

Zawadi ✨

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

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* Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

OUR AMAZING JOURNEY THROUGH KENYA

From the bus to the plane to the safari vans and back again... IT WAS A TRIP OF A LIFETIME! Seventeen travelers, most not knowing one another, journeyed like best friends for this trip. It indeed was magical. We visited seven computer labs, two prospective computer labs, had our “first ever” Summit meeting with thirty two computer lab partners in attendance and traversed four different game parks... all in just 15 days.

We have so much to share with you, but for this newsletter, we will focus on the working computer labs we visited. We have a total of 41 computer labs throughout Africa. These labs are doing amazing work... each one of them, and we are extremely proud of them. The Summit Meeting was a day filled with big smiles, big hearts, and lots of good work shared between the computer lab partners and the travel team... so much was accomplished! More to share on that in the next newsletter!

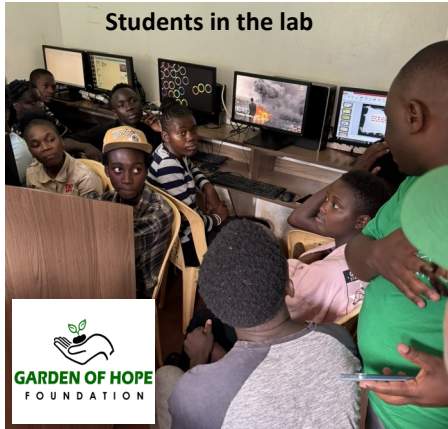
Connection Ubuntu, together we change lives!

KENYA BOUND!!



GARDEN OF HOPE

Victor Odhiambo is the Founder of this computer lab. They are located in the Kibera Settlement in Nairobi, the biggest settlement in Kenya. Their lab has had computers now for almost two years, and they have taught at least 100 students per year. They also now have a branch located in Homa Bay, Kenya. That lab is just getting started. After spending some time at Garden of Hope, Victor had made arrangements for our team to walk part of the settlement. We enjoyed learning more about the people that live there. We had a great experience. Garden of Hope is such a beacon of hope for their community and our partnership is thriving!



Students in the lab



Susan, Carla, Vicki, Victor, Deb, Annette—Kibera Settlement near train tracks

TUNAPANDA/CODE WITH KIDS

The Tunapanda (meaning We are Growing) lab is also in the Kibera Settlement, and our second stop for the day. We met Diana, Shem, Wambua and Renice. Renice gave us the most details about what their lab does. They have several programs, and one specifically dedicated to women, called Tech Dada. They teach students using both computers and tablets/mobile phones. The program using the tablets and mobile phones is called Mobile LEAP. They are doing great work and are teaching about 20 students three different times per year for the Mobile LEAP program. Renice also runs classes for youth called “Code with Kids.” She is truly a beacon of hope for these youth. They learn coding and robotics. We are so happy to call Tunapanda partners!



Top—inside the Tunapanda lab, Diane speaking



Lab students



Renice and Wambua



Bottom—our Team with Renice inside the Code with Kids space

FRED KISEREM EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

We were thrilled to be able to visit the Kiserem Epilepsy Foundation computer lab in Ruiru, Kenya. Fred is the President of the Epilepsy Foundation of Kenya and truly devoted to making a difference for those who struggle with epilepsy. His mom, Rose, is his biggest supporter, along with Connection Ubuntu, and he is making such a difference with digital literacy for his community. Students that have epilepsy get free classes and all other students pay a nominal fee to learn computers. Fred was a chef in Iraq and, once home, purchased an oven so that he could also teach baking. They also teach carpentry. As if he didn't have enough to do, Fred also mentors a young man, Joseph.



Students and our team

Rose, Fred's mom, and Fred

More students at the lab

JIUNGE AND POOLE LABS FROM THE EGD

We visited two labs, the Poole lab and the Jiunge (meaning Join) lab, in the Luanda area, both belonging to the Emuhaya Group of Disabled (EGD). We spent the day enjoying time with their students and also with the EGD members and their community. We handed out graduation certificates to several of their students from both labs and really had a great day. They have broken down their students into categories, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Last year they taught 69 students at the Jiunge lab and 70 students at the Poole lab. We were truly blessed to have so much time with them.



Top—inside the Poole lab

Students with their certificates



Bottom— Certificate example

Mary, Susan and Tonia in the Poole Lab

Vicki, giving a Jiunge Lab student her certificate

G-BIACK... OUR FIRST COMPUTER LAB!

We received quite a warm welcome at our first computer lab, G-BIACK (Grow Biointensive Agriculture Center of Kenya)... they've now been teaching computer literacy for ten years! They know what they're doing and have educated 70 students in the past year. Kennedy Mburu is their lead man for computer education and he's been a wonderful addition to their staff. They have a Youth Empowerment Program and have so much to offer these students. We spent a lovely day learning all that they are teaching on the farm. They will also host our Curriculum Planning Committee for all of the computer labs. We're very excited to see what these great minds come up with!



LEFT—Some of our team in the computer lab



BELOW—Our team with the entire G-BIACK Team



LEFT—The G-BIACK team getting us energized!

we love you

SARDI COMPUTER LAB GRAND OPENING

The SARDI computer lab and driving school received their computers in November of 2023. It was the team's great honor to witness their grand opening ceremony. We heard some testimonials from some of their students and toured their facility after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. They had six computers prior to our donation and trained more than 400 people with those six computers. Now that we have added ten more computers to their lab, they hope to train 4000 people from their community. That's quite a large undertaking but we're excited to see them achieve their goal!



Vicki and Francis, cutting the ribbon to the Computer lab



ABOVE: Our team listening as Francis speaks



Students from the SARDI computer

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!***



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Check out our new tie dye and earth-friendly wearables!



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AND CHANGE A LIFE

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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."

