

ACCESS



EDUCATION



OPPORTUNITY

Kiwimbi International Report to the Community Annual Report 2019



kiwimbi®

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board members, employees and volunteers of Kiwimbi, and especially on behalf of the children and families we serve, we thank you!

Thank you for believing in the power of education to transform lives. Thank you for choosing to invest in Kiwimbi and for helping to nurture a fertile environment that is growing the next generation. Thank you for understanding the potential of lives so far removed from our own. The child learning to read at the Kiwimbi Community Learning Center will use your gift to create a future that would otherwise be beyond her reach or even her imagination. The mother learning how to feed her family with simple changes to her farming methods, the young man learning to build furniture, the aspiring artist who has gained access to resources and a teacher, all these and many more have a new vision of the future thanks to your generosity!

Thank you for changing lives.

Lynne C. Rathgeber
Board Chair

Olubayi Olubayi
Executive Director



Transforming Lives

Encouraging Education

We see a world where all people are empowered through education to enrich their lives and reach their fullest potential

Since 2012, Kiwimbi, with your support, has been working to change the world. We began by focusing our efforts in one corner of Africa to create educational opportunity.

School children in Busia County in rural western Kenya have the worst grades on national exams of children anywhere in the country. In some communities, only 3% of the students actually pass the exams - and that means that 97% of the children in those communities can't continue in school beyond Grade 8.



Why? Too few academic resources, crowded classrooms with too few teachers, no books, no access to computers or art supplies, no exposure to differentiated learning – one teacher in front of a class of 50, 70 or more, no substitute if she is sick that day...

Kiwimbi provides

- access to books
- teaching assistance
- staff at our Library ready to read with the kids, check their comprehension, work with them individually and in camp settings on their language and math skills, expose them to a world beyond the limitations of the village
- for Grade 8 at three schools (about 160 children in 2019, school lunch and additional services (KCPE-Prep program)

How does Kiwimbi help?

In 2019:

72 schools had access to books through our Library or one of 3 satellite libraries. That translates to more than 46,000 students with access to books who didn't have them before Kiwimbi!

Kiwimbi was able to focus our efforts to varying degrees:

Grade 8 students at 3 schools benefited from our KCPE (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) Prep program – with school lunch, in-school assistance and educational camp programs. The result? 40% of those students passed the exam – compared with 3% of similarly situated students who don't have the benefit of Kiwimbi's resources. And, when Kiwimbi has been able to provide even more focused support to small groups, nearly 100% pass!

What about everyone else?

Kiwimbi's Vocational Training program has enabled 25 students to learn a skill that they can use to support themselves and their families.

Kiwimbi's art lessons - 750 monthly (that's 9,000 annually), including in schools where we provide the teacher and the tools that are not otherwise available. Many of those are repeats – students who can't resist coming back for more, with special slots on the weekends for the most talented.

FOOD and AGRICULTURE

🍷 Lunches:

Since the beginning of our work in Kenya, the link between food and education has been clear. Kids who walk home for lunch which may or may not include valuable protein and, in fact, may or may not be available, are not able to excel in school no matter how good the teacher, no matter how many resources Kiwimbi offers. So we offer a simple lunch with the sustenance children need to make it through the day and focus on their studies.



🍷 Agroforestry:

The pressure to clear trees to create farmland is a fact of life among subsistence farmers. The impact of doing so can be devastating as soil erodes and crops fail to thrive. Kiwimbi committed in 2013 to demonstrating how it is possible to grow crops while maintaining trees, using complementary plantings to meet the immediate needs of farmers while also maintaining valuable resources for the future. After all, today's sapling, costing pennies, becomes a harvestable tree worth \$100 in ten years. This means that one tree will more than cover school expenses for a family – it just takes a understanding and planning!

🍷 Education:

This is a land of farmers, but as available farmland has become more scarce year-by-year due to population growth, traditional ways are not always the best way to feed a family. The Hunger Season, when produce has run out before new food is readily available, dominates lives. Irregularities in seasonal rainfall due to climate change can mean the difference between crop success and failure.

Organic methods, traditional plant varieties, diversity coupled with focus on efficient use of resources can make all the difference to small farmers. Kiwimbi's Agonomist is offering small group training in our demonstration lot. Those who participate receive seeds to take home and grow on their own.



🍷 Growing our Own::

In 2019, Kiwimbi Kenya began growing some of our own food on newly acquired land. This enables us to reduce the cost of procuring food for our lunch program and also to demonstrate productive growing techniques.

In the United States, Kiwimbi is a charity, one of many that might seek your support. In western Kenya, thanks to you, Kiwimbi is transformative. Your support has enabled villagers not only to create a more secure future for themselves, but to see a world where they can make a difference.

BOOTSRAAPS

People want to be able to support themselves – they don't want handouts. Kiwimbi's goal is to provide people with the intellectual resources they need to create the future they want for themselves. By design, we began with funding from resources in the USA. The plan: to enable individuals and the Kenyan organization to take over the educational development.

2019 was a turning point:

- Kiwimbi Kenya held its first Karamu benefit in Nairobi (complete with a wide assortment of supporters, delicious Kenyan food, speakers, representatives from Kenya's parliament and the US Embassy). As in the USA, these evenings involve a significant amount of work, planning and inspired giving. In this case, we had Kenyan board members, many volunteers, institutional support and a giving basket.
- *The Giving Basket:* Kiwimbi provides services far from Nairobi in a poor, rural area of western Kenya. Nairobi can be very cosmopolitan and expensive and most of the people with whom we work in western Kenya cannot afford to even go to Nairobi, much less purchase tickets for a fundraiser.

But they gave. They gave of their time to create saleable items to be presented to attendees. They gave of their imaginations to create an event that they could not attend. And they gave their own money to support the endeavor created for their benefit.

Village elders, Kiwimbi employees and volunteers, recognizing that Kiwimbi is there for them and their community, reached into their pockets to pull out their own shillings so that they too could make a statement of support for Kiwimbi's efforts. And they passed that basket around again and again until all those in the room had contributed, and contributed more than once!





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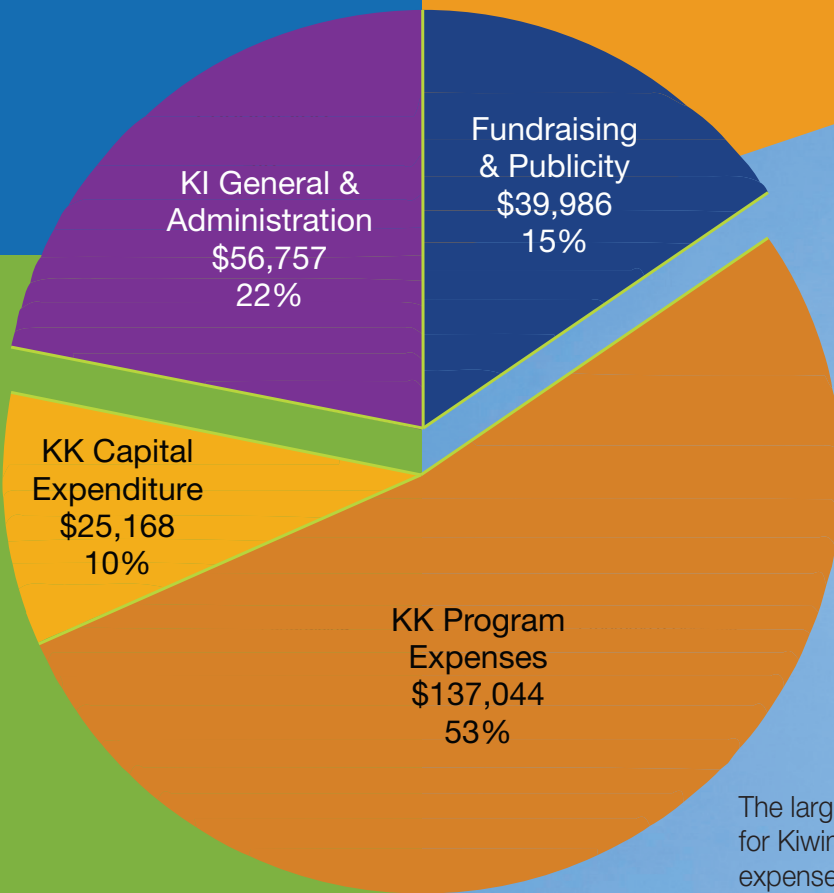




Annual Report 2019

By-the-Numbers

FY 2019 Expenses: \$258,955*



The largest expense categories for Kiwimbi Kenya are staff expenses (45%) and lunch program expenses (21%)

- 22 schools serviced by Kiwimbi every week
- 225 students and 35 staff members receiving lunch daily
- over 46,000 students with access to books thanks to Kiwimbi
- 2880 hours logged by Kenyan volunteers
- 13 varieties of vegetables grown at KK's demonstration farm
- 24 villages reached through Kiwimbi's services
- 4 independent organizations in Kenya replicating our model

“Education is the **key to unlock** **the golden door** of freedom”

George Washington Carver, American Botanist, Inventor and Former Slave

In 2019, more than 300 individual donors, foundations, corporate partners, and local businesses contributed to the Kiwimbi, giving students that treasured key to unlock the door to new opportunities that will improve the quality of their lives and the lives of their families and communities.

Kiwimbi gratefully acknowledges our loyal donors, who supported our efforts in 2019

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* Thank You to Our Food for Thought Monthly Donors -
your commitment is inspiring!



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* Thank You to Our Food for Thought Monthly Donors - your commitment is inspiring!

GIVING

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Lucy Mwangi
Joan Ngugi
Vera Nyajure
Imani Ouko
Malaika Ouko
Ramogi Ouko
Ishani Sengupta
Naomi and Paul Slozat
Nancy Weed



Thank You All!

On behalf of the families we serve, we sincerely thank you for your support. We worked hard to ensure that the information presented here is accurate. If you have any questions, comments, or corrections, please let us know. We can be reached at: 440-549-4624 (that's 440-KIWIMBI) or info@kiwimbi.org. Kiwimbi International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Kiwimbi

. . . Opportunity through Education

Our Mission: To partner with underserved communities world wide to create educational opportunities through locally run learning centers

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