

Kiwimbi International

2015 Annual Report

We see a world where all people are empowered through education to enrich their lives and reach their fullest potential. To accomplish this vision, our mission is to partner with underserved communities world wide to create educational opportunities through locally run learning centers.

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Kiwimbi is pleased to present our first Annual Report. We have come a long way since we began operations in 2012, and all we have accomplished is thanks to our supporters.

Thanks to you, this year we have:

- Received approval of our NGO in Kenya
- Expanded our Grade 8 academic and lunch program from one to three schools
- Established the western Kenya Cultural Heritage Museum
- Established two satellite libraries that, combined with the Kiwimbi Library, now reach 68 institutions
- Completed training of our first tailoring class
- Established our pottery program

**Kiwimbi**, Swahili for “a ripple” or “a wave”



We see our effort as a drop in the water that sends out ripples leading to natural growth and development: a plant growing with the help of the water and the red earth around it.

Thank you for making this possible.



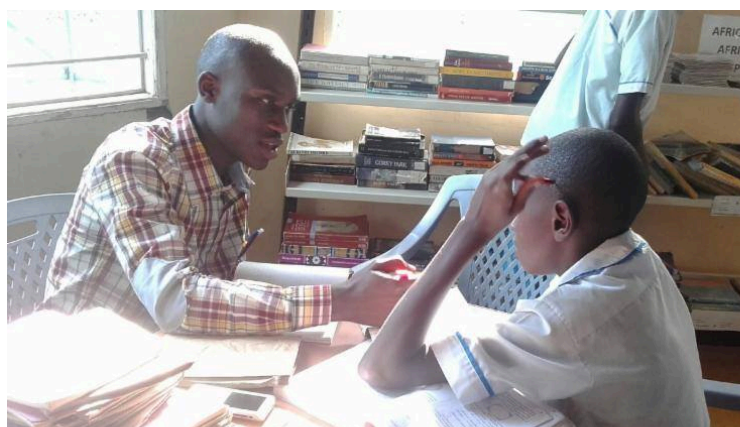
## The Kiwimbi Approach and Early Success

Kiwimbi focuses on communities with weak educational infrastructure. We began our work in the town of Amagoro located in Busia County in western Kenya. Our aid targeted students facing a high stakes national exam and created a community learning center.

### The Kiwimbi KCPE-Preparatory Program (KCPE-Prep)

Kenya requires all grade 8 students who wish to advance to secondary school to take the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam. This test, which is given only in English and not Swahili or the local language Teso, determines if students can advance to high school and the quality of school they may attend.

KCPE-Prep is a combination school-time and camp program that helps strengthen the academic skills of grade 8 students with particular focus on English and math. Kiwimbi provides teacher assistants and materials for the students, as well as lunch. Providing lunch is essential since it eliminates the need for students to walk, sometimes for miles, home mid-day for food, which may not actually be available once they get there.



### The Kiwimbi Library and Community Learning Center (Library)



In the spring of 2013 Kiwimbi established a physical presence in a building made available by Busia County. The Kiwimbi Library and Community Learning Centre is the first and only public library in the county and has become a hub for the community. It welcomes between 200 and 500 visitors each day, both school children and adults, seeking educational tools and broader knowledge that will help them improve their lives. Access to the library is free, which is critical in this low-income area.



## 2015 Accomplishments

Building on our previous efforts, Kiwimbi achieved an important organizational milestone in 2015 while adding new programs and expanding upon existing successes.

### Non-Governmental Organization Approval

The biggest news on a business level is that the community-based organization that we first created in Kenya was granted NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status by the Kenyan government. This is the equivalent of 501(c)(3) status in the United States and is critical to the long-term goals of the organization.

### Academic Support Programs

In 2015, we expanded our KCPE-Prep program from one school to three (Amagoro Primary, Agong'et Primary and Okuleu Primary) serving 200 students daily.

We ran two mentorship programs at local schools:

- **Women of Substance.** The goal is to foster self-confidence in young women and give them a neutral space in which to discuss current events, boy/girl relationships, women's roles in society and whatever else the girls choose.
- **Life Skills.** This program teaches basic life skills and public speaking. It is geared towards young men and women who have graduated from Secondary School and are currently students at the local Polytechnic.

We introduced outreach programs focusing on English literacy and public speaking at 33 schools (serving approximately 3,300 students).

With our partner, The Elewana Education Project, we ran the English Access program. This is an American Embassy Micro-scholarship program involving five different local Secondary Schools. Kiwimbi was approved as the most appropriate site to host the program. The goal is to enhance English literacy while inviting the students to become familiar with American history and culture. Eventually these students will have a chance to win a scholarship to a college in the U.S.

### Cultural Heritage Museum

Reflecting Kiwimbi's commitment to helping maintain the culture of the people we serve, we began collecting artifacts from Village Elders and others to establish a small Cultural Heritage Museum. The museum now contains treasures old and new that keep ethnic traditions alive. The museum also supports vocational training in otherwise dying arts.

### Library and Book Lending

Our library services now reach 68 institutions. To accommodate as many schools as possible, we established two satellite libraries. The main library at Malaba Township Primary serves 8 schools in the Malaba area. Kotur Satellite Lending library serves 5 very heavily populated schools. Teachers from nearby schools come to each of these libraries, as well as our main Library, to exchange books on a regular basis.



We also deliver books to schools that are much further afield using boda bodas (motor bikes) carrying boxes of the books requested. At the same time, each weekday the Kiwimbi Library welcomes four school classes to read and borrow books.



### Vocational Training

We ran programs in sewing and tailoring, fine arts, weaving, beading and agro-forestry, assisting approximately 175 students and adults.

The tailoring program in particular was a huge success with students reaching a level of aptitude that will enable them to make, sell and repair school uniforms locally, establishing their own income stream.

The fine arts program boasts ongoing participation of 150 students ~ its popularity reflects the lack of access to art in local schools. The program's goals include fostering the development of amateur artists and using art as a tool for creative learning in the local schools.

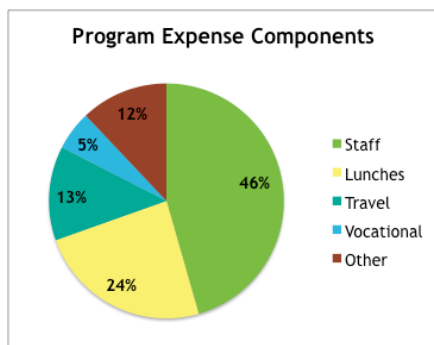
### Internships and Volunteers

Kiwimbi's interns are a group of vibrant young university students who return to Amagoro during school holidays to teach and mentor Kiwimbi campers and students. They receive a small stipend and an opportunity to develop their own English and reading skills.

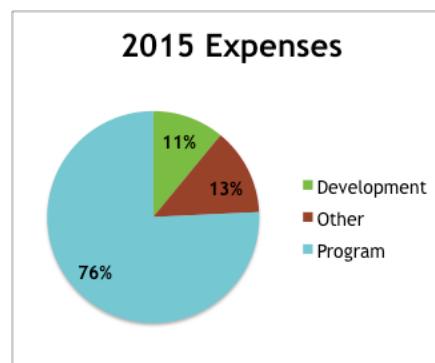
Kiwimbi relies on the generosity of volunteers from the community including parents, elders, and artisans, universities, and high schools. Approximately, 15,000 volunteer hours are logged each month.

## Optimizing the Use of Donors' Funds

Net donor contributions to Kiwimbi in 2015 were about \$136,000\* allowing Kiwimbi to fund program expenses and maintain an adequate reserve for future programs.



In 2015, Kiwimbi International sent \$89,000 to Kiwimbi Kenya including almost \$20,000 for student lunches at three primary schools.



\*This figure excludes \$10,000 paid directly to third parties for the benefit of the donors.



## Contributors to Kiwimbi International in 2015

THANK YOU!

We greatly appreciate the faith these donors have in Kiwimbi's ability to harness their contributions to change the lives of people in western Kenya through education.

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## Kiwimbi Karamu

Special thanks to all who participated in our first annual benefit, Kiwimbi Karamu ("Celebration" in Swahili)

### Kiwimbi Karamu Event Committee

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### Chemchemu Sponsors

Chemchemu (a spring of water found at the river's source) honors those who contributed at the highest level in support of Kiwimbi for this event.

Clifford Chance US LLP



Lynne and John Rathgeber

### Mti Sponsors

Mti (tree) honors those who contributed at our second sponsorship level.



Highbridge Capital Management



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### Mbegu Sponsors

Mbegu (seed) honors the base level sponsors for this event.



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## Invitation

Keep the vision alive! Let us know if you would like to join us. If you would like to contribute, send a check to:

Kiwimbi International  
P. O. Box 139  
New Vernon, NJ 07976

Or visit [Kiwimbi.org](http://Kiwimbi.org) and click on “Donate Now.” For more information, email us at [info@Kiwimbi.org](mailto:info@Kiwimbi.org).

*Kiwimbi International is a charitable organization under § 501(c)(3)  
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