessary to be done to fill in the gaps.

Up until 2018 she had fully managed the school with no assistance, then thankfully hired a Teacher to come in as the Head Teacher. He implemented many positive changes in the school, understood the education system and the unique aspects of the Schield Project and has made a profound impact on how the school is run. Trina works closely with Phelix and is very thankful for how the school is now run as it develops and progresses forward, now she has staff who are more reliable and are helping in their individual ways to running the school.

When visiting a parent recently who is also a neighbour, she was told – “Trina when you first started the school everyone around thought it was a joke – is this really a school? They asked themselves. Now people are talking about Schield in a very positive light, now it is – I want to take my child to Schield. Now people are seeing that you are serious about educating children, that you really tried with the first Standard 8's in their KCPE (end of Primary exam – in the old curriculum of 8.4.4)... When a report comes like this – and when she sees the difference that it is making in the lives of children – all the hard work, the blood sweat and tears – now it is worth it.