

Zawadi*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

SEPTEMBER 2026 – VOLUME 81

Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

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

SAVE THE DATE!!



Gifts That Give Hope

*Gifts that Give Hope
Alternative Gift Fair*

Skip big-box stores and shop for a cause with local nonprofits, an ethical marketplace, and a fair trade tour!

Saturday October 10, 2026
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Farm & Home Center
1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster, PA

Just 4 months to go! The 19th Annual Gifts That Give Hope Lancaster Alternative Gift Fair is returning on Saturday, October 10, 2026. Join our community for a day of purposeful shopping and giving back!

What to Expect:

Nonprofit Participants: Discover dozens of local, national, and global charities where your direct donations serve as meaningful gifts.

Ethical Marketplace: Browse a curated selection of fair-trade items, eco-friendly goods, and social enterprise products.

It is the perfect opportunity to skip the standard material gifts and put your money where your heart is. You can shop to support Connection Ubuntu [here](https://www.giftsthatgivehopelancaster.org).

For more details on participating nonprofits or to shop online, check out the Gifts That Give Hope Lancaster homepage.
www.giftsthatgivehopelancaster.org

ACHIEVING THE DREAM!



FROM 25 TO 375: HOW BUSINESS SKILLS ARE HELPING WOMEN IN KENYA REWRITE THEIR FUTURES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Rogers Omollo, Founder and Director of Activate Action, shares these words, "In Homa Bay, Kenya, poverty doesn't just limit opportunity it increases risk. Gender disparities and entrenched social norms leave many rural young women economically dependent, which heightens their vulnerability to gender-based violence, transactional sex, and HIV.

At Activate Action Kenya, we believe economic independence is one of the most powerful tools we have to change that trajectory. That's why we deliver the Street Business School entrepreneurship curriculum equipping women not just with business skills, but with the confidence and financial independence to make choices on their own terms. The program doesn't stop at training. We've built a full pathway to sustainability: 1. Entrepreneurship skills training designed for women with limited formal education, no literacy barrier 2. Mentorship and startup grants to launch or grow real businesses 3. Follow-up support as women navigate their first months in business 4. Direct links to business development services for long-term growth. What started with 25 women has grown to 375 each one now running her own microbusiness, earning her own income, and making her own choices.

But the real story doesn't end there. Every woman we train is also a mother, a daughter, a neighbor. When she gains financial independence, that stability ripples outward into school fees paid, meals on the table, children kept safe and healthy, and a community with one more household lifted out of vulnerability. This isn't just 375 success stories. It's 375 households, and a generation of children, moving toward a more secure future.

This is what economic empowerment looks like when it's designed with health and dignity at its core not just a livelihoods program, but a public health intervention that starts with a woman's ability to earn, choose, and thrive."

We are thrilled to share this story for how Activate Action has achieved what Connection Ubuntu believes is the ultimate dream. When we began our work in 2014, this is exactly what our North Star looked like... for women's lives to be forever changed, for them to achieve self-sustainability, and then for their communities to also receive the benefits these women share. Activate Action has achieved this goal and we couldn't be happier!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES!

TOGETHER WE CHANGE LIVES!

GRADUATIONS!

We are so very happy with how many student's of ALL ages lives' have been forever changed because of the computers Connection Ubuntu has provided. And we couldn't do our work without the support of our wonderful donors, along with Computer Ministry. We are so thankful for you. We hope you enjoy reading about the students!



“When Susan Kangai, a 26-year-old single mother, looks at the young people in Mathare, she sees potential—not problems. Determined to create opportunities, she mentors youth through photography, photo editing, and digital literacy training. Many young men in the Mathare community face unemployment and are vulnerable to crime and drug abuse. With support from SHOFCO's Economic Empowerment Program and computers donated by Connection Ubuntu, we are providing practical skills that offer a different path. Susan awarded certificates to our first cohort of trainees. These young men now have skills that can help them earn an income and build brighter futures. This is what community transformation looks like. Their success is a powerful reminder that when women lead, communities thrive, and when young people are given

opportunities, they choose hope over despair. We hope you join us in celebration of their graduation!”

George Kamau, Co-Founder, Center for Sports and Growth

“Code Her Future classes at Ready Aiders Foundation learn these skills: Basic Computer Skills, Graphic Design, Digital Marketing and Coding (HTML & CSS). Behind every certificate of each vulnerable girl and young mother is a story of resilience, courage, and determination. Every keystroke is a step toward learning, confidence, and a brighter future. We believe access to digital education creates opportunities and equips young people with skills to thrive. Together, we can build Kenya's next generation of women in technology.”

Stacy Kinagu, Admin, Ready Aiders Foundation



TESTIMONIALS FROM THE STUDENTS

Reports are in from our computer partners in Africa and the numbers of students learning digital literacy, especially the women and girls, is soaring. These students are no longer just learning how to use a computer, they're learning how to code, do graphic and web design and also robotics. They are thriving and we couldn't be prouder. Their futures are changing because of computers and these students are now getting jobs and supporting their families. This was our goal so many years ago when we began our work. Together we change lives.



Monicah and Christabel are two young mothers who joined Ubuntu Community Based Organization's Hairdressing and Beauty training with a shared determination to build a better future for themselves and their children. Becoming mothers did not stop their desire to learn and become financially independent. If anything, motherhood has strengthened their determination. On difficult days, when they have no one to leave their children with, they simply bring their little ones to class and continue learning. Their commitment reminds us that sometimes, the greatest motivation to keep going is knowing that someone is depending on you. After their regular classes, they often stay behind to practice on the computers. For both of them, using a computer was completely new, yet they are patiently learning and embracing every opportunity available to them. Ubuntu CBO is a safe and supportive space where these women learn, practice, encourage one another, and dream beyond their current circumstances. Their stories remind us that it is never too late to learn a skill, and every day is an opportunity to learn something new.



TESTIMONIAL



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The ICT training gave me confidence to use a computer for everyday tasks and introduced me to AI tools that make learning and work much easier. I now feel better prepared for future education and employment opportunities.



ANITA ZELETE

2026

WOMEN *in* TECH



Ashley Learat
Grade 10

Dear Ubuntu, I am a Grade 10 student at Irene School in Maralal, and I would like to sincerely thank you for your continued support towards our school. In Maralal, where accessing quality education and technology is as rare as rain itself, your support means so much to me who joined this year and had the opportunity to interact with computers for the first time here. Thank you for providing more computers to strengthen our lab. Your continued efforts to improve our computer lab have given us greater opportunities to learn digital skills, explore new ideas, and prepare ourselves for a better future. We are truly grateful for believing in us and investing in our education. I now dream bigger and realize that my circumstances should not limit what I can achieve. Thank you, Ubuntu, for lighting us with a torch of HOPE



Josephine Lengeded, Form 4

A big thank you Ubuntu Connection for this incredible support to our school, Irene School with additional laptops, a projector, and other resources that have greatly improved our computer lab. As a Form Four student, having access to these facilities has helped me develop a strong interest in technology and, today, I am a proud Computer Science student in the school, and I gear towards majoring in it at university. I have this vision because of Ubuntu Connection's Vision in the girl child in this part of Africa..... I am truly grateful for investing in our education and helping shape my future.

Asante
Sana

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE STUDENTS



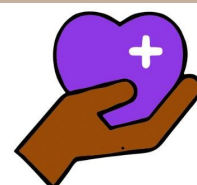
Lovely Lovabra is a learner whose experience highlights the importance of bringing STEM opportunities directly into rural schools. Before the STEM Club was introduced at Sabembe Secondary School, Lovely had never had the opportunity to attend a technology-focused class. Through the sessions, she has gained confidence in navigating a computer and developed a better understanding of how computers work. Her experience demonstrates how simply creating access to technology can begin to change learners' confidence and their perception of what they are capable of learning.



"I am NICLETTE MATATA, a Congolese by nationality, I am 12 years old and I have completed the program of Makerspace (Coding) at Transformative Skills Lab. I have been shy not able to speak and interact with others, but since I joined the program, I am now able to share and interact with my classmates. The program has not only taught me the IT skills but enabled me to like things related to technology because I discovered many things after joining the program. It has given me the passion to become an IT Engineer in the future."

"I was married at an early age and did not get a chance to continue with school. After going through Gender Based Violence (GBV) and leaving the marriage, I was introduced to Wounded Healers Foundation Kenya for psychosocial support. That is when I realized it was not too late for me to learn again. I joined the computer classes and gained skills that have improved my work opportunities. At 49, I feel more confident, Independent and hopeful about my future."

Mary Ann



**Wounded Healers
Foundation**

WOMEN *in* **TECH**

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!

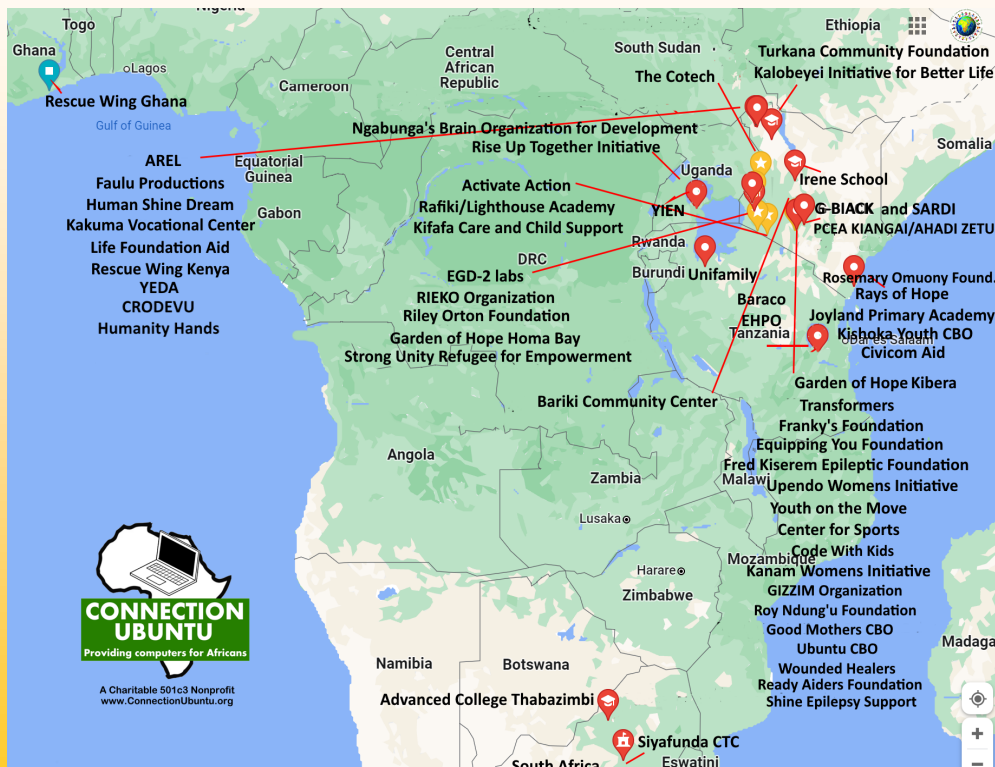
GET YOUR GIFTS ALL YEAR

GIFTS THAT
GIVE HOPE

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

