



# KIWIMBI INTERNATIONAL 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





2024 was a year to adapt and grow. We have continued to support our 95 partner schools, while creating new opportunities at our Library and Community Learning Center. Pictured are children right before receiving their “shoes that grow” through our new partnership with **Because International.**

While I reviewed Kiwimbi's 2024 accomplishments, I was struck by all the ways in which we have adapted to changing circumstances in order to meet our mission. Indeed, adaptation has been a defining characteristic of our work since we first began operating in 2012, lacking even a building to call our own. Thanks to our brilliant, dedicated, and imaginative team in Kenya, Kiwimbi has always adapted to changing circumstances, improving understanding. Children needed lunches to help them stay in school for the day; Kiwimbi started providing lunches. Schools far from our main Library begged for books; Kiwimbi set up school libraries. Carpentry students couldn't come to class early because they needed to work on the farm; Kiwimbi began classes later. Tailoring students were unable to participate because they had young children; Kiwimbi created a pre-school. The list goes on and on.

In 2024, a dream came true and Kiwimbi received a grant for a computer lab, so we set aside precious space to accommodate 50 new computers and the hundreds who are learning to use them. In 2024, the whole structure of the Kenyan curriculum was changed and national exams that had been critical for Grade 8 students were eliminated. Kiwimbi used that time to double our math support and to begin preparing students for the new Grade 9 exams. In 2024, the Peace Corps returned to our area, and Kiwimbi was instrumental in helping the new volunteers settle in and understand the needs of the community. In 2024, Because International approached us about giving away a shoe that grows – one that will serve a growing, barefooted child for years instead of months; now these shoes are part of the school uniform at one of the poorest schools we serve.

No matter how hard we tried, Kiwimbi could not have adapted or empowered so many to improve their futures without your trust and support. Those we serve are incredibly grateful for the people and institutions that are helping them change their futures. It is on their behalf that I thank you for all that you have already helped us to accomplish, and I hope you will stay tuned and continue to support this work as we continue to adapt!

Lynne Rathgeber  
Board Chair

## WHAT WE DO

Kiwimbi's **vision** is a world where all people are empowered through education to enrich their lives and reach their fullest potential. To achieve this vision, our **mission** is to partner with underserved communities to create educational opportunities through locally run libraries and community learning centers.

The **Kiwimbi Library** is the home for everything we do. It is where we maintain a collection of books for students and community members of all ages, from which we coordinate our teaching assistants who go into local classrooms, provide a daily lunch to the students in our Prep for Success program, run vocational programs for young adults, train community members in sustainable kitchen garden techniques, teach computer literacy, organize the distribution of books to 90 of our partner schools, and more!

None of this could be accomplished without our supporters. Your gifts are the ultimate catalyst of **opportunity through education**.



# Project Redwood

## Digital Skills

### Kiwimbi Kenya



Computer literacy is critical to participating in an increasingly digital world. **Project Redwood** provided a grant to create Amagoro's first public computer lab in Kiwimbi's main Library, where over 200 students hone their digital skills daily. The Lab also provides training to interested members of the wider community.

# YOUR IMPACT



## Educational



- 90 of our partner schools (over 50,000 students) received a rotating collection of books

- 1,800+ students participated in literacy lessons each week



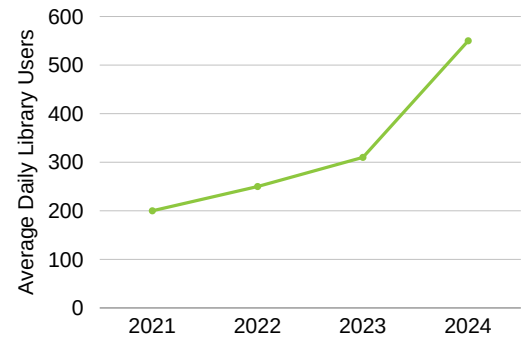
- 225+ grade 9 students received intensive year-long preparation for a national academic exam

- 40 students supported in small group tutoring sessions daily

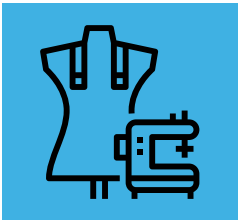


- 182 teaching assistants went to local schools to decrease student to teacher ratio

*Because of you, Kiwimbi is able to run programs that truly make a difference!*



## Vocational



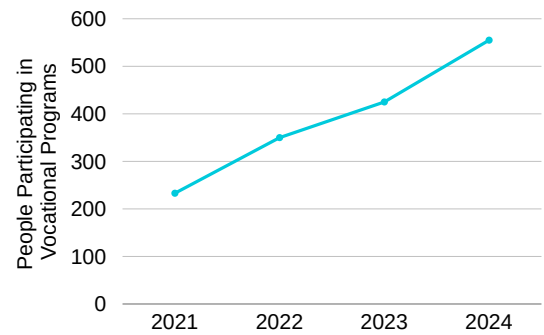
- 30 students learned tailoring at 3 different levels

- 100% of the last tailoring cohort to take the national certification exam passed

- 4 carpentry students prepared for national exam

- 10 students enrolled in carpentry program

- 500+ students participated in art lessons throughout the year



## Nutritional

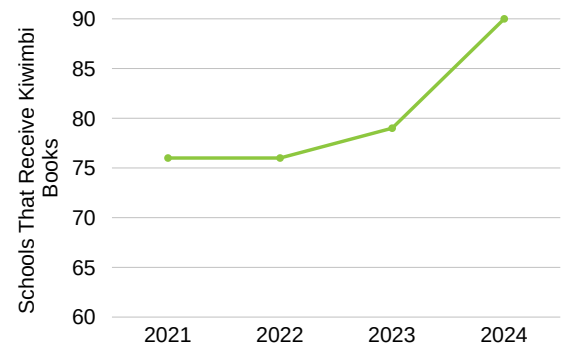


- \$25,000 in grant funding awarded to expand our demonstration garden with indigenous plants and farming techniques

- 200+ women projected to participate in Agri-Nutrition program learning healthy, sustainable kitchen & gardening techniques



- Hundreds of daily lunches provided for vocational students, volunteers, Library staff and students at our 3 Focus Schools.,



# DONORS & SUPPORTERS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the many individuals, foundations, corporations, and local businesses who provided opportunity through education with their gifts in 2024.

## \$25,000 and Above

Lynne and John Rathgeber  
Project Redwood  
Roy A. Hunt Foundation  
Jane Steele

## \$10,000-\$24,999

David Arthur and Nancy Hoffart  
Helen and William Mazer Foundation  
Ibu Foundation  
Carolyn and Christopher Layden  
Maurice and Colleta Onyuka  
Divon and William Rathgeber  
Carol Ulmer and Ken Degen  
Janet and Daniel Van Abs

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

Grania and George Allport  
Pamela Canada  
Wayne and Jess Paglieri  
The John and Susan Dewan Foundation  
Prestige Invitational

## \$2,500 - \$4,999

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Alliance Bernstein  
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Terri Geiger  
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Carol and Gary Levin  
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Donna Baier Stein  
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## \$1,000 - \$2,499

Lisa and Nate Allison  
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Elizabeth Anderson  
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Jack Crowell  
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Jill Husbands  
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Susan and Patrick Palmer  
Colette and Joseph Parsons  
Santanu Sengupta  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parish Life Guild  
TIAA- CREF  
Vasudha and Nirman Tulsyan  
Rebecca Wilson

## \$500 - \$999

American Express  
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Etsuko and Edward Newman  
Sonja and Robert Rickert  
Lois Roszko  
Susan and Joe Salsberry  
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Emily and Lowell Wenger

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Lynne Rathgeber - *Chair*  
Janet Van Abs - *Vice-Chair*  
Maurice Onyuka - *Treasurer*  
Pamela Canada - *Secretary*

## Trustees

Elizabeth Anderson  
Donna Greco  
Christopher Layden  
Olubayi Olubayi  
Martin Ouko  
John Rathgeber  
Jane Steele

## Key Personnel

Lisa Connell - *Director of Development & Communications*  
Salima Lihanda - *Grant Writer*  
Catherine Malalah - *General Manager, Kiwimbi Kenya*

## Monthly Donors

*We are so grateful for your enduring support!*

Automatic Data Processing  
Kate and Zach Bills  
Pamela Canada  
Todd Casey  
Erin Divers  
Terri Geiger  
Alyssa and Joseph McCrea  
Lucy Mwangi  
Lynne and John Rathgeber  
Emily and Lowell Wegner

*Thank you to all our donors who gave up to \$500. We truly appreciate your support!*



Join us in support of  
our mission.

*Kiwimbi International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!

Aiden Arienta - Bruce Beyer - Deborah Boggio - Ryan Cheong-A-Shack - Sophie Connell - Karen Connell - Oscar Correia - Rose Costello - Susan Crane - Molly Culot - Tracy Formisano - Brian Haggarty - Beth Livermore Hersch - Michele Hill - Henry Ingrey - Vasmi Jandhyala - Yunia Kuzumaki - Carolyn & Christopher Layden - Hannah Layden - Zach Layden - Mark Leggiero - Aiden Machin - Jolane McCartney - Mia Morse - Joan Ngugi - Ryan O'Connor Esq. - Ife Osaga-Odondo & Edward Odondo - Othmane Oumnad - Samuel Rios Villagra - Lois Roszko - Austin Shackelton - Ada Sosorsuren - Anna Walz - Lisa M. Yennella-Granese Esq.

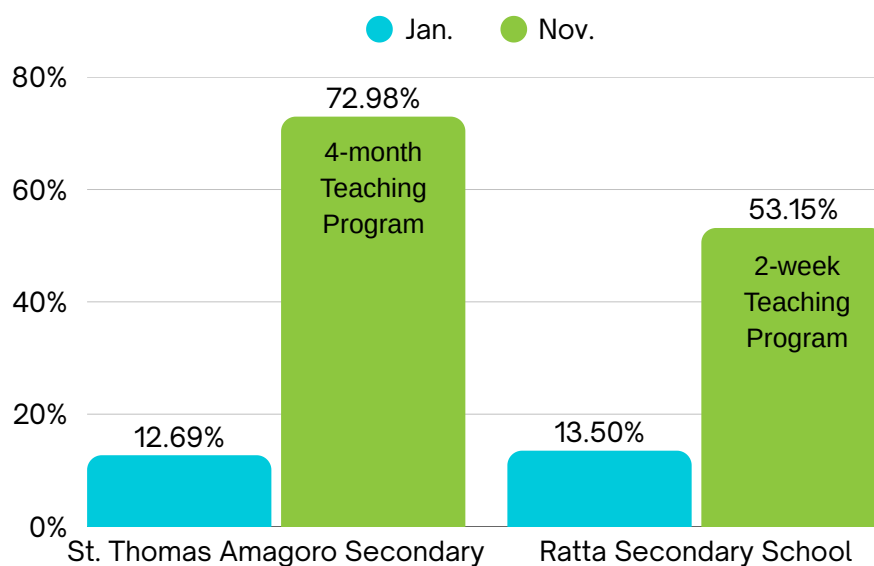
Because International - Bruce and Teresa Beyer - Irene Breznak - Marie Casarella - Chatham Day School - Lisa Connell - Seane Corn - Oscar Correia - Noemi and Sajal Das - Patricia Godoy - Google - Lexa Hillyer and Charles Grantham - Deborah Herman and Jeff Steinhorn - Highlands Dinner Club - Carolyn and Christopher Layden - Ken Murunga - Maurice and Colleta Onyuka - Ife Osaga-Ondondo and Edward Ondondo - Pauline Pinnock - Randazzo Bakery - Lynne and John Rathgeber - Lois Roszko - Jane Steele - Jacqueline Welsh - Lesli Woodruff

## PIVOTING PRIORITIES

Kiwimbi is constantly adapting to an ever-changing environment. Whether it's a change in the education system or in the buildings where we house our programs, we strive to continue to reach as many students as possible and provide ample new opportunities.

When Kenya's curriculum overhaul shifted primary graduation timelines, we strategically pivoted our mentorship efforts to Grade 12 students at St. Thomas Amagoro and, at the request of the Governor of Kisumu County, Ratta Secondary School. Recognizing that end-of-year exams determine students' college and career opportunities, Kiwimbi staff delivered intensive math boot camps that dramatically improved passing rates. St. Thomas students, benefiting from our library's proximity, received four months of continuous instruction, while Ratta students experienced remarkable progress in just two weeks. These results demonstrate Kiwimbi's proven ability to adapt quickly and deliver transformative educational impact when students need it most.

% of Students Passing Final Exams



### Meet Prince, A Student Supported by Kiwimbi's Programs

*"Kiwimbi is a social Library where all are welcome. Kiwimbi provides teachers to my school to help in guidance and counseling, in learning to read and write, and in other subjects like French. We are offered clean water and a delicious lunch which we really appreciate. The Library provides all kinds of books for beginners and those who can read well. Different sports are offered here including chess, golf and basketball.*

*As I grow up and become a successful person I would like to help in managing the future of Kiwimbi."*





**KIWIMBI COMMUNITY CENTRE  
& LIBRARY AMAGORO**  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUSIA

**From Farm to Plate we Nourish**  
*Sustainability starts with organic farming*

**The Roy A. Hunt Foundation** provided a grant to kickstart our Agri-nutrition program serving mothers and families. Kiwimbi hopes to expand organic farming practices and the use of indigenous seeds to the community to fight hunger in the area.

# NEW INITIATIVES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES



## Project Redwood

Project Redwood granted Kiwimbi our largest single grant ever - \$40,000! We used \$30,000 of that to establish a computer lab that includes 50 laptops with internet access, a printer, and headsets. The computer lab is outfitted with furniture made by Kiwimbi's own carpentry students. The lab gives the incredible opportunity for digital literacy not only to the 200+ students in our focus schools but also to the Kiwimbi staff and interested adults of all ages in the wider community. The balance of the grant supported general program expenses.

## Roy A. Hunt Foundation

The Roy A. Hunt Foundation provided Kiwimbi Kenya with a \$25,000 grant to support our agri-nutrition program which provides instruction, equipment and indigenous seeds to over 200 local women, teaching them new techniques that they can apply to grow nutritious food for their families and expand understanding of farming potential locally.

## Because International

In 2024, Because International, creators of "the shoe that grows," reached out to Kiwimbi during their search for good partners who knew of a need for shoes in communities or schools in Kenya. After they visited with our staff at the Library, they knew they had found that partner and soon returned to distribute 2,000 pairs of shoes to the children at our focus schools! The distribution plans for 2025 are even more ambitious, stay tuned!

## Peace Corps, Colgate University, and Wooster College

Several young volunteers made a big impact with their contributions. The Peace Corps returned to rural Kenya, bringing several skilled individuals into Kiwimbi's network. Students from Colgate University and Wooster College partnered with Kiwimbi as teaching interns, working on the ground in Kenya as well as remotely offering assistance with marketing and communications.

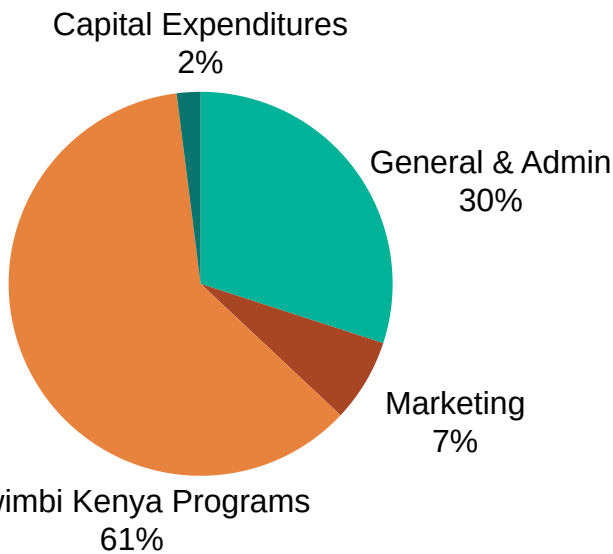
## Expansion to New Schools

In 2024, the Kenyan educational system transitioned to a new curriculum called the Competency Based Curriculum that included a new Junior Secondary division for grades 7-9. This meant that the students in grade 8, that have been the focus of our Prep for Success Program, did not have the mandatory national exam, and would instead be tested at the end of grade 9. The Kiwimbi staff quickly adapted, and provided support to grade 12 students at neighboring St. Thomas Amagoro Girls School and by special request from the Governor of Kisumu County, at Ratta Secondary School. Kiwimbi staff also trained the teachers at both schools in the techniques that were used to improve student achievement so the work can continue when we refocus back to our regular population of primary school children preparing for national exams.

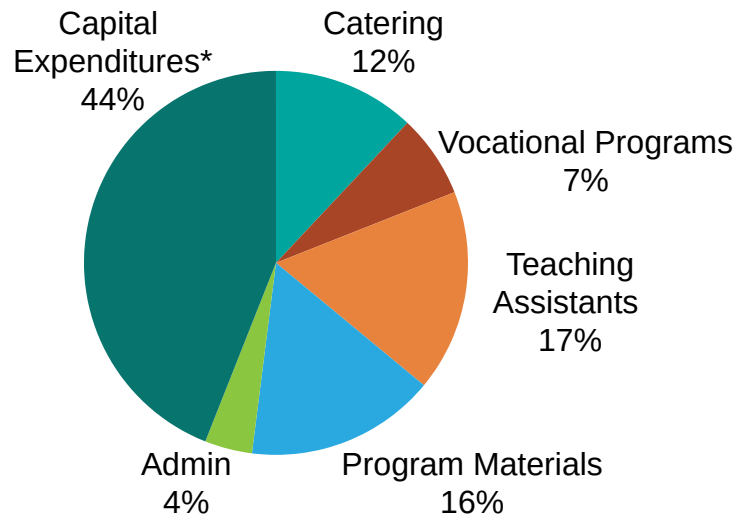
Income

Income source	Amount (USD)	Percent
Corporate Giving	\$14,953.47	4%
Grants	\$95,500	26%
Events	\$90,641.66	24%
General	\$163,163.48	43%
Restricted	\$11,829.20	3%

Kiwimbi International



Kiwimbi Kenya



\*Capital expenditures saw an increase in 2024 due to the beginning of construction on our new facility. More details below.

## THE FUTURE IS EXCITING!

Our New Learning Center is Under Construction!

Sharing news about activities at Kiwimbi throughout 2024 would not be complete without mentioning that our new Learning Center is nearing completion. We look forward to sharing more information!





**The Ibu Foundation** has supported our tailoring program for several years, providing \$20,000 annually in grant funding. This allows us to continue to expand our tailoring program, meeting the demand and empowering women to earn a living for their families.



TY POWERED SUCCESS

**KIWIMBI**

