

Zawadi*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

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* Zawadi is the Swahili word for “The Gift”

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CONNECTION UBUNTU!

We wish everyone a very healthy, happy and safe 2024. Last year was pretty amazing for us and we pray for an even better year for 2024. Ten years ago we started with one computer lab and we have now grown to 42. That’s quite an accomplishment and we know so many lives have been changed in these years, especially girls. They do not have the same opportunities for education as boys do, which is why we require 50% of the students be female. Our labs are doing well and we plan to add even more of them in April and October, with your help and support. We do especially well when we have monthly donors, guaranteeing incoming funds. If you would like to sign up to donate monthly, click [here](#). We can’t do this without you.



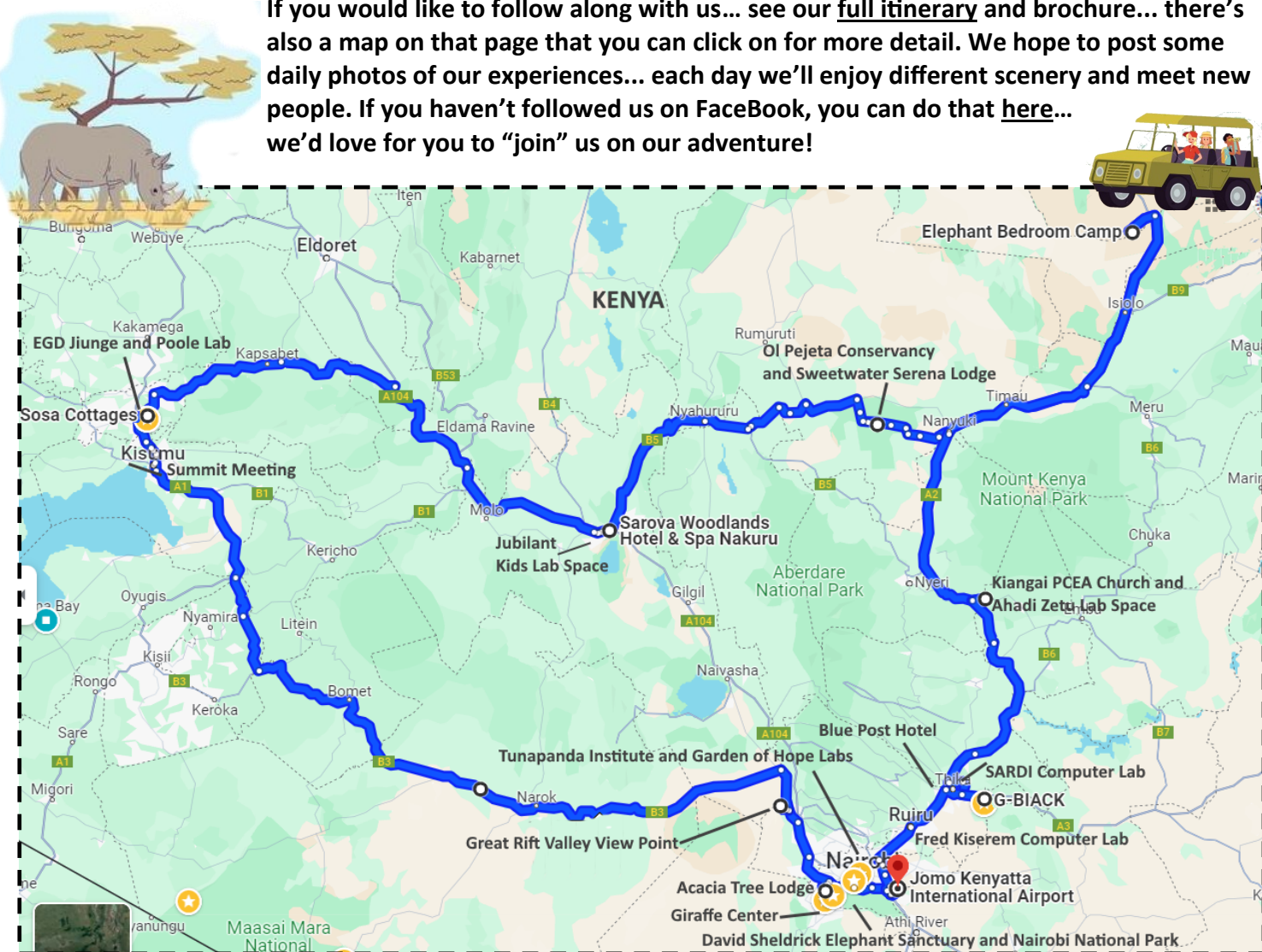
IT'S TRAVEL TIME!

There are 17 of us who are counting down our days before heading to Kenya... We depart on January 2nd! After planning for a year, the time has almost arrived. We will be visiting several of our current computer labs, as well as looking at a few potential new labs' spaces. We will share a Grand Opening ceremony with one of our new labs, SARDI, and spend some wonderful time at our very first computer lab, G-BIACK, who continues to empower a large number of students with their Girls Empowerment Program (GEP). We will be in Kenya for 16 days and would love your prayers for our safe travels.

Our travelers have all paid their way for this journey. We like to share this because all of the donated funds we receive go towards all of the Connection Ubuntu work. It's an expensive trip but these travelers understand how life-changing these labs are to the students. They are looking forward to seeing the labs in person, along with meeting our partners, who work so very hard to make sure their facilities are doing everything possible to help students get digital skills.

We are also having our "first ever" Partner Summit Meeting, in Kisumu, Kenya. About 32 of our computer lab directors will be in attendance. We hope this summit is informational and transformational for our partners and their computer labs. If you would like to download our agenda, it is [here](#). If you would like to know where our computer labs are located, here is a detailed [map and list](#).

If you would like to follow along with us... see our [full itinerary](#) and brochure... there's also a map on that page that you can click on for more detail. We hope to post some daily photos of our experiences... each day we'll enjoy different scenery and meet new people. If you haven't followed us on FaceBook, you can do that [here](#)... we'd love for you to "join" us on our adventure!



GRADUATES FROM RESCUE WING KENYA!

Rescue Wing Kenya held graduation for their computer class this past November. We are happy to share photos of their students. On average, they have between 30 to 70 female students in their classes so they not only meet our requirements of 50% girl students in the classroom, they have 100%! We're so proud of the work they do. They are located in the **Kakuma Refugee Camp**, in Kakuma, Kenya. Refugees in the Kakuma camp have real hurdles to get over due to government restrictions. See below:

1. Refugees are only allowed to make \$60 per month, and most people do not make even that much.
2. They must have written documents to leave the camp, which is not easily obtained.
3. Restricted movement of refugees results in reduced livelihood opportunities and contributes to reliance on humanitarian assistance.
4. Restricted movement leaves refugees with a sense of hopelessness. The inability to freely leave the camp kills their dreams, limits their thinking, and inhibits them from leading fulfilling lives.

As you can see, it is not an easy place to live and be prosperous. They do have schools, although they are terribly inadequate due to lack of teachers, and they also have health facilities, but these are just very basic. Because it is hard for refugees to get a pass to leave the camp, they do not have good resources for education and good health.

Rescue Wing Kenya and the other eleven computer labs we have in the Kakuma Refugee Camp are attempting to assist with the lack of education, especially digital literacy, and we are so proud of their work. Their biggest struggle is Wi-Fi for internet. This has a huge impact on the success of their students. Monthly cost of Wi-Fi for a lab is approximately \$65. As you can see, refugees don't even make this much in one month. If you would like to assist one of these labs with their cost of Wi-Fi, please contact us... we'll be happy to connect you with them! Your help will be life-changing!

Director, Erick Josue, shares these words, "Today is our ladies' day, opening a new chapter after receiving their certificate in Basic Computer Program. They took a new road of building a bright future and most of them have strong faith and big dreams to accomplish. Let's support them to plant the seeds of hope in their journey.



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER!

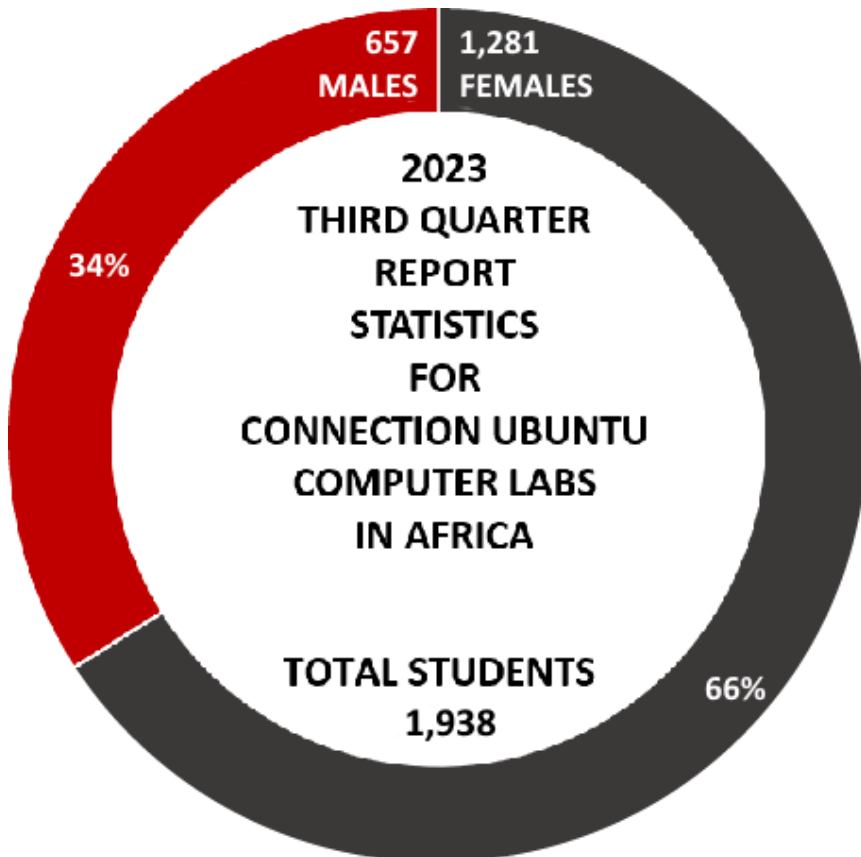


Dr. Wanja Ogongi joined our Board of Directors in November. She brings much to the table, not only by having a huge humanitarian background but by also being born and raised in Kiangai, Kenya.

As president of the Ahadi Zetu Foundation board of directors, Dr. Ogongi is a key thought leader and is responsible for directing the execution and fulfillment of the mission of the organization. Dr. Ogongi co-founded Ahadi Zetu with the goal of lifting the community out of poverty through provision of education. She views education as the backbone of a successful society and believes that every human being should have the right, privilege, and opportunity to get the best education possible. Professionally, Dr. Ogongi is an Assistant professor of Social Work at Millersville University in Pennsylvania. She graduated from the University of Nairobi with her B.A, earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) at West Chester University of Pennsylvania and her PhD in Social Work from Widener University.

Wanja brings to Connection Ubuntu great passion for the community we serve, along with knowledge of African culture and a strong skillset gained from over 15 years of social work practice years in a variety of settings. We are so excited to have her!

OUR QUARTERLY REPORT STATISTICS



These totals are for the months of August, September, October and November. We had 32 labs reporting from a total of 34 labs currently operating. We added seven new labs in October and their computers should arrive in January. Their first reporting period will be July of 2024. We require labs to have 50% female students and are thrilled to see that this quarter they have reached 66%!

In December, Community Refuge, Orphan, Disabled, Enable Vulnerable Unit (CRODEVU), Humanity Hands (formerly INVER), and LakeHub Academy were released from our 2 year requirements of providing quarterly computer lab reports. We wish them well for their futures. May they continue to change lives in their communities.

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 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

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

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."

