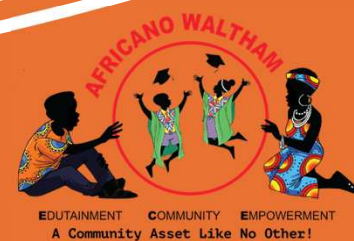




Reflecting with Thanks,  
Moving Forward with Purpose

FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# A Letter from Africano Waltham Leadership

Dear Friends of Africano Waltham,

Thank you for standing with us and helping make **2025** a year of **meaning, growth, and impact** for Africano Waltham and the families we serve.

This year, our work continued to meet people where they are—**rooted in care, culture, and possibility**. We supported youth through academic tutoring and **college preparation**, nurtured creativity through **safe and expressive spaces** for dance, drumming, theater, and DJing, and remained present for **families and senior citizens** navigating everyday challenges. One of the most powerful moments of the year was celebrating **high school and college graduations**—milestones that reflect not only individual achievement, but the **collective resilience and determination** of a community that continues to move forward, even in the face of ongoing challenges.

Behind the scenes, we also invested deeply in **strengthening our foundation**. The implementation of **Salesforce for Nonprofits** marked an important step forward, allowing us to track impact more thoughtfully and respond more precisely to the needs of the **860 households** we serve. These systems help ensure that our work remains **accountable, responsive, and centered on quality**—because **trust matters**, and so does follow-through.

None of this would be possible without you. Our **partners, funders, and community members** continue to believe in this work, walk alongside us, and help **carry the vision forward**. Your support is not just appreciated—it is **felt every day**, in real lives and real progress.

As community needs continue to **intensify**, **timely and flexible operating support** is especially critical in this moment—allowing us to **respond in real time**, sustain **trusted programs**, and remain a **steady presence** for families who cannot afford gaps in care.

With sincere gratitude and **shared hope for what's ahead**,

**Africano Waltham Leadership**

Juliet Najjumba and Dorothy K. Mugabi



**Dorothy K. Mugabi**  
Managing Director



**Juliet T. Najjumba**  
Founder/ CEO



# Our Mission and Vision

**Our Mission** is to empower African immigrant families, youth, and elders through education, cultural connection, wellness support, and community engagement — helping individuals thrive while strengthening the community as a whole. We create safe, welcoming spaces where people can learn, connect, grow, and feel a sense of belonging. At the heart of our work is a simple belief: **when families are supported, children thrive, and communities grow stronger.**



**Our Vision is a** A strong, connected community where African immigrant families feel supported, valued, and equipped to succeed across generations.

## Youth and education

- 5** Students graduated from high school and began college in the fall.
- 8** Students graduated from college
- 60+** Youth engaged in summer learning, arts, leadership and Saturday enrichment programs



**SHADIA NABWETEME**  
Salem State University, Bachelor of  
Science in Healthcare Studies

### Special thanks:

I would like to thank my parents for not conforming to societal norms and allowing me to be my own person. I'm grateful for the support they gave me throughout this journey because it was a long and difficult one. I didn't go the traditional "graduate high school in America, apply to as many colleges as you can and secure multiple scholarships" route but best believe I earned my degree in less than 3 years, WITHOUT DEBT, all thanks to my parents.

## Student spotlight



A message to the parents and guardians of immigrant youth: Listen to your children when they speak to you. Try to be an active listener and don't only listen to respond. Hear your kids and see them. They need all the support they can get especially at this stage.

While there is money in nursing and it's a beautiful career, it is not everyone's dream career. Don't force your kids into fields they are not interested in.

There are so many struggles in colleges and most of us are trying to find our identities, don't take it otherwise when your kid needs some space. Lastly, if you have kids in high school, utilize the Africano college prep program. You'll be amazed at how many doors will be opened for your children.

A message to the immigrant youth in middle, high school or entering college: Do something that you are passionate about when you go to college. It's not worth going into debt for a major you'll be dropping in one year's time. There is going to be so much advice from different people but take it all with a grain of salt. A lot of people will say you can't do it, prove them wrong!

### Words of thanks towards Africano Waltham:

Thank you Africano Waltham for helping us break the barriers in our way. In a society that was designed to fail us, you gave us all the tools to succeed and explore opportunities. Thank you for all the college dinners. God knows we needed those to recover from the stressful semesters.



## An example of Saturday program

This year, the Twejjukanye senior citizens came out as the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners during a lively community debate on **African and American parenting styles, highlighting the value of lived experience and wisdom.**

Debates are one of the many ways Africano Waltham encourages intergenerational dialogue—an essential but often overlooked need in our community.



# Programs overview

**Activities:** simple workout, puzzles, adult education, computer classes, field trips, visits from various medical professionals etc

**79%** of the seniors feel very well connected and feel strong positive impact

## Twejjukanye senior programming Tuesdays: 10am-2pm



# Families, community support and basic needs



24

**Community food and essentials** distribution days

6000

**Pounds** of food was distributed per month on average

80

**Families** twice monthly with groceries and hygiene supplies

37

**Families** received emergency cash assistance

**Programs  
overview**

## Mental health, wellbeing and work force development

**72%** **Students** said Africano Waltham made a very strong positive impact in their lives

**94%** **Students** said workforce development opportunities helped them very much, including the leaders of tomorrow tsessions, paid performances, leadership roles etc..

**50+** Psycho-social supports provided across youth resulted in strong positive differences in their lives.





## Stage performances

- Students are the trainers themselves and performers too
- students build confidence, Team spirit, independence, a strong sense of belonging, talent development and more.
- Students performed on over 25 stages reaching over 2000 people with their talents





# THE PARTNERSHIPS THAT SUSTAIN US

## OUR FUNDERS

- Hria
- Barr Foundation
- Waltham Cultural Council
- Rockland trust
- Village Bank
- Ma Dept. of Health
- Jones Partnership Fund
- Waltham Rotary Club
- DCU 4 Kids
- Wild Geese
- Metrowest Health Foundation
- Community foundation for Metrowest
- Masshumanities
- Boston children hospital
- Agnes Lindzay Foundation
- Alice Willard Dorr
- Common wealth of MA
- Frank Reed
- Parpetual
- I'm still here
- Jones Partnership

## PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

- Watch CDC
- Abel Designs
- Bryan Madia
- Radio Uganda Boston
- Simple Communications
- Sanyu Wellness Solutions
- Keka Rehab Services
- Various Ma Universities
- Waltham Public School
- Waltham Public Library
- P&O Behavioral Services
- Waltham Senior Center
- Healthy Waltham
- Kampala Unisex Beauty Salon
- JF&Cs Jewish Family Services
- Uganda Boston Community Association
- Ace-African Community Education Worcester





**Thank you so much from Africano Waltham Family!**

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