

Zawadi[★]

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Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

Ubuntu: “I am what I am because of who we all are.”

NETWORKING AT ITS FINEST!

Bariki Community Foundation (part of Gazelle Impact Kenya) and G-BiACK (Grow BioIntensive Agriculture Center Kenya) have collaborated to share what each lab is doing to be successful. Tabitha (Bariki) journeyed to Thika, Kenya, from Kinangop, Kenya (an eight hour ride), to learn more about the Grow BioIntensive Agriculture that G-BiACK teaches and to also learn more about how they operate their very successful computer lab and Youth Empowerment Program (YEP). I’m sure that Kennedy (G-BiACK) will also gain knowledge from Tabitha about how Bariki runs their computer lab. This type of networking is exactly how our African partners grow and share knowledge with their communities and we are so excited for this to be happening. We hope many of our labs will visit G-BiACK, our very first computer lab, along with visiting other partnering labs to gain information. This type of learning can only improve each partner’s communities! Way to go, Tabitha and Kennedy! Keep up the great work!



GAZELLE IMPACT KENYA



Kennedy with their Grow BioIntensive sign and Tabitha learning more computer literacy from Kennedy. (Click on logos above for more information on these organizations)

OUR LABS DOING GREAT WORK!

(Sharing testimonials from students)

"I'm Cynthia Lemayan, a proud Samburu girl, and I want to share my heartfelt appreciation to Ubuntu Connection for opening a new window in my life through the computer literacy class. In just four months, I've gone from barely knowing how to turn on a computer to confidently using Excel to organize data, PowerPoint to tell stories, Microsoft Word to write with power, and even projecting my ideas for others to see. E-learning platforms have become my bridge to the world beyond the hills of Samburu, and Access has taught me that information is power. Before this, girls like me were often silenced by outdated traditions—but now, I feel like I've found my voice in bold, 12-point font. This knowledge is not just preparing me for a career; it's preparing me to challenge the norms, inspire other girls, and rewrite the narrative of what it means to be a Samburu girl. Thank you, Ubuntu Connection, for planting a seed of change in me—I promise it will grow."

From Irene School in Samburu, Kenya:



Director, Felix Okumu, at Irene School, had these words to share, "The computer lab project has been a blessing to not only the institution but the whole environment. We might not celebrate big professions from the lab but the lab has provided ripple effects to enhancing girlchild empowerment and education. We celebrate three girls who were able to break from early marriage to join high school to learn computer literacy as day-scholars, for them, their dream was to learn how to operate a computer and smart phone like the boys who had gone to town. Such are the stories that show the role of technology in overcoming degrading culture in our community."

Nabulime Hafuswa, Bukeeka Mirembe, Kayunga District, Uganda, from Youth Inclusion and Empowerment Network (YIEN) shares this, "Joining the ICT/Computer Studies program at YIEN changed my life. I had never imagined I could design flyers, type documents quickly, or create a professional presentation. I am now supporting a small business by handling their digital records and designing promotional materials. The trainers were patient and encouraging, and I learned at my own pace. I am proud of my achievement and ready to inspire other girls to embrace ICT."



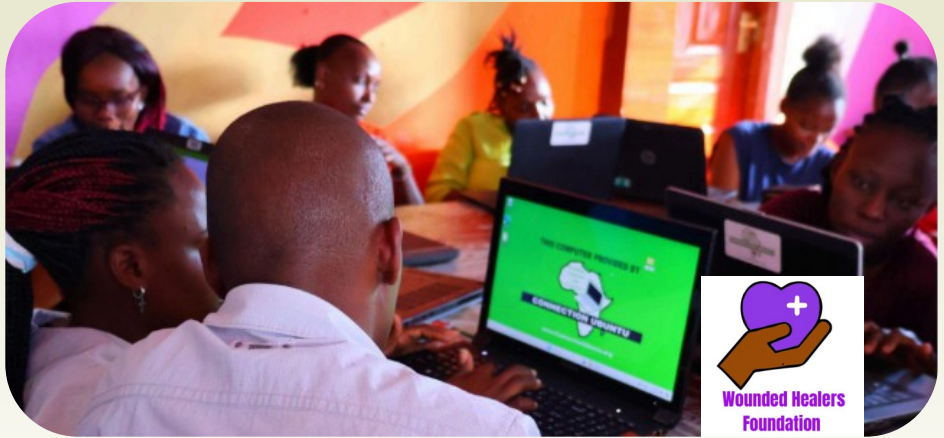
MORE LABS DOING GREAT THINGS...

Wounded Healers Foundation students, in Ruiru, Kenya, have these comments about their computer lab:

Mary, 32—“Before joining the computer class, I had never touched a laptop. Now, I can type my business records in Excel and create posters for my small shop in Word.”

James, 19— “I am now able to apply for jobs online and send professional emails, something I could not do before. This skill has opened new opportunities for me.”

Grace, 20— “I went to church and when the pastor was presenting on the screen, I told my friend, “Our teacher told us those are called slides.”



Josphine, Director of the lab, says this, “The computer training has become a lifeline of hope and transformation. Many of the women and girls who now fill our classroom seats once believed they would never touch a Computer. They are survivors of sexual violence, teenage mothers, and others who felt their futures had been stolen from them. For some, life seemed to have come to a standstill. With every lesson they learn from the laptops, these women and girls are not just learning how to type or use software they are reclaiming their confidence, rediscovering their dreams, and daring to believe in a future filled with possibilities. Skills that once seemed unreachable are now within their grasp. Some are managing their small businesses digitally, others are preparing for further education, and all are proving to themselves that they can rise again with reignited hope, dignity, and the courage to dream.



Gizzim Organization



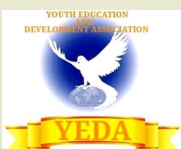
“In the past, I could just idle around not knowing what to do. I almost slid into bad company but when Gizzim initiated the computer and photography project, I can testify that I have noticed remarkable change in my skills as I seek employment to better my life.” Frisphactor Watuika, a young mother studying at Gizzim Organization computer lab.

“We are thankful for the laptops since they are changing the lives of the women in leaps and bounds,” states Justus, Director at Gizzim.

Testimonial by Joyce Kapinga (Congolese National), from Youth Education and Development Association (YEDA):

“Before joining YEDA LAB, I spent a lot of time researching different computer training programs. While many options were available online, most did not offer guaranteed internship opportunities. What set YEDA LAB apart was its promise and fulfillment of providing an internship after graduation. This hands-on experience was invaluable, giving me real-world exposure and helping me understand practical challenges in the field. Throughout the course, the instructors were always available and willing to help. They explained things clearly and directly, making even the most complex topics easy to understand. The course covers the core concepts of computer basics in a simple and structured way, which helped me build confidence in using a computer. Before joining YEDA LAB, I didn’t know how to operate a computer. But now, I can use a computer confidently and without fear. This program has truly transformed my abilities. I am deeply grateful first to our Lord for the gift of life, and secondly to YEDA LAB and its sponsors for their vision in opening this computer lab. It has made a real difference in our lives. I highly recommend this course to anyone looking to build a strong foundation in computer basics. I’m very proud of what I’ve learned and thankful for the opportunity.”

Ramadhani, YEDA Director, says YEDA LAB is a place where young peoples’ dreams take shape. It is more than just a training center it is a lasting opportunity for youth empowerment. We believe YEDA LAB will continue to grow and serve generations to come.



PARTNER SUCCESSES

The banner features the 'ACTIVATE ACTION' logo in the top left and right corners. In the center, a portrait of Rogers Omollo is shown. To his right, a speech bubble says 'I will be speaking at From Ideas to Impact 22nd Aug!'. Below the portrait, text identifies him as 'Rogers Omollo (Rogers) Team Lead ACTIVATE ACTION KENYA'. At the bottom right, a calendar icon indicates the date 'FRIDAY 22.08.2025' and a clock icon shows the time '11:00 a.m.'. The main title 'FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT: YOUTH LEADERSHIP DRIVING COMMUNITY CHANGE' is prominently displayed in the center, with the subtitle 'Empowering Young Leaders to Transform Communities.' below it. The background is a warm orange-red gradient with decorative white dots.

Change starts with an idea. But when youth lead with courage, that idea transforms entire communities. Rogers, lab founder of **Activate Action**, has been asked to be a facilitator for this webinar where young leaders share their journeys from ideas to impact. We're so proud of him and our partners who are dedicating their lives to change the lives of others in their communities.

Here's more information on Rogers: Rogers Omollo is a Social Impact Leader and Founder of Activate Action, a youth-led organization in Homa Bay, Kenya, advancing health, mental well-being, and economic empowerment for young people. Drawing from his lived experience in an HIV-affected community, he has mobilized youth-driven solutions that now reach thousands. A 2023 Mandela Washington Fellow, Rogers also serves as ONE Champion for East Africa and Coordinator of the African Youth Philanthropist Network, inspiring youth leadership and inclusive community change. We celebrate with him and the transformation of his community.

Rieko's Primary one and two students joined annual school competitions against neighboring schools for digital literacy, in the Kenya, National Drama and Film Festival. The class created a theme, "We all deserve access," and wrote a poem. They completed four levels of competition and then successfully won at the Provincial level. Their poem is now competing for the National level and hope to win there. It is very competitive. The poem was inspired by use of laptops through the support of one of their retired beneficiaries, Jonna.

"We made it to the provincial levels. Our poem was the best. Our pupils presented on digital literacy that is accessible to all. We love the progress so far. Our laptops are our main source of inspiration," said teacher Mary after returning from the competition.

Here is the poem:

WE ALL DESERVE ACCESS

We are children, small but strong,
In every school, in every place,
We all deserve a fairer space.

Grandpa Jonna, old and wise,
Told us, learning makes you rise.
He dreamed of laptops, books, and light,

A laptop helps us read and write,
Explore the world, both day and night.
We search, we type, we learn, we grow,

But some still learn on dusty floor,
With broken desks, and nothing more.
Leaders, hear us, hear our cry,

Give us access, give us a chance,
To read, to write, to sing, to dance.
When children rise, the nation grows.



Rieko's students with their award (center child holding the trophy)

DONATE YOUR USED TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT!

Donate your Laptop/Chromebook/tablet/smartphone, etc., and you'll be changing many lives. Once received, we'll wipe all data, add an Operating System (OS), test the equipment and clean it. If you'd like to donate your used equipment, send us a message [here](#)... your donation is tax deductible... and keeps equipment out of our landfills! Your used equipment is priceless to our partners in Africa.

SIGN UP FOR MONTHLY GIVING

AND CHANGE A LIFE

DONATE NOW!
CLICK HERE

We would love to have your support on a monthly basis... Click the Donate Now button on the top right... there are several donation options to choose from... and Goodworld makes it easy to navigate our page. Thank you!

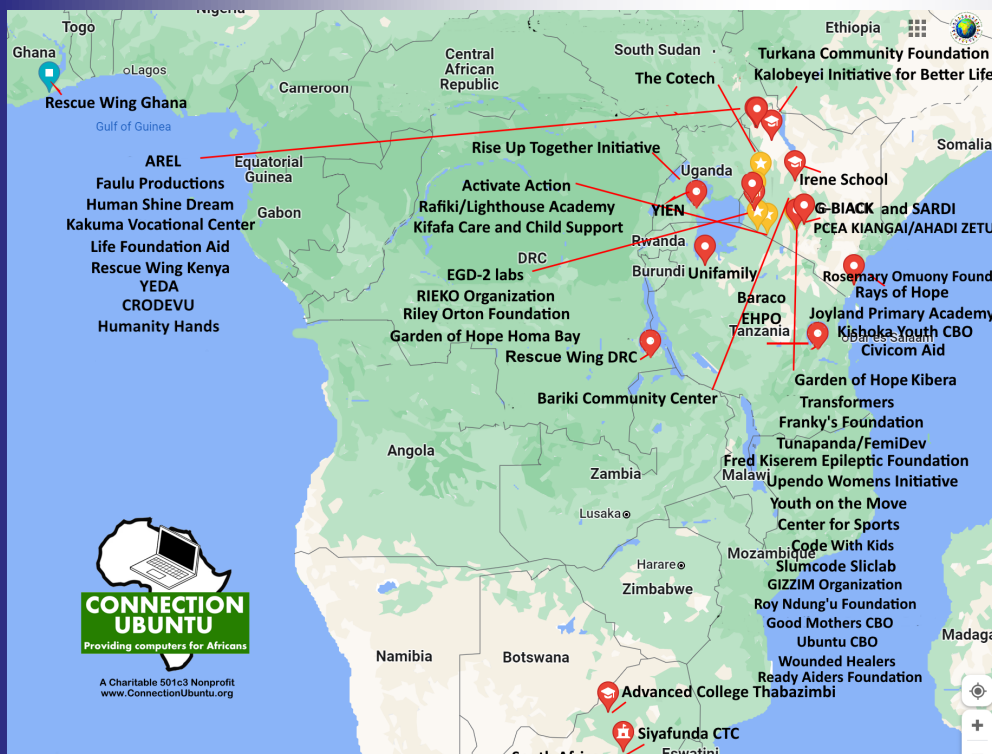
GET YOUR GIFTS ALL YEAR



Gifts That Give Hope (GTGH) has an online store all year long now! Grab those birthday and anniversary gifts right [here](#). This is a great way to shop for those folks who have what they need, supporting those in other countries that need the help. Connection Ubuntu and our partners would love your support... Together we change lives!



Computer Ministry of Mechanicsburg, Pa collects computer equipment items and then refurbishes them. They use the donations received to help people in the USA and around the world. Connection Ubuntu receives most of our donations via Computer Ministry. We are so grateful for them and their volunteers. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, click [here](#) for more information.



MAP OF OUR COMPUTER LABS

(click on map for more details)

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO FOLLOW US

