

Building Bridges Beyond Borders

KULE'S First Newsletter



Here's what has happened in the last year and what's to come!

As we step into 2025, we at KULE pause to reflect on the moments that defined 2024. It was a year of bold initiatives, shared learning, and countless stories of connection and growth. Through this newsletter, we celebrate the milestones achieved, honor the extraordinary contributions of our student leaders, and express our deepest gratitude to the supporters who made it all possible.

Join us as we look back on a year of building bridges across cultures and classrooms, and look ahead to a future where education and community create a world of lasting impact.

Our summer 2025 programs promise to be another chapter:

- Uganda: June 15–30, 2025
- Kenya:
 - Option 1: July 4–19, 2025
 - Option 2: July 4–24, 2025

Celebrate this season of new beginnings by supporting KULE's initiatives. If you're in Canada or the USA, consider sponsoring Pearson College UWC students to join our programs; donations are tax-deductible.

Every contribution fuels our shared vision for a more connected, compassionate world. Donations can be made through our website at kulefoundation.com or via direct transfer, contact us at director@kulefoundation.org for details.

Here's to a year of growth, giving, and building brighter futures together!

Geoffrey Tindyebe

In this newsletter you can expect:

Day in the Life of a Summer Volunteer

Reflections

Newly Established Women's Collective

New Partnerships

Memorable Highlights

Looking Ahead

Day in the Life of a Summer Volunteer



Life in Mukangu unfolded at a different pace. Days began with a communal breakfast, where laughter and discussions set a familial tone. From construction work to school visits, each day was an opportunity to contribute and learn. Volunteers bonded over cups of Kenyan tea, sharing stories and planning activities, before heading out to make a tangible impact.

Their work included paving classroom basements at a KULE-supported school to prevent water damage, constructing a roofed bus shelter, and creating a village dumpsite to encourage proper waste management. Planting trees was another symbolic act of sustainability. Each project was a testament to the power of collaboration, addressing pressing local needs while building lasting relationships.



Reflection: A Time to Learn and Grow

Every evening, volunteers gathered to reflect on their day. These conversations became moments of vulnerability and insight, as participants shared unique interpretations of their experiences. Andrada, a volunteer from Romania, described the reflections as “a time to listen, process emotions, and learn from one another.” This process of reflection mirrored the broader ethos of KULE.



Empowering Women Through Connection

Inspired by conversations with local women, Bhavana pioneered the Women’s Collective for Dialogue on Mental Health, where participants shared experiences, strengths, and emotions through art and dialogue. “I feel like a huge weight has been lifted off my chest,” said one participant. The workshops emphasized validation, mindfulness, and empowerment, culminating in plans for monthly gatherings. Bhavana’s commitment to bridging cultural gaps and fostering a safe space for women underscores the potential of such initiatives.

New Partnerships and Projects



Last year, KULE partnered with Good Fortune and Wisdom International, a Hong Kong-based organization, whose generous contributions helped complete Phase 1 of a primary school project. Their donation also launched the Photography Project at Roco 20 Academy and Mukangu Secondary School, equipping students with digital cameras to foster creativity and global connection through the Pen Pal Project.

Additionally, KULE began working with Macheo, a children's charity based in Thika. This collaboration has been a rich exchange of ideas and inspiration, deepening our understanding of community-driven solutions.



Mural Art: Fostering Belonging Through Creativity

At Mukangu Secondary School, KULE pioneered a mural project that engaged every student, resulting in a powerful display of unity. The mural featured a tree with leaves created from the handprints of all students, symbolizing their shared connection and individuality. This project sparked excitement and confidence among the students, demonstrating their ability to achieve meaningful goals together. It also fostered a renewed sense of belonging to their school.



Cultural Immersion and Reflection

The program concluded with cultural immersion activities that strengthened the bonds between KULE students and the local community. Students embraced village life by preparing local dishes, improving their Swahili, and helping in the kitchen. Tree planting, dumpsite construction, and visits to the local tea factory provided a hands-on appreciation for the region's daily life and environmental challenges. Evening reflections and global issue-based discussions among students allowed for deeper learning and understanding. KULE remains committed to its mission of empowerment through education, sustainability, and cross-cultural exchange. Each project and partnership cements the foundation for a brighter, more connected future.



Historic Landmark: Block of 10 Latrines

Thanks to grants from the 1% For Development Fund and the United Nations Women's Guild, we recently built a block of ten latrines and a washroom for boys at Mukangu Secondary School. This project, completed with labor from the local community, has addressed pressing health concerns and significantly improved hygiene standards. Principal Gabriel Gitau expressed heartfelt gratitude, stating, "This landmark has helped to avert a serious health hazard." With continued support, KULE is eager to tackle more health challenges in Kenya and Uganda.

Looking Ahead

KULE's impact goes beyond immediate projects. It creates ripples of change, inspiring individuals to think deeply about their roles in the world. Whether by building infrastructure, fostering creative expression, or empowering women, KULE's initiatives embody the spirit of global citizenship.

As the organization continues its work, KULE is creating a future where connection and compassion drive lasting change. For those inspired by KULE's mission, there are many ways to get involved; donating, volunteering, or simply sharing our story.

Together, we can remember and build on the lessons learned, creating a more equitable world for all!



Former KULEans' Reflections

For volunteers like Shamin Ibrahim, who has participated in KULE programs since 2016, the experience is about more than giving back. "It's a cross-cultural learning experience founded on reciprocity and mutual growth," she explained.

For Emmy Chahal, a former volunteer, her time with KULE over a decade ago continues to shape her career and worldview. "KULE inspired me to explore gender inequality and pursue women's studies. It's not about saving; it's about forging meaningful relationships and finding common ground."

