Zawadi *

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

SEPTEMBER 2023 – VOLUME 47

* Zawadi is the Swahili word for "The Gift"

MEET OUR 2024 TRAVEL TEAM!

Connection Ubuntu is excited to share that we have a group of 18 travelers headed to Kenya in January 2024 and we're all pretty excited about their journey. Our guide, Obadiah Muraya, has been working hard to make all the arrangements. While we are still making some small additions to our itinerary, it is mostly settled… and we're happy to share it with you, <u>here</u>. Probably the most exciting piece of this puzzle is that we are having the FIRST EVER Summit Meeting with our Computer Lab Partners, for those that can join us. It will take place in Kisumu, Kenya. We currently have 35 computer labs in Africa and are hopeful to see many of our partners there. We hope you follow our travels once we get on the ground in Kenya. We would like to thank Kevin Mirara, Homeland 254 Logistics and Kenya Airways, for assistance with airfare, and Executive Coach for providing our ground transportation to and from JFK Airport. All of these travelers are funding their trip so we are thankful that we have help from Kenya Airways and Executive Coach!

From L-R, Vicki Poole, Susan Raver, Becky Mohr, Darr Fullmer, Terry Horn, Dianna George, Carla Horn, Joyce Skarlatos, Cheryl Kreider, Randy Masenheimer, Jackie Wolf, Tonia Reinert, Rochelle Thomas, Rusty Baer, Belinda Baer

Summer Picnic Fun
From L-R, Vicki Poole, Becky Mohr, Cheryl Kreider, Randy Masenheimer, Linda Bailey, Annette Masenheimer, Tonia Reinert, Deb Becker and Dianna George.

SIYAFUNDA—CHANGING LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Siyafunda CTC is one of our newer computer lab partners, located in Katlehong, South Africa. They have huge plans to use their computer lab to educate their community. Their lab has been named "Ubuntu Connection Learning Café," which aligns with the idea of lifelong learning, where individuals continuously seek knowledge and skills throughout their lives to adapt to changing circumstances and personal growth. The Learning Café serves other uses such as a Self-Study Zone, Internet Browsing, Emailing and Typing, Online Job Search and Interviews, and as an Assignment Homework Lab. In their last quarter, they taught 59 women and 32 men. They are truly changing their community. These programs give each person some way to learn technology. We're so proud of their work.

In their words, "At Siyafunda Community Technology Center, we are dedicated to hosting, attending, and running various programs both within communities and internally. Our track record speaks for itself, as we have successfully supported a wide range of audiences for the Ubuntu lab to date. However, we are not stopping there. We have ambitious plans to integrate additional programs such as "self-study" and "work-from-home" initiatives to the lab as it has been assigned a dedicated place."

Siyafunda CTC currently runs the following programs using the donated computers:

Program Name	Target Audience	Trained in this quarter 2023
University of Pretoria's Digital Literacy Campaign	School teachers	Mpumalanga-141 Gauteng- 18 Total- 159
Commonwealth of Learning (C-DELTA)	School teacher and learners	Teachers: 77 Students: 3
Nemisa Digital Entrepreneurship	New and existing Entrepreneurs in peri-urban and rural communities	2000
Huawei Artificial Intelligence	Unemployed youth	55
Web Development bootcamp	Unemployed youth	16
ECD pluggable Program	Kindergarten kids	09
Siyafunda Mandela Day 2023	Youth and Students	38
Madela Scratch Coding	Students 07-15 years	14
Cisco Webinars ICT GIRLS Intro to Data Science and Intro to Cyber Security	Youth Girls	36
DCDT 365 Days Campaign Programme 2023-2023	Youth, Women, and people with disabilities	132
School Holiday Program	Students	16
Cisco Hardware Basic bootcamp	Youth	28
Scratch Conference Global: Coding Creative Practices	Teachers, Managers, Programs managers	27

GREAT JOB!

Changing Lives, **One Career at a Time**

TUNAPANDA—ACCOMPLISHING DIGITAL LITERACY

Tunapanda is a Swahili word meaning 'we are growing'. Tunapanda is a non-profit social enterprise that runs intensive 3-month technology, design, and business training courses in extreme low-income environments of East Africa such as Kibera (Nairobi informal settlement). Their mission is to create environments and experiences that train lifelong learners, earners, and problem-solvers. Tunapanda's graduates and beneficiaries go on to become successful professionals, freelancers, and entrepreneurs — while engaging in creative self-expression that gives them and their communities a greater voice.

Connection Ubuntu is thrilled to assist Tunapanda with mobile phones and tablets so their students can achieve the above goals. They recently received their equipment and are so excited to be a Connection Ubuntu partner. These devices will assist their students with these programs: TechDada (promoting digital inclusion for young women in Kenya), KASA (Kibera Aeronautics and Space Academy—focusing on 9 key areas (including basic STEM), designed to build confidence that everyone can take part in shaping the future of tech and humanity), and Mobile LEAP Training (Digital basics (smartphones, computers, etc.) and digital fluency, coding skills, graphic design… and so much more). We are proud of their work and hope to visit their facility while in Kenya. If you have a mobile phone or tablet that you would like to donate, contact us so that we can get your donation into their hands!

CAN YOU HELP?

Connection Ubuntu is looking for a possible sponsor/donor for T-shirts and hats for our travelers and computer lab partners for our January 2024 trip. If you know of a company or individual that might be interested in helping us, whether they do screen-printing, embroidery, iron-on transfers or just want to donate funds to cover the fees, please share our email, ConnectionUbuntu@gmail.com, with them. We would love to share their company or name in our newsletters for a few months as a thank you… or we are open to other suggestions. All of our donations go to equipment for our partners in Africa… we won't take funds from those to purchase the shirts and hats. Your help is so appreciated!

COMPUTER DONATIONS

Connection Ubuntu was the lucky recipient of some computer and peripheral donations these past few months. We are so thankful to partner with these businesses who are making a difference in others' lives by giving us their used equipment. Thank you so much, <u>ARRO Consulting</u> (thank you Justus) and <u>Garrety Glass</u>, for your life-changing gifts. If you work for or know of a business that has used devices, please share our contact information. We love having new partners in technology!

GARRETY GLASS, L-R:

Skyler, Kyhlian, Fanilya, and Jack

(not pictured, Ted and Linda Garrety, owners)

INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

JOIN OUR BOARD!

Are you passionate about our work? Are you curious, a big-picture thinker, creative and innovative? Connection Ubuntu is recruiting new 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 <u>contact</u> us and put BOARD MEMBER/Committee member in the subject line! Bonventure just joined us and we'd love to have more members like him who want to help us help others! Drop us a note... We would love to talk with you. Here is our Board Member Recruiting Document... <u>check it out</u>!

DONATE YOUR USED TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT!

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 <u>message</u>... *your donation is tax deductible... and keeps equipment out of our landfills!*

THE OFFICIAL CONNECTION UBUNTU MERCH STORE

STOP NEW ITEMS ADDED

Visit our <u>Online Store</u>... 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

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

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.

Providing computers to Africans

CONNECTION UBUNTU

www.ConnectionUbuntu.org   ConnectionUbuntu@gmail.com