

American Corner Kisumu Grand Opening

September 24, 2009



Three hundred fans and guests of the Kisumu Branch of Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) celebrated the grand opening of the new Kisumu American Corner, the first American Corner in Western Kenya and the Lake Victoria region.

Guest of honor, John Haynes, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Nairobi was joined by Mr. Richard Atuti, KNLS Ag. Director; Mr. Hesbon Kionge, Kisumu KNLS Branch Librarian; Sheila Weir, Information Resource Officer, U.S. Embassy Nairobi ; Nancy Ocheing, Children's Librarian and Moses Mwandih Imbayi, Kisumu Library Assistant in welcoming the guests and officially opening the American Corner.

Entertained by theater, song and dance from local schools, guests were given the opportunity to visit the new American Corner and express their support for the Kisumu library and the important presence it has in the community.

The American Corner Kisumu features children's books and games and provides a comfortable area for children and adults to come and read and attend cultural programs sponsored by the Kisumu Library and the U.S. Embassy. Recent activities at the American Corner include a film maker's workshop and regular meeting of local filmmakers.

Construction of the American Corner was a joint partnership between the Kenya National Library Service and the U.S. Embassy, Nairobi. The U.S. Embassy believes that strong community libraries are pillars of a democratic society and access to free information builds communities. Over 400 new books, DVDs and games are in the American Corner and over \$30,000 U.S. Dollars supported the establishment of the American Corner in Kisumu.



To learn more about American Corners, contact the American Resource Center, U.S. Embassy Nairobi jrcnairobi@state.gov; +254 20 363 6439