

Zawadi*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

MAY 2026 – VOLUME 79

Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

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

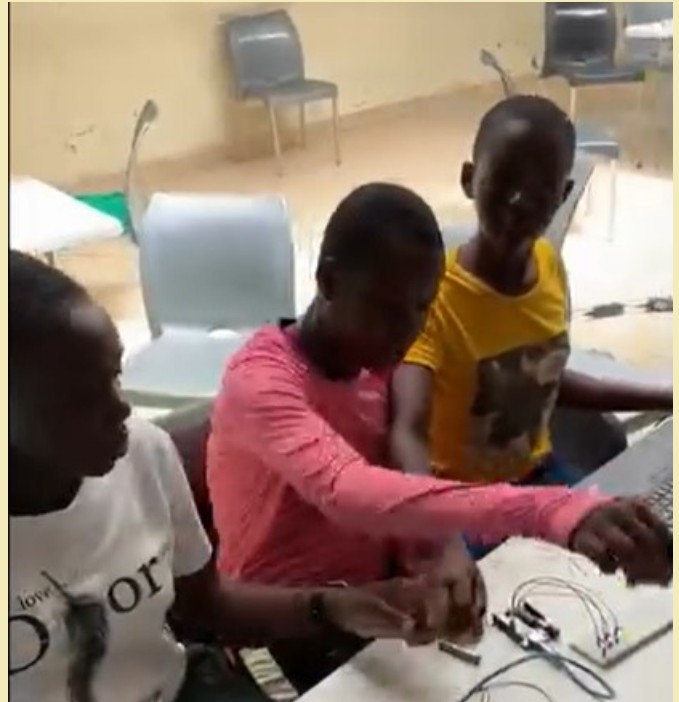
GRADUATION DAY FOR UBUNTU CBO!

Ubuntu Community Based Organization (CBO) held their 2025/2026 graduation and celebrated these 19 women, who completed the hair, beauty and wellness massage classes. Part of their course was also computer training. Most of the trainees were not computer literate when they arrived for training but Ubuntu CBO taught them to keep records, use email and design simple marketing materials to promote their work on social media. The students also completed four months of intensive training followed by a one-month attachment in local salons where they gained valuable real-world experience. They are bright shining stars and we’re so excited for their future.



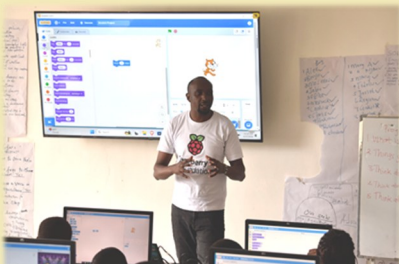
PARTNERS MAKING DIFFERENCES

International Girls in ICT (Information Communication Technology) Day 2026 was celebrated on April 23. Led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the 2026 global celebration was themed “AI for Development: Girls shaping the digital future.” In our May newsletter we shared how Siyafunda celebrated this day. We also wanted to share how our partner, Riley Orton Foundation, spotlighted their girls for this important date as well. We are so proud of all our partners and hope that, in the coming years, they will all give their girls special focus for the date. These young girls from Riley Orton Foundation share why it’s so important for their futures (click [here](#) to watch their video).



Grow Biointensive Agriculture Center of Kenya (G-BiACK) now have a women's and youth center. The women from their community area attend the tailoring and dressmaking short course offered at the center and G-BiACK often receives women who are mothers with young children between the ages of 5-12 years. They bring their children along while attending their class rather than leaving them home alone, especially during the holidays. Many of the women have no childcare so this is their only option. While the moms are learning in the tailoring rooms, their children are learning something in the computer lab. Offering digital literacy to these young children helps G-BiACK get more women engaged in trainings while also empowering their young ones! It’s a win-win!

Another way G-BiACK engages their community is by introducing a program to educate young learners with practical lessons of SCRATCH coding. They realized that most of grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 students learn only Computer Theory classes during the coding lesson at school because they don't have access to computers. G-BiACK has now partnered with Empower and Serve and the Raspberry Pi Foundation. These foundations offer trainers, and then G-BiACK offers the lab and computers to the young students. G-BiACK hosts the students every long holiday once a week for free so that they can learn practical coding skills. They are really making a huge difference in the lives of their community. We’re so proud of the work they do!



Left: A trainer from Empower and Serve teaches SCRATCH.

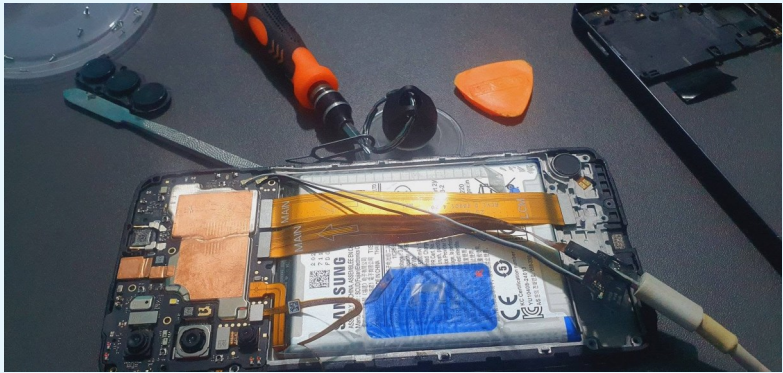


Right: Young students learning how to code using SCRATCH.

PARTNERS MAKING DIFFERENCES

You have the power to change how the world sees you tomorrow. Will you be known for your challenges or for the solutions you bring? The choice starts today. At Cotech, they believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. Through practical training and mentorship, they equip youth and vulnerable members of their communities with skills that are in demand in today's world. Cotech's ICT (Information Communication Technology) Empowerment Program delivers structured digital skills training to underserved communities, enabling access to employment, entrepreneurship, and digital participation. The program focuses on practical, hands-on learning aligned with market needs — ensuring that every learner transitions from basic literacy to income-generating capability. Women previously excluded from formal employment are now running small online businesses and accessing digital work opportunities after completing ICT training.

CoTech's motto: Be empowered. Gain skills. Create opportunities. Change lives. Be the change!



These photos are from CoTech's technology repair school.

From partners Ready Aiders Foundation: Technology is not just about computers, it's about access, opportunity, connection, and growth. Several graduates of Code Her Future Kenya have gone on to pursue further training, internships, volunteer opportunities, and employment. They are proud to make these opportunities more accessible to young women in our communities. Their journeys remind us all that learning creates possibilities. Your support helps make these journeys possible.



NEW MONTHLY DONOR GIVEAWAY

Love our work? By supporting us monthly with your donation, no matter how small or large, we can count on these continuous funds to cover shipping expenses and parts for the rehabbed computers.

Here are some examples of what a monthly donation helps cover:

1. \$10 covers the cost of one hard drive
2. \$15 covers the cost of a power cord
3. \$20 covers the cost of a new laptop battery
4. \$25 covers the cost of RAM memory for a laptop
5. \$50 covers the cost of a purchased rehabbed laptop
6. \$135 covers the cost of shipping an entire computer lab of
7. equipment (10 laptops, power cords, router, and other necessities)

Our goal is to rehab about ten computers per week so you can see how these costs add up quickly. This is where your monthly donation really helps our work. If you sign up as a monthly donor for \$25 or under, we will send you a Connection Ubuntu mug and bag clip and monthly donations over \$25 will also include our tote. If you would like to join our monthly supporters, click [here](#) to sign up for a monthly donation. We love our monthly donors and would love to have more! We are so thankful for our monthly donors... you mean the world to us and our African partners! Bless you!

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.

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

www.giftsthatgivehopelancaster.org

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!

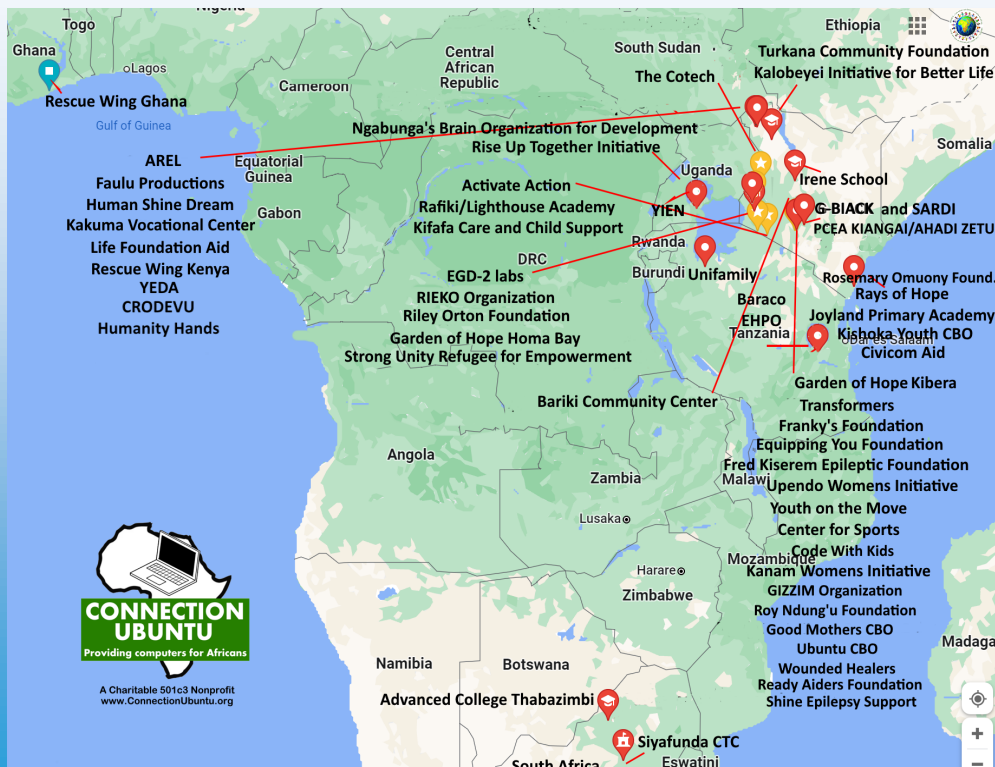
GET YOUR GIFTS ALL YEAR

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

