

Zawadi[★]

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

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* Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

LAST CALL FOR YOUR RSVP!

Connection Ubuntu turns 10 years old this month. Helping us celebrate will be the beautiful sounds of West Africa from Bumbada! Women Drummers. The group is a Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Maryland-based women’s drumming adventure. Bumbada! plays West-African based drumming music, while adding its own feminine and powerful flair. You will get hooked, beware! Tammi Hessen is the musical director and lead of the group.

Offering their delectable flavors of Africa for purchase, our vendors for the day are Isabelle Cuisine and Sawa Africa. Their food is amazing. Food will also be available through Tellus360 for purchase. We really need your RSVP so that our food vendors can be prepared.

We have an exciting silent auction. Here are just a few of the items available for bid; baskets filled with wine varieties, gifts for your pets, movie night items, chocolate and wine, pottery items, and safari photos, just to name a few.

We hope to share this celebration with you at Tellus360 in downtown Lancaster, PA. Please RSVP with the number of attendees to ConnectionUbuntu@gmail.com or via our website, [here](#). You can find the full invitation along with our tentative schedule [here](#) on our website.

Remember, we can’t do our work without your support. We hope to see you in a few weeks!



IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY!

Join us for the
celebration!



WHERE: Tellus 360, 24 E King St, Lancaster, PA, THE TEMPLE ROOM

WHEN: September 29, 2024, 12pm – 4pm

ADMISSION: Any denomination of 10! (10 cents, 10 dollars, etc.)

RSVP: Email ConnectionUbuntu@gmail.com with number of attendees

ACTIVITIES

Silent auction	Games for kids	Cash bar	Entertainment
African Food Vendors	50/50 Raffle	African Merchandise Vendors	

CURRICULUM TEAM MEETING

At our January Summit meeting, all of the lab directors asked for a dedicated CU curriculum that they could follow, to assist their labs better in creating classes for their students. In August, we had five lab partners meet for three days in-person, with G-BiACK (our first computer lab) hosting and providing accommodations, to brainstorm and work on completing the first-ever Connection Ubuntu ICT (Information Communication Technology) curriculum. The team members attending were: Josphat Munyasia (The CoTech Lab and Curriculum Chairperson), Jack Owuor (Transformers Mathare Lab), Kennedy Mburu (G-BiACK Lab), Evans Dorm (Rescue Wing Ghana Lab), and Naphtaly Onyango (EHPO Tanzania Lab). We would like to thank Renice Owino... while she could not attend the meeting she was instrumental in getting Evans to G-BiACK.

The team began, prior to this meeting, by holding online meetings to determine an outline for the document. They decided there should be different levels, each having different skillsets: Artisan Certificate in ICT (level 4), Craft Certificate in ICT (level 5) and Diploma Certificate in ICT (Level 6). The team made these key achievements: Development of the ICT curriculum for levels 4,5 and 6, and ICT Policy formulation. The robust ICT policy developed ensures standardized practices across all computer laboratories supported by Connection Ubuntu. Included in their plans for policy was the issue of green ICT (mindfulness of the environment while embracing ICT).

From Chairperson, Josphat, he shares these words, "The Curriculum committee convened at G-BiACK Thika, Kenya to develop the ICT curriculum for levels 4, 5 and 6. In addition, the team formulated the ICT policy document for all computer laboratories supported by Connection Ubuntu. The meeting was highly productive, with members demonstrating exceptional dedication to the task at hand. I am deeply grateful to Vicki and the entire Connection Ubuntu for trusting us with this important task and for sponsoring the meeting. Thank you for choosing the best team players to work towards the curriculum. Your support has been instrumental in enabling us to advance our shared mission of empowering communities through ICT (Information Communication Technology). Together we are working towards a vision of a free and just society where access to technology opens doors to opportunity and equality for all. Thank you and may God bless you."

The team continues to work on this huge project and are very close to completion. Once the curriculum is finished they also hope to develop a system for online classes that can be accessed and be used by anyone across the world. Connection Ubuntu is so very thankful and grateful for these individuals. They have donated their time and brainpower while also continuing to work with the students at their individual computer labs. They are truly blessings to all of us.



Seated (left to right): Jack Owuor, Evans Dorm, Naphtaly Onyango, Josphat Munyasia, and Kennedy Mburu

TECHNOLOGY IN THE KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP

LEARNING IN PROGRESS AT THE AREL LAB IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP, KENYA



The AREL (Action for Refugee Life... a refugee-led social impact organization) Computer Lab is located in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. It is so important for refugees to learn technology. It's their best opportunity to find jobs online while remaining in the camp. Learning technology gives them hope for their futures because most refugees remain in the camp for the rest of their lives.

Students use the laptops for a variety of purposes including accessing online educational resources, completing assignments, and developing digital literacy skills. AREL teaches the following classes at their facility: Digital Marketing, Data Analytics, Cyber Security and Mobile Application Development. The ability to share these resources interchangeably has fostered a collaborative learning environment and helped bridge the digital divide for both male and female students.

The AREL lab is currently receiving a high number of enrollments for the courses they offer. The number of refugees in the camp in need of education and digital skills grows each day and the lab is strained by lack of resources i.e., laptops, learning rooms, and scarcity of volunteer trainers and administrators. But even with these hurdles, they have a "Remote Job Opportunities" program which involves creating a constant database of refugees who possess a range of digital skills. The database compilation connects the refugees with global hiring companies that are seeking employees with these specific skills. The program also involves partnering with hiring companies to place trained refugees in relevant positions. You can find more information about their programs [here](#). From the AREL staff, they share this note of thanks and encouragement, "Together, we can make a difference and create a brighter future for refugees in Kakuma. Thank you, Connection Ubuntu, for your kindness and commitment to our cause. Let's continue to work together to inspire change and empower lives."

We would like to share this testimonial from a student (located in the photo above, on the top right): "My name is Akeer Mading and I am a student at the AREL center of learning. Having access to these computers has opened up new possibilities for me. I am now able to access educational software and online learning platforms that were previously out of reach. This has greatly enhanced my understanding of various subjects and allowed me to pursue my interest in technology and digital arts. The laptops have also helped me develop vital skills that will be beneficial for my future. Learning how to use different applications and navigate online resources has made me more confident. It is amazing to think that a simple tool like a laptop can have such a profound impact on my education and personal growth. Your generosity has made a significant difference in my life and the lives of my peers. Thank you for investing in our education and helping us to build a better future."

AREL's students are a testament to the work Connection Ubuntu does in Africa. We have eight computer labs in the very large Kakuma refugee camp. While we wish we could supply more equipment to these labs, they are making the most of the units they do have to work with. Because of limited resources there, most of the labs power their equipment with solar panels. There are so many unique challenges to running a computer lab in Kakuma. If you would like to know how you can help us get more technology to them, [contact us](#). We would love to have your donated technology (laptops/Chromebooks/unlocked mobile phones, etc.). Your donation means so much to those in need.

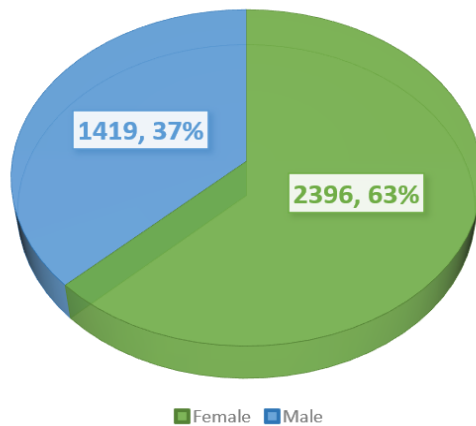
Together we change lives!

OUR JULY QUARTERLY REPORTS ARE IN!

One of the requirements of Connection Ubuntu is that, once a computer lab has received their computer shipment, they share quarterly report statistics of their students and classes, along with how their computers are faring. We also use these reports to check that labs have 50% women or girls in their classroom, fulfilling another requirement of our labs. We like to share these results with our supporters so that they can see these statistics. Accountability is a huge part of our work along with transparency. We also track which labs share reports on time. Their responsibility is to make sure reports are on time. Computer labs requesting more equipment must send reports on time to receive more computers. If they are late, then they must have three periods of reporting on-time before requesting more equipment. Labs must fulfill these requirements for two years.

Here are July's report statistics...

**COMPUTER LAB REPORTS
JULY 2024**
STUDENT TOTAL = 3815



Computer Lab	Student Total	Female	Male
Action for Refugee Life (AREL)	30	10	20
Activate Action	29	19	10
Advanced College Thabazimbi	460	225	235
Baraco Foundation	60	40	20
Center for Sports and Growth	0	0	0
Civicom Aid	0	0	0
Code with Kids	0	0	0
EGD - Jiunge Lab	9	6	3
EGD - Poole Lab	12	9	3
Empowerment and Health Promotion Organization (EHPO	130	80	50
Faulu Productions	52	18	34
Franky's Foundation	240	140	100
Fred Kiserem Epileptic Foundation	18	10	8
Garden of Hope Homa Bay	23	7	16
Garden of Hope Kibera	29	15	14
G-BIACK	9	6	3
Human Shine Dream	45	29	16
Humanity 4 Sustainable Develop			
Irene School	169	169	0
Jubilant Kids Foundation	0	0	0
Joyland Prime Academy	0	0	0
Kakuma Bee Social Enterprise Ltd	25	14	11
Kalobeyei Initiative 4 Better Life	89	45	44
Kishoka Youth CBO	70	42	28
Life Foundation Aid	32	19	13
Rays of Hope Community Development Project	301	184	117
Reiko Organization	154	111	43
Rescue Wing DRC	41	39	2
Rescue Wing Ghana	636	389	247
Rescue Wing Kenya	140	140	0
Sardi Driving and Computer Center	6	2	4
Siyafunda Community Tech Center PALMRIDGE SITE	197	135	62
Siyafunda Community Tech Center FREE STATE SITE	204	122	82
The COTECH	401	253	148
Transformers Org	11	5	6
Tunapanda Institute	19	12	7
Turkana Community Foundation	18	10	8
Turkana Voices			
Unifamily	72	39	33
Upendo Women Initiative	12	8	4
Women's Relief Initiative	0	0	0
Youth Education & Development Assoc. - YEDA	30	19	11
Youth Empowerment & Development Org - YEADO	13	8	5
Youth Inclusion and Empowerment Network - YIEN	29	17	12
Youth on the Move	0	0	0
Total July 2024	3815	2396	1419



**MAP OF OUR
COMPUTER
LABS**

**(CLICK ON MAP
FOR
MORE DETAILS)**

DONATE YOUR USED TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT!

Your used working equipment is priceless to our partners in Africa. Donate your Laptop/tablet/smartphone/keyboard/mouse, etc. (as long it is working and uses Windows 7 OS *OR* Apple 2013 or newer OS) and you'll be changing many lives. Once received, we'll wipe all data, if needed, add an Operating System (OS), test the equipment and clean it. If you would like to help us by donating equipment, send us a message... ***your donation is tax deductible... and keeps equipment out of our landfills!***



THE OFFICIAL CONNECTION UBUNTU MERCH STORE

Visit our [Online Store](#)... we'd love to see you wearing our goods and Bonfire will donate a percentage of your purchase to us!
Check out our new tie dye and earth-friendly wearables!



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 button on the right... there are several donation options to choose from... and Goodworld makes it easy to navigate our page. Thank you!

CONNECTION UBUNTU'S SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES:

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO "FOLLOW" US. PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY!



VISION STATEMENT

Connection Ubuntu believes that the world is a global community where all members have the right and freedom to be active and valuable participants when given the technological tools and knowledge needed for successful global community engagement and local community self-sufficiency.

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

