



# Kawempe Youth Centre *Newsletter*

## **KYC'S CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRESS**

*By Esther Kyazike Ginda, KYC CEO*

In a bid to strengthen the capacity of KYC, there have been a number of capacity building interventions since 2014 with support from Mirembe Foundation through Gaipronj Business Solutions (GBS), a consultancy firm. In the first quarter of 2015, KYC finalized its 3 year strategic plan, recruited staff and expanded membership of its board from a 3- person active board to 7. The new board has been inducted in its function.

In addition, KYC acquired a vehicle to purposely support the mobile library service that is, to transport books and staff to and from the partner schools and to monitor the project activities. The vehicle will also be used for other organizational errands. KYC also acquired new books to update and increase educational resources within the Mobile Library Service.

KYC is yet to implement the use of ICT in enhancing classroom instruction through conducting teachers' workshops and setting up a pilot ICT facility in 3 primary schools that will each receive a computer, printer and modem. This is aimed stimulating teachers' interest to access technology and enhance the capacity to do research and access educational resources and to also create online linkages that will promote further library support to schools.

*An organization's ability to learn, and translate that learning into action rapidly, is the ultimate competitive advantage. Jack Welch ■*

## **KYC ATTENDS UGCLA CONFERENCE:**

*By Catherine Amia*

In January 2015, I had the opportunity of representing KYC at my ever first library conference organised by Uganda Community Library Association (UgCLA). The theme for this year's conference was, "Community libraries as a Tool

for Empowerment. The 3 days librarians' conference was aimed at bringing libraries together to discuss how they can use libraries as a tool for development in their communities; and to also share and learn new ideas from each other on library management.

A guest speaker from the African Story Book Project (ASP) encouraged community libraries to engage their users and members in their community to write stories in local languages and upload them for free on their website. By doing this, libraries would be promoting mother tongue development and empowering the community.

A representative from SIL international, a language advocacy organisation, encouraged libraries to engage members of their community in collecting literature and materials concerning the history of the communities in which the libraries are located.

It was a great learning and networking experience for me. I can't wait to attend the next.

*"Libraries are lights; we should put them on the table to illuminate the paths of members in the community and to guide them in obtaining quality information." Kiyimba Justine ■*



***KYC's Cathy and Penelope (Peace Corps) at the idea fair, UgCLA conference***



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## LIBRARY NEWS: By Ruth Bulyaba

### *Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) day, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015*

In an effort to promote reading culture and love of learning on a national scale, KYC joined other stakeholders to implement DEAR Day activities. The vision of the DEAR day is to organise every year and implement activities at 11.00am on the specific day to have everyone in schools or community organizations across Uganda put down what they are doing and engage in reading.

KYC mobilised 2 schools, Exodus primary school and Kilokole primary school, to participate in the day's activities. 158 children ranging from 8 – 14years participated in the activities. ■

### *Community reading tent, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2015*

KYC held a 2 day community reading tent in cooperation with Kampala Library and Information Center (KLIC) from. The purpose of the activity was to sensitize the community in Kawempe Division about reading and to promote both KLIC and KYC as library information service providers.

The activity engaged 20 primary schools strictly from Kawempe Division for the two days from which 20 pupils from P.3 to P.7 from each school were nominated to participate in the activities.

One of the primary school, Ttula C/U primary school, was nominated by KLIC to establish a functional school library. It received a donation of books worth 1,919,000= from Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) as a contribution to the starter library collection. In addition, KLIC will isolate that school library as a model school library in Kawempe Division for other schools to emulate. KYC will give technical support in setting up the school library. ■

## LIBRARY NEWS: Academic story

### *No pain without gain by Florence Nakachwa*



I am a 19year old volunteer library attendant at KYC and a former student at Sam Iga Memorial College, Kawempe. I started staying with my grandmother since 2006 after losing my parents, father in 2002 and mother in 2006. Although she didn't have enough money to take me to school, she supported my education. Despite a number of challenges I encountered while in school such as a lack of school fees, balancing my studies and participating in KYC dance group and attending to my sick grandmother, I was able to excel in my Advanced level examinations with 16points in History, Literature in Luganda, Divinity, computer studies and general paper. I now look forward to joining higher institution of learning to study a course in Education with Counselling and Guidance.

Very often, I was sent home for school fees so I spent most of my time at KYC library for revision and discussions with students from different schools. I often encourage myself to work hard and be the best I can be. Later, I joined KYC dance group which made it easy for me to access books at no cost and even had an opportunity to take them home; for this is one of the benefits for every dance group youth. KYC has also supported me with school fees through Pearl of Africa, to which I am truly grateful. I urge all students to use the library for study, and to believe God who will never fail them. ■

Ochio Potrious, a KYC library user, successfully passed his Advanced level final exams (2014) with 16 points and donated his text books to the Library as a sign of appreciation for the service. "Well done and thank you Potrious" ■