

# ZAWADI\*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

DECEMBER 2025 – VOLUME 74

Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

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

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CONNECTION UBUNTU

We feel extremely blessed this year to have all of your support. This has been another magical year for Connection Ubuntu and our African partners because your help enabled us to continue our work of providing computers to so many hard working students.

Because of our wonderful partner, Computer Ministry, and their donations of computers, projectors, routers, and many other peripherals, we’ve added another ten computer labs. And we have a nice backlog of computers waiting on our shelves to prepare for upcoming labs in Africa. Computer Ministry also graced us with some funds for a few of our computer labs to assist with power outages. ARRO Consulting provided us with some very nice laptops. Richards Energy Group donated both computers and blessed us with a large donation of funds from their employees. We couldn’t do our work without this help and we are so grateful and thankful for these companies. We currently have two shipments on their way which holds computers for some of our existing lab partners who wanted to expand their classrooms, along with computers for the five newest computer labs. We now have supported more than 20,000 students, of which 16,000+ are women and girls, and have 65 computer labs.

Connection Ubuntu wishes all of you a wonderful and healthy holiday season filled with joy, hope, love and peace. We look forward to the coming new year and are excited to share this journey with you.



# WELCOME TO THESE NEW PARTNERS!

November was a busy month for Connection Ubuntu. Thanks to the Lab Application Committee, who reviewed new prospective lab applications, we have approved these five computer labs! And the exciting news is that our shipper, Kevin, at Homeland 254 Logistics, has already picked up the computers for these new labs. These labs' stories are so endearing... if you would like more information on each lab, click on their logo at the bottom. We welcome the following new labs and can't wait for them to have students in their classrooms.

**EQUIPPING YOU FOUNDATION**— Located in Ruiru, Kenya, their lab will play a pivotal role in addressing a critical need in their community by providing both basic and advanced computing training in a practical way. They plan to equip learners with essential digital skills, such as graphic design, video editing, and proficiency in various computer applications, which are increasingly vital in today's technology-driven world. By mastering these creative tools, participants will gain the ability to innovate, develop entrepreneurial ventures, and access online economic opportunities, thereby fostering self-reliance and reducing unemployment.

**KANAM WOMEN INITIATIVE**— The main goal of this organization, residing in Nairobi, Kenya, is to bridge the digital gap by empowering young women with digital skills, availing technological tools to navigate the online world, through digital literacy and marketing expertise. This will be achieved through the following objectives: 1. basic computer and business training program that focuses on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to help upscale current operations and 2. follow a training program focused on entrepreneurs that is tailored to the needs of each entrepreneur and driven by market research. This gives them knowledge and skills to help diversify their businesses, markets and help build channels for distribution, thus increasing their revenue streams for better income.

**NGABUNGA'S BRAIN ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**— Many refugees in Nakivale, Uganda, lack access to computers and the internet, creating a significant digital gap. The lab will provide the community with tools to access information, educational resources, and global opportunities. They plan to focus on livelihood initiatives, women's empowerment, and technical education. The lab will host training programs in computer literacy, programming, and other IT-related skills, equipping refugees with marketable skills that increase employability or foster entrepreneurship.

**SHINE EPILEPSY SUPPORT**— By integrating digital skills with epilepsy-specific support, Shine Epilepsy Support, located in Ruiru, Kenya, will equip students with both technical abilities and confidence to overcome stigma. This aligns with their mission to ensure full life experiences for people with epilepsy. The computers will be tools for economic and educational empowerment. They also plan to collaborate with local businesses to create internships or job placement opportunities, leveraging Shine Epilepsy's advocacy network to promote inclusive hiring.

**STRONG UNITY FOR REFUGEE EMPOWERMENT**— They plan to use the computers by teaching students in their community of Mwamba, Kenya, Microsoft Office classes (or equivalent), teaching coding/web and graphic design, so students can be prepared with job skills,. The computers will be powerful tools for empowering women by providing access to knowledge, opportunities, and tools for self-development. They hope to close the gap between genders in technology by building a supportive community that gives them the knowledge, confidence, and tools they need to succeed in the digital world and find job opportunities.



# COMPUTERS HAVE SHIPPED!



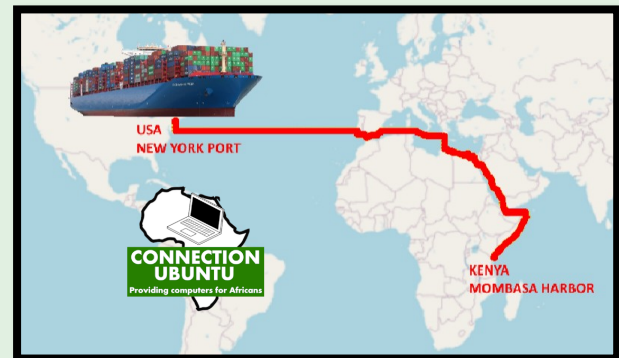
Thanks to Kevin and Homeland 254 Logistics, our boxes of computers and technology are headed to Kenya! Kevin picked up our boxes on November 14 and we hope they arrive sometime in February since classes usually begin in January for students. This shipment includes computers for all of the new labs shown here in our newsletter and also for one of our outstanding labs, Bariki Community Center, in Kinangop, Kenya. We can't wait for the equipment to arrive and have students' hands on them. Kevin is the best shipper ever and we are so very thankful to have him.

## WHY TEACH CODING?

*Do you know what "coding" is?* Here's coding in a nutshell: Your smartphone? Powered by code. The websites you visit? Built with code. Your smartwatch, car's navigation system, or even your fridge? They all run on code. Today, coding isn't just a skill for tech professionals—it's a fundamental part of our world. Understanding code is like understanding electricity or math. It helps you make sense of the systems that surround you.

*Why does coding matter to our students?* Coding matters to IT students because it develops essential skills like problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity, which are crucial for understanding and building technology. It also directly prepares them for a wide range of in-demand careers in the tech industry and fosters digital literacy and confidence.

*Why does teaching coding in our computer labs matter to us?* Successfully building something with code boosts a student's confidence and sense of accomplishment. The skills learned through coding are transferable to many different areas, including data visualization, medicine, law, and engineering. IT students with coding skills are highly sought after in the job market across numerous fields, often leading to well-paying roles. Coding is life-changing for our students.



We even learned how to do some easy coding... check out and play our game by clicking on the photo above!

## iGIVE BUTTON for phone and computer

Raise money for Connection Ubuntu when you shop online! Over 1,500 of the web's best stores participate in this free program, and up to 26% of each purchase benefits our cause! Totally Free | No Hidden Fees | No Limits | Monthly Donation Checks to your nonprofit cause. Search and shop online at [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com)!

It's easy to get started. Go [here](#) to learn more about how you can help us raise money without costing you a penny. If you sign up in November, Connection Ubuntu will get an automatic \$15 Bonus Donation. Use this QR code to add it to your mobile phone...



Click the button on the left to get started raising money for Connection Ubuntu.

# THIS AND THAT...

## WE'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS MOMENT TO SHARE OUR THANKS:

Thank you, Columbia Kettle Works, for giving us free space for our Board meetings... it means so much to us.

A very special thank you to all the volunteers at Computer Ministry for always looking out for us with equipment that we can give to our partners in Africa. These devices are life-changing. You are our heroes!

Thank you, Megan Malick, Joe Subacz, Dianna George, Cindy August, Deb Becker, Christen Chew, Wally Hughes, and Tammy Fuller, for your undying support of our work... we are so appreciative for all of you.

Thank you to our Curriculum Team, especially Josphat, Jack, Kennedy and Evans... your time spent on this project will be especially coveted by our partners once the work is complete. You are dear to us!

Thank you to our Community of Practice Leader Team. You keep our partners informed of our monthly meetings and help make decisions to keep things running seamlessly.

Thank you to our Board of Directors who selflessly give their time and creativity to fulfill our work and help keep our partners up to date on requirements and all necessary paperwork.

Thank you to all of you who are constantly out there sharing our work with others, hoping to secure more computers and technology for us. We are so thankful and we know our African partners are equally thankful. We couldn't do any of this without you... you are beacons of hope!



A Charitable 501c3 Nonprofit  
www.ConnectionUbuntu.org

## TOGETHER WE CHANGE LIVES!

## OUR CHRISTMAS WISHLIST:



1. Packing peanuts (earth-friendly is even better), small or large bags... we can use at least 3!
2. Large size boxes, heavy duty, size 18x18x24 (Lowe's)
3. Packing tape (earth-friendly is even better), 6 rolls
4. Heavy duty brown paper (for packing), any amount
5. Bubble wrap (if you get boxes shipped to you, we can reuse your materials!)

WE ARE HAPPY FOR MATERIALS THAT ARE USED AS WELL AS NEW... SO IF YOU HAVE PACKING MATERIAL THAT YOU'VE SAVED, WE'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE IT OFF YOUR HANDS! If you have used packing material please email us at [connectionubuntu@gmail.com](mailto:connectionubuntu@gmail.com) so we can arrange for pickup from you.

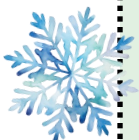
If you shop at Staples through this [link](#), we will even get a donation from them! Thank you!

## CONNECTION UBUNTU WINTER SWAG!



We have a store where you can purchase our merch and help us raise funds! Check it out... we have lots of cool options, from tie-dye hoodies to long sleeve shirts and hats, there's lots to wear to show your support. Just click on the [link here](#) to see what we have. If there's something you'd like but you don't see it in the store, just message us [here](#) so we can add it to our store!

When you receive your item(s) send us a photo so we can share how awesome you look! We'd love to know what you picked!



## 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!

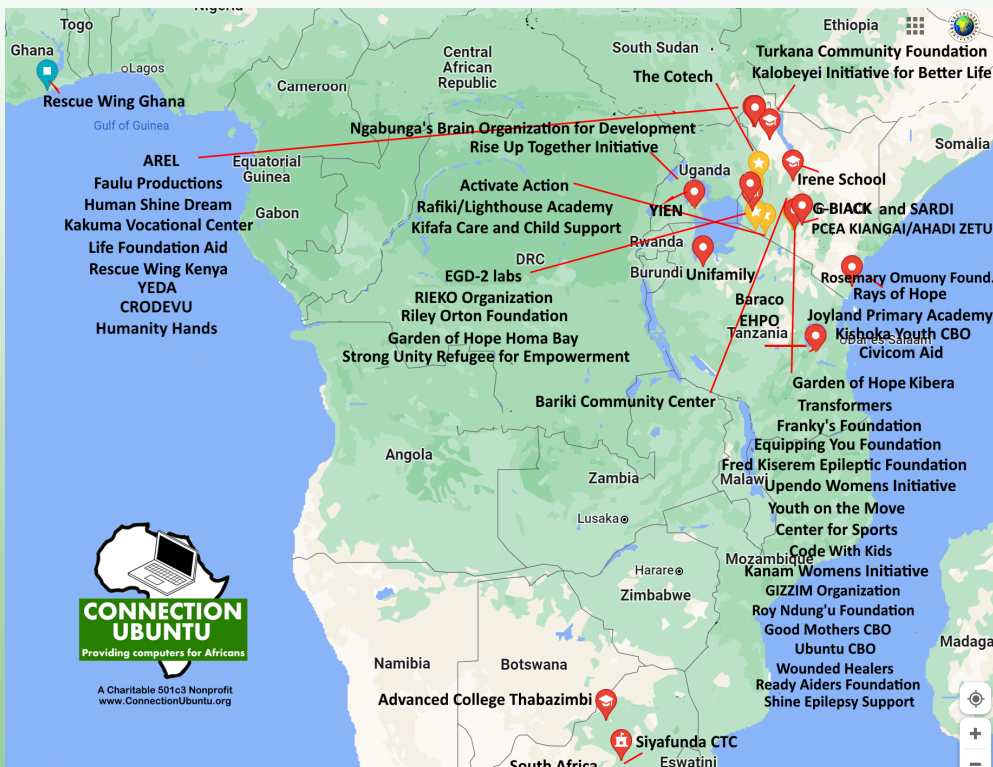
## GET YOUR GIFTS ALL YEAR



Gifts That Give Hope (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

