

ZAWADI*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

FEBRUARY 2023 – VOLUME 40

* Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country. They often have had to flee with little more than the clothes on their back, leaving behind homes, possessions, jobs and loved ones. Today, we’re sharing information given to us by lab directors who are refugees. Since thirteen of our labs, ([found here](#)), are in refugee camps, we wanted to gain knowledge of their lives in the camp. We also thought it would be educational to share with our supporters. For more information, check out the UNHCR link [here](#).

Erick Alouise Josue, Rescue Wing Lab Founder, lives in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. He and most of his fellow refugees are from South Sudan, along with people from 14 other countries. When asked what the biggest challenges are in the camp, he says, “Refugees face many challenges such as water problems, accessing quality medical support, accessing quality education, youth not accessing employment, and lack of adequate food (the major challenge because many refugees with large families also without any other source of income are not able to survive with received UNHCR distribution). The highest salary paid to a refugee, no matter what education they have, is \$65 per month.” Erick is also the director for the Rescue Wing Ghana and DRC labs.

Yien Wang Chuol founded the YEADO lab in South Sudan. He finds their biggest hurdle in the camp to be the lack of water, food, a good hospital, and good education for small children, despite their ability to begin school at age 4.

Vincent Abea Sabuni, living in Tanzania and founder of the Unifamily lab, shares that the majority of refugees in his camp, Nyarugusu, are from the DRC and Burundi. “Challenges in our camp are lack of the following: salary (they are allowed only 1% of the national average), travel documents (to move around the country legally), transportation, university, clothes, food and good health treatments.

Samuel Binja Cimanuka also lives in Kenya, in the Kalobeyei Settlement Refugee Camp. He is founder of Kalobeyei Initiative for Better Life computer lab. When asked about travel outside of the refugee camp, he says this, “It can be done with UNHCR authorization but there are some documents needed from UNHCR and the Government of Kenya such as traveling documents and refugee passports. Without these you violate the guidelines of protection with UNHCR and the Government of Kenya. Most refugees remain in camps for decades but there are options for leaving the camp permanently: 1) getting resettlement through UNHCR process and go to the third country for starting new life with family, 2) receiving declaration from someone abroad through UNHCR, colleagues, relatives, or sponsor calling you family via UNHCR, and 3) getting repatriation to return back to your country if only UNHCR find out there is enough. Peace in your location or your president of country negotiates with UNHCR about the guarantee of your safety and takes them to their board.”

THANK YOU WGAL!



WGAL, a local news station, has a yearly program for the Susquehanna Valley, Pennsylvania, residents to recognize them for their service to their communities. It's called the "8 Who Care" award. There are hundreds of applicants and last year, Connection Ubuntu Founder, Vicki Poole, was one of the recipients of this award. We would like to thank WGAL for this amazing program because it has truly been a game-changer for us. Their continuous airing of the "8 Who Care" award winners brought numerous new donors and supporters to Connection Ubuntu. Because of all the donations received in the past month, we will be able to equip at least five new computers labs and we still have a few more donations to pick up. WGAL, thank you so much for this wonderful program... we have been truly blessed because of it. If you missed the interview, you can find it [here](#).

MEET SOME OF OUR NEW DONORS AND SUPPORTERS:



Kim and Matt



Vicki and Linda



Ruth and Melody



Terry



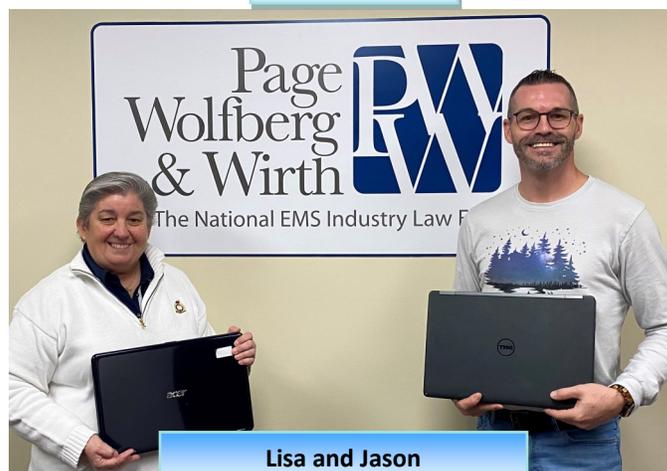
Becky



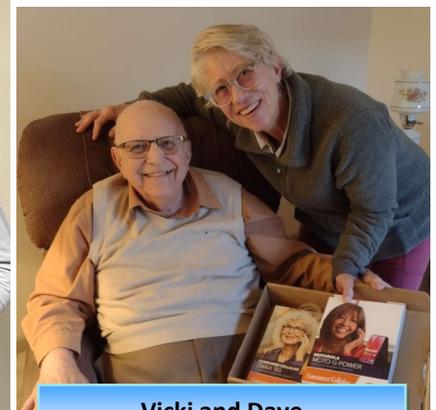
Joe



Gary and Lorraine



Lisa and Jason



Vicki and Dave

WE HAVE WINNERS!



Connection Ubuntu had a T-Shirt raffle for those who signed up for our newsletter at the Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Gift Fair in December. We drew the names of five winners. The T-Shirts have arrived and here are our winners (photos, in order): Lauren McFall, Steffany Schaeffer and her son (sharing the shirt! <3), Steve Turpin and Adam Lehman (not shown)! Thanks for sharing your photos... We hope you love your CU gear!



WHAT'S THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF KENYA?

Kenya is a multilingual country situated in Eastern Africa. This is among the earliest regions where modern humans or homo sapiens are thought to have lived. One of Kenya's greatest treasures remains its linguistic diversity. Kenya has a rich linguistic and cultural heritage – between 60 and 70 languages spoken on its territory. There are two official languages in Kenya – English, and Swahili. Besides English and Swahili, a number of indigenous languages are only spoken in small communities. This linguistic variety has had an effect on the people living in Kenya – a big part of the urban population is multilingual. While English is used in official matters, Swahili is much more commonly spoken by the people.

Kenyans love when those of us who travel there learn their beloved Swahili language. They also love to teach it. Want to learn some of their Swahili? Duolingo is the perfect place to do so! They have a free app that's very user-friendly and you can also learn via your computer. For those of us traveling, it's the perfect tool to show our african partners how invested we are for their culture.

Check out this [link](#) or download the app. Learn Swahili in just 5 minutes a day with their game-like lessons. Maybe we'll have a Swahili contest in a future newsletter... join us in the fun?

HAKUNA MATATA





WE ARE NOW TAKING USED OR NEW GOOGLE CHROMEBOOKS!

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



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."

