

# Zawadi\*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CONNECTION UBUNTU

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\* Zawadi is the Swahili word for "The Gift"

## OUR FIRST SUMMIT MEETING!

Our journey to Kenya targeted visits to our computer labs and prospective computer labs but the most important part of our trip was to engage our lab directors for the first Summit meeting where they would be able to network. And they came prepared! Out of our 41 computer labs, there were 32 labs represented, most from Kenya but two directors from Tanzania and one from Uganda. Sadly, our partners from Ghana, DRC, South Sudan and South Africa had the hurdle of logistics. We hope they are able to gain knowledge from our upcoming meetings and from notes taken at the Summit meeting.

**First row**—Willis, Obed (both EGD), Kiza (AREL), and Vicki (Founder of Connection Ubuntu)

**Second row**—Josphat (The CoTech), Joyce and Millicent (Sawa), Samuel (G-BiACK), Darr, Felix (Irene School), Linda, Joyce, Christine (Upendo), Naomi (EGD), Erick (Rescue Wing), Annette, Avril (Kakuma Bee Social), Carol and Dorothy (Sawa)

**Third row**—Dorcus (Rays of Hope), Samuel (TCF), Ramadhani (YEDA), Vincent (Unifamily), Bonne, (HSD), Carla (CU Board), Tonia, Deb (CU Board), Samuel (Ki4BLI), Belinda, Peninah (Sawa), Victor (Garden of Hope)

**Fourth row**—Jonathan (Joyland), Victor (Garden of Hope), Musa (LFA), Randy, Mary, Rochelle, Maulidi (Kishoka), Roger (Sawa)

**Fifth row**—Rogers (Activate Action), Wambua (Tunapanda), Annette (Garden of Hope), Naphtaly (EHPO), Walter (YIEN), Terry, Albert (Slumcode), Susan (CU Board), Ismail (Faulu), Fred (Kiserem), and Rusty



Our day began with introductions of our African partners and the Connection Ubuntu Travel team. We had speakers from three of our labs, Samuel from G-BiACK, Josphat from The CoTech and Dorcus from Rays of Hope. They all shared information about how they have become self-sustaining, along with the programs they run. We had a tea break which gave everyone the first chance to really network. After tea, Vicki talked to the group, explaining the importance of quarterly reports and the influence they give to each lab for future assistance and perks. Afterwards, other directors gave small pieces of information about their programs and how their labs are helping their communities. We then had a lunch break, again, with another opportunity for our group to share. In the afternoon, we broke into small groups by computer lab location, to discuss the hurdles for the labs and solutions to the issues. Finally, each group shared what their issues have been and how they hope to solve them. After this task, it was decided by all that the biggest hurdles is funding and no standard curriculum.

As a result, 3 teams were formed. They are:

1. **Connection Ubuntu Curriculum Planning Committee.** This team will meet until they have a curriculum developed. They will meet virtually, initially, and then G-BiACK has offered space for them to complete their work together. They will continue to address any new issues once the new curriculum is operational.
2. **Connection Ubuntu Community of Practice (CoP) Network.** This team will meet on an ongoing, indefinite basis to share ideas of how to become self-sufficient, along with any new information they believe can assist the labs' success. This team meets via Zoom and Vicki, as well as a few other board members and travelers, will participate in the Zoom meetings. The meetings take place every first Friday of the month.
3. **CU Refugee Camp Computer Labs.** This team will network and operate as a bit of a different entity because their hurdles are unlike those computer labs NOT in a refugee camp. They may need more assistance from Connection Ubuntu, to overcome their struggles. The computer lab directors from the refugee camps needed Vicki to write letters to get permission for them to leave the camps for this summit. For one young man, Eric Alouise, it had been 9 years since he was allowed to leave the camp.

As you can see from the photos many new friendships were made on this day. It was so very wonderful for the CU Board members to be able to hug and actually converse with these amazing people IN PERSON. It was such a momentous occasion. For Vicki, it was a dream come true and more, to share the day with the lab partners. We hope that all lives were changed by this wonderful time together and that the labs flourish with new-found ideas!



ABOVE: The Summit Meeting Attendees



Walter from YIEN, Uganda



Rogers, Samuel L., Obed, Albert, and Samuel N.



Kiza (AREL), Avril (KBS), and Vicki (CU)



Victor and Annette (Garden of Hope), Dianna



Morning Tea Sharing



Susan, Samuel N, Victor, Annette



Maulidi (Kishoka), Fred (Kiserem)



Nairobi/Mombasa Small Group



Small Group Discussions



Dorothy, Sawa Africa



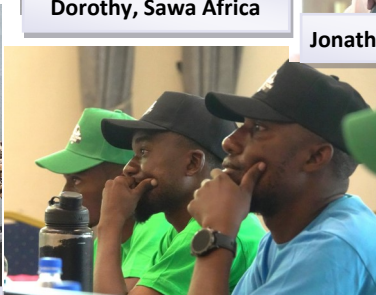
Jonathan, Joyland Prime



Bonne (HSD), Kisa (AREL), Ismail (Faulu)



Homa Bay/Kitale/Uganda Small Group



Musa (LFA), Erick (RWK), Maulidi



Sawa Africa (our coordinators) and Connection Ubuntu Teams



Small Group Discussions



Tanzania Small Group



Nairobi/Mombasa Small Group



Kakuma/Kalobeyei Refugee Camp Small Group



Samuel C., Ki4BL



Luanda/Thika/Maralal Small Group



Small Group Discussions



Dorcus, Rays of Hope



Small Group Discussions

# MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



We are excited to announce our newest Board member, Susan Raver! She was one of our travelers for our January trip. Susan's background in human services and communication will be great assets to our Board. She was our journalist for our 2024 travel team to Kenya (We will share more once it is complete!) and we are excited she has joined the CU team.

A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Mt. St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, Susan's career included Human Resource, Benefits, and Facility Management for Evapco, Inc. She was Health and Retirement Benefits Manager for Bon Ton Stores where she developed training programs for store H.R. Managers as well as managing contractual and regulatory compliance for Health and Retirement benefits. Her last job was Vice President, Communication Consultant, and Project Manager for Aon Hewitt, developing and implementing personalized communications that met a broad range of human resource needs. Since retirement, Susan has remained active as a Stephen Minister, Vice President of Everybody's Quilt Guild, and volunteer at Hanover Area Council of Churches.



# THANK YOU COMPUTER MINISTRY

Connection Ubuntu recently received a wonderful donation from Computer Ministry to assist our labs with power management. In Africa, there are numerous rolling blackouts, creating large issues with the computers. When the power goes out, the computers shut down unless they have working batteries. There are two options to assist with this, a generator and an APC (Advanced Process Control) unit. Each has its pros and cons.

The APC option has these benefits: Your power supply stays running with no interruptions. An APC also ensures maximum productivity, even during harsh weather, because your equipment stays running during a power failure. It protects your equipment during a power surge. Power surges are extremely harmful to electronics, especially computers. Any work you just completed will be saved. These units are like extremely large power banks.

The generator offers these benefits: A generator has higher power than an APC and can last longer due to being powered by gas or propane. There is only one safe generator type to run electronics and that is an inverter generator. These produce clean power whereas a cheap generator runs less efficiently and can damage computers. A generator can also power more computers than an APC.

Thanks to Computer Ministry and their very generous donation, some of our labs can purchase the appropriate power management equipment so that they can run more efficiently. We are extremely grateful for our partnership with Computer Ministry... they have truly been a god-send to us and our African partners.

Computer Ministry has also provided a link to Connection Ubuntu on their website, directing those in need of computers in Africa to us. You can find it on this [page!](#)



# 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!**



## 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."*

