

# Zawadi

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

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\* Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

## FIRST STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP TO LEARNING LIONS

It's happened... a female student from Rescue Wing Kenya, located in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kakuma, Kenya, has received the very first scholarship offered to one of our lab students from Learning Lions! Learning Lions is a social enterprise (NGO) that focuses on fighting poverty with digital opportunity. They offer free training (along with free room and board) in digital vocational skills to enable young women and men to make a living and support their families and communities by selling valuable digital services to international customers, right from their homes in poor rural areas of Africa. Learning Lions' world class Digital Hub is in Kalokol, Kenya, at the shores of Lake Turkana.

We partnered with Learning Lions two years ago to give female students the opportunity to further their education. Five students from Rescue Wing Kenya applied and one of those students, Zeinab Warsame, was accepted. She reported to their school on June 23rd, 2023. We are very excited for her and wish her great success with this new opportunity. Congratulations Zeinab!



# YIEN IS READY TO CHANGE LIVES!

On June 23rd, Youth Empowerment and Inclusion Network (YIEN) opened the door to their new computer lab. Due to the overwhelming response from the youth in their community, they delayed opening until they could prepare new space for the lab so that it would be large enough to meet the needs of their students. They worked tirelessly, and with the assistance of their director, Walter Okwir, the students also installed all of their computers. On the Grand Opening Day, they had 32 students sign up for technology class. Their students will learn technology for 6 months and graduate with certificates of completion at the end of the training.

YIEN is also fundraising for a larger training facility so they can have space to teach the community how to make re-usable sanitary pads, liquid/bar soap, turning plastic bags into user friendly products like baskets, hairdressing, book making, how to make crafts/African sandals, tailoring, fashion and design training. If you would like to help with this project, contact us for further details!

Walter is a passionate young man with big dreams for his community... We wish YIEN all the best!



Walter, in the center (white shirt), talking to the students



Ribbon-cutting ceremony!



# TURKANA VOICES TESTIMONIAL

Turkana Voices computer lab, in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kakuma, Kenya, has their first computer class well underway. The 40-student computer class benefits locals from their rural community and refugees and supports their "Computer For Every Girl" Initiative Program targeting girls and women to learn technology.

Jessica Ekapolon, a student, shares these words, "I'm happy to have joined and stepped into a computer class for the first time in my traditional/local attire and I got a chance to learn how to use a computer, an opportunity I thought was only reserved for those in urban centers/towns or urban cities."

**TURKANA  
VOICES**



## 2023 MADARAKA DAY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



Pennsylvania's Kenyans (along with Africans from other US States) celebrated their heritage and Independence day on June 4th this year with a large gathering at a private facility near Middletown PA. It was a beautiful day, the food was wonderful and plentiful, and there were great vendors. Most important was the sharing of community. Here's a [video](#) of the day... enjoy! If you have never attended this celebration, we invite you to join us next year on June 1st, 3-7pm, location to be determined.



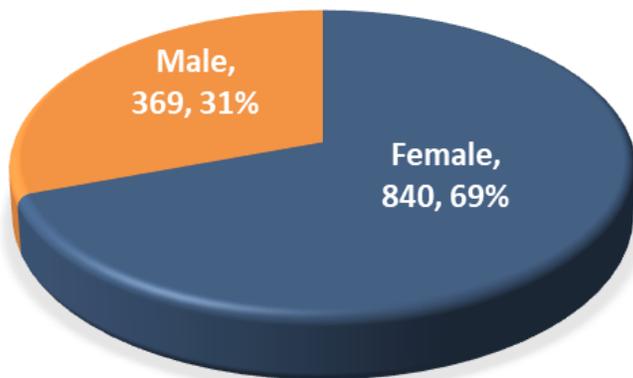
Dancing, great food,  
jewelry, clothing, a  
fashion show, and more  
food!



# HAPPENINGS

## COMPUTER LAB STATISTICS

### STUDENTS SERVED IN THE 1ST QUARTER OF 2023



We're very proud of our labs and the great work they are doing. Thanks to them, so many more students, especially females, are learning technology. Thanks to your donations, they have the equipment to change lives.



## WE'VE GOT SOME SEATS TO FILL

Do you love our work? Would you like to be more involved? Do you have skills to share? Have you ever worked in Africa? Do you live close to the Lancaster/York PA area? Connection Ubuntu is looking for a few more Board members. We are all volunteers, dedicating our time and efforts to support the work, which means that every monetary donation is used fully to provide computers to Africans. If you think you would be interested in helping, have some perspective you'd like to share or if you would like to learn more about becoming a Board member or work on one of our committees, please contact us and put BOARD MEMBER/Committee member in the subject line! We'd love to talk with you.

So many of you helped us raise funds for several years by shopping at Amazon Smile. Sadly, Amazon decided to discontinue their journey with nonprofits. HOWEVER, the iGive.com team hopes that you'll join their efforts (and so do we) to help nonprofits by shopping from their website or by adding the iGive button to your browser. There's no charge to you and if you make us your charity, we get a portion of the sales.

Start shopping! At [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com), you can buy the items you need from stores you trust - everything from office supplies and airline tickets to designer handbags, electronics, and even gift cards! It's FREE and blissfully simple. Just shop for everyday items at over 1700 stores in the iGive network, including Staples, Barnes & Noble, Lands' End, Best Buy, Kohls, and Pottery Barn. A portion of each purchase automatically benefits Connection Ubuntu. Click the button below to get started and choose Connection Ubuntu as your charity. Thank you for your support!



iGive.com®

You Shop. Your Charity Gets Money. For Free.

**BREAKING NEWS**

# WE ARE NOW TAKING USED OR NEW GOOGLE CHROMEBOOKS. MESSAGE US TO SEE IF YOURS MEETS OUR CRITERIA!

Your used working equipment is priceless to our partners in Africa. Donate your laptop/desktop/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

STOP NEW ITEMS ADDED

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."*

**CONNECTION UBUNTU**

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