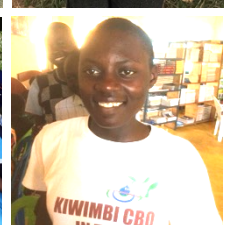
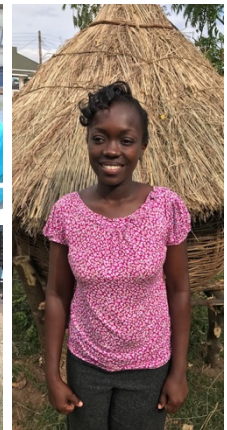
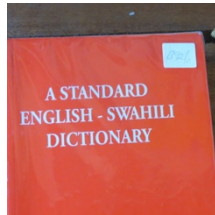


# Annual Report 2017



Kiwimbi International

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

In this day with the juxtaposition of “helicopter parents” and “free range children” in the U.S., this photo of Kenyan boys out collecting food for their rabbits points to a different world, a world where children are historically free range and caregivers (be they parents, grandparents, siblings, more distant relatives or concerned friends) struggle to provide a step-up in life.



Or what about these girls, fetching water from the river? Theirs can be a rich and beautiful life, especially when they are under the care of their community.



The communities where these children live are idyllic places in many ways but have no doubt that life can be a challenge as well. This is where you come in. Your support of Kiwimbi enables us to provide educational opportunities for children like these. We don't provide the rabbit food or fetch the water, but

we do provide resources locally that enable students to advance in school, young adults to learn a vocation, older people to read the news and educate themselves and volunteers to give back to their community.

With the resource of knowledge, these industrious youngsters can dream of college, learn how to build a well, earn a living that will enable them to buy modern tools to make their lives easier. In an area where the passing rate for the mandatory national exam that determines whether a student can progress to secondary school can be as low as 3%, Kiwimbi's programs literally change lives.

Kiwimbi is a Swahili word meaning “ripple” or “small wave”. Your support of our work enables us to touch individual lives in a remote area of sub-Saharan Africa. As you foster education for the child, that child is able to build a better life for herself, her family, their community, the country, like a ripple moving across a pond, spreading the wealth.

Thanks to your generosity, Kiwimbi has touched the lives of thousands. Our Library alone serves children at over fifty local schools that do not have access to books. Our teachers, such as Robert Ikedi and Daniel Otwane featured below, are direct beneficiaries of Kiwimbi programs that are aimed at imbuing students with knowledge, skills and attitudes for employability and entrepreneurship. Thanks to Kiwimbi, both Robert and Daniel are now college graduates.

Olubayi Olubayi, Executive Director

Lynne Rathgeber, Board Chair

## Kiwimbi

...Opportunity through Education

### Mission

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.

[www.kiwimbi.org](http://www.kiwimbi.org)

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# PROGRAM UPDATE

Kiwimbi focuses on communities with weak educational infrastructure. We began our work in the western Kenyan town of Amagoro in Busia County. Our goals of improved educational achievement, vocational readiness and enhanced cultural awareness are addressed through programs provided at our Community Center and Library and other knowledge resources.

Kiwimbi's work is accomplished through the joint efforts of two organizations: Kiwimbi International (KI), a U.S. non-profit 501(c)(3) and the all-Kenyan Kiwimbi Kenya (KK), an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization). U.S.-based KI raises funds and provides professional support to Kenyan staff. KK has all operational and management responsibilities including identifying and hiring staff and teaching assistants, procuring and preparing lunches, managing the Community Center and Library, and creating supplemental programs for both schools and the community.



## Community Center and Library



*Students working on assignments*

In the spring of 2013, Kiwimbi established a physical presence in a building made available by Busia County in Kenya, the Kiwimbi Community Center and Library. It is the first free public library in the county and has become a hub for the town of Amagoro and surrounding villages. Free access is critical in this low-income area, increasing the Library's impact far beyond that of fee-based libraries. The Library welcomes between 200 and 500 visitors each day, both school children and adults,

seeking educational tools and broader knowledge. Kiwimbi uses the Library as a center for a myriad of programs ranging from strictly educational to vocational and cultural.



*Local artist decorates a Library wall.*

The Library contains over 20 e-readers with the texts of the Kenyan curriculum for Grade 8 students. With e-readers, internet access, magazines, over 20,000 volumes, a museum and art exhibits, the Community Center and Library provides an enriched environment for both students and townspeople.

Through various arrangements, over 50 other schools use the resources of the Community Center and Library. Kiwimbi has also established two satellite libraries to meet the insatiable demand. Indeed, some schools are so far away that books and materials are couriered to them

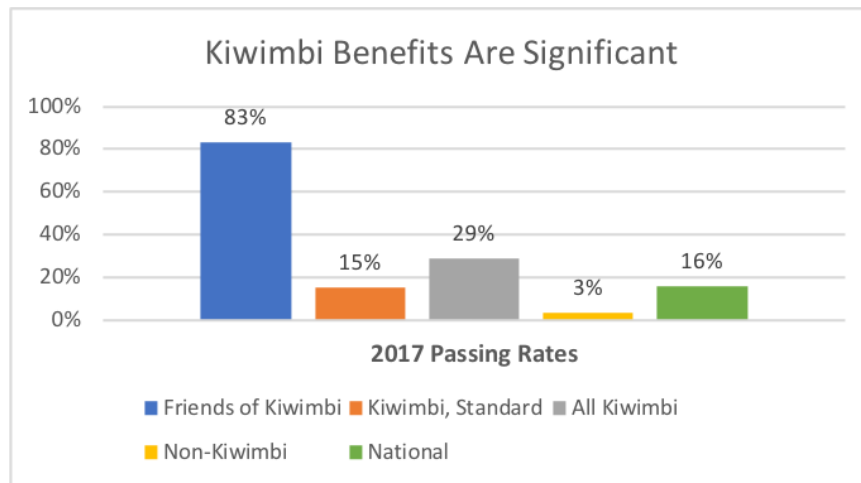
from Amagoro using boda boda motorbike taxis.

This popularity comes with another challenge: space has run out at the Community Center and Library in Amagoro. As Kiwimbi serves an ever-growing user base, it is apparent that the building is too small, and the layout of the building doesn't support the multiple kinds of services that could be provided in a more intentionally designed building. In fact, our carpentry program is actually run off-site in a rented building. We are developing a new property that will enable us to more fully address our goals and the educational needs of the community.



*The museum provides an opportunity to connect to a past and present that is rapidly being erased by modern culture.*

## Measures of Success



Kiwimbi first started its academic program in partnership with Amagoro Primary School in 2012. Amagoro Primary has thus benefited the longest from our programs and our success at Amagoro Primary demonstrates potential for a larger impact if we could extend our efforts. Overall, about 29% of students participating in Kiwimbi's KCPE Exam Prep program passed the KCPE exam in 2017 while nationally only 16% passed (and the national figure includes elite private schools and the top city schools). Another contrast: only 3% of students from similar rural schools in the general vicinity passed the exam. The social impact is significant because those who do not pass the KCPE exam cannot go to secondary school, so are limited in their ability to provide for themselves and their families. This means that they are often relegated to a life of subsistence farming or a desperate move to the slums of

Nairobi to try to eke out an existence in an area notorious for its unemployment, poverty and crime.

Kiwimbi continues to experiment with supplemental teaching programs and strategies. To show the value of more individual attention, we created the "Friends of Kiwimbi" program. This provides one-on-one after-school tutoring to a group of 20 students randomly selected at the beginning of the school year from those demonstrating an ability to meet participation requirements. The test results for these students demonstrate the positive impact this more intensive education provides. **Fully 100% passed the 2017 exam, with a median score 35% higher than that of Amagoro Primary students overall.**

Recognizing that all students can benefit from tailored teaching strategies, Kiwimbi introduced ability-based teaching in 2014.

Students are divided into three academic groups. Teachers then focus their attention differently for each group to assure that students are appropriately challenged, with additional support provided to those in the weakest group. The success of this change in teaching strategy is shown by the sustainable 12% increase in the lowest scores on the KCPE exam.

## Vocational



*The tailoring program is moving from success to success.*

Even with Kiwimbi students' high passing rate on the KCPE exam, the large majority of students do not have the opportunity to attend secondary school. To meet the needs of these children, Kiwimbi has developed a variety of vocational training programs including art, carpentry and tailoring. The tailoring program provides students with the skills needed to pass a national practical exam. In 2016, all of Kiwimbi's tailoring students were certified and passed the exam. They can do piece work, repairs and, significantly, make complete school uniforms. This means that when they leave Kiwimbi they are in a position to make uniforms for surrounding schools. This steady market provides an opportunity for these young adults to establish a livelihood.



## PROFILES

Daniel Otwane



- **Manager Kiwimbi Kenya Library, Amagoro.**
- **B.E.A. (English, Literature and History)**

When Daniel first came to the Kiwimbi Library, he was thrilled to find KCSE exam preparation materials, and was encouraged to set his sights on a university degree. He improved his communication skills and gained confidence in his own abilities. And, of course, he read countless novels, newspapers and other materials now available to him for the first time. He came to work for us and has invested his salary in a brick building project. Through his income from that, he has paid his full educational expenses at university. Not only that, but he is covering the cost of his younger brothers' and sisters' school fees as well. He tells us, "Kiwimbi has been my true leadership school" and cites how his village background, with illicit brewers and poverty has been overcome to the point that he is now a role model in his village, with plans for attaining a Masters degree in Education.

Robert Ikedi



- **Education Officer Kiwimbi Kenya Library, Amagoro**
- **BSC (Physics major and Mathematics minor University of Eldoret class of 2016)**

In 2013, Kiwimbi opened our Library in Amagoro, Kenya, and very soon people were flocking in. One of those people was a first-year university student home for a school break, Robert Ikedi. He was so thrilled to see all the books that he shocked those around him by screaming – and then proceeded to spend the next four months seated in a corner of the Library reading as many books as he could. Since then, he has finished his university degree and is seeking a masters. He came to work at Kiwimbi, where he serves as our Education Officer. Robert's expertise in math and physics means he is ideally suited to help with those subjects in the local schools. He mentors students at St. Thomas Amagoro Girl's Secondary School in math and physics. Until Kiwimbi came to town, St. Thomas had never managed to graduate a young woman into college – that has changed now in no small part due to Robert. He also tutors students at the local branch of KCA University in calculus and algebra. And for all his passion for math and physics, he also writes and acts. He credits Kiwimbi with supporting him through mentorship (which he has put to good use in mentoring others), teaching him about the importance of giving back to society, enabling him to cover school fees for his younger brother and three sisters and giving him the opportunity to act and present to the Kenyan literary giant, Ngugi wa Thiong'o.

Kiwimbi has thrived thanks to those who give back to their communities. We say a special "Asante!" to Christine Duffy, Kate Marchese and Pro Bono Partnership

([www.probonopartner.org](http://www.probonopartner.org)) for their invaluable assistance throughout 2017. We also thank: R. Shane Kagan of Jackson Lewis, P.C., Niamh Marie Blumentals of Amdocs, Inc., and Angela Walker, Darren A. Jackson and William R. Baker III of Latham & Watkins LLP, as well as their firms for their most generous pro bono legal work for us.



**VOLUNTEER LAWYERS  
STRENGTHENING NONPROFITS  
AND OUR COMMUNITIES**

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

## Spending



**\$48,613**  
Salaries

**\$27,925**  
Lunches

**\$4,185**  
Library Operations

**\$2,401**  
Teaching Supplies

**\$18,960**  
Other

The majority of our salary expense pays for teaching and library aides.

Lunches are a critical part of our educational support efforts. Without the free lunch that we provide to the Grade 8 students at three local schools, they would need to walk home for a chance of lunch. This is often miles away from the schools.

## Balance Sheet

Cash	\$77,621
Prepaid Expenses	\$30,777
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$108,398</b>

Total Liabilities	\$861
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$107,537</b>

We are carrying a large cash reserve in anticipation of capital expenses as we build our Community Center in Amagoro. Also, most of our funding comes at the end of the year creating a cash balance adequate to fund anticipated spending throughout the year.



### Matching Gifts

Automatic Data Processing, Inc.  
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Corporate matching gifts can be an easy way to increase the impact of your gift. Please check with your company's benefits area to see if this is an option for you.

## It's a Karamu!



"Karamu" means celebration in Swahili. We invite you to our party celebrating the changes our supporters have made in the world!

**Saturday, November 3, 2018**  
**7:00 pm.**

Top chefs from Highlands Dinner Club will create a Kenya-inspired food experience.

This year we are thrilled to include one of our teachers who will talk to you about opportunities gained from Kiwimbi.

We are also featuring musician and author, Patrick Kabanda. Patrick will not only serve as our musician for the evening, but he will also share his book *The Creative Wealth of Nations*, available for sale.

**Don't forget to save the date!**



**Kiwimbi**

...Opportunity through Education





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**Chemichemi - Swahili for spring of water found at the river's source**

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**Mti - Swahili for tree**

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