

## KIPEWA (Kiambu People Living with HIV & AIDS)



Kiambu People Living with HIV&AIDS (KIPEWA) was established in 2001 by 9 HIV infected persons, whose experience with stigma and discrimination made them come together to share experiences of living with HIV&AIDS and seek solace from each other. Away from social stigma and discrimination, they started meeting together in members houses. This informal group (now KIPEWA) gained a Community Based Organization (C.B.O) status in 2003 after being registered under the Ministry of Social Services. KIPEWA gained NGO status in 2014 and currently, the members are over 3,000 people living with HIV&AIDS and 2,000 orphans and vulnerable children.

We offer emotional and psychosocial support through support groups for adults, men, caregivers, newly diagnosed, youths and adolescents. The groups are conducted in the community by Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and at their offices. We also offer other services such as home and priority visits, adherence counseling, defaulter tracing, HIV testing and counseling, income

generating activities (IGAs), lobbying and advocacy.

*Beauty Pageant 2022*

One of their more innovative and unique initiatives is the KIPEWA Ambassador of Hope Beauty Pageant, a yearly event held to help in fighting HIV stigma. With the mantra '#IamNotmydiagnosis', models are all people who are ready to share their stories on living with HIV, its trials and triumphs and take part in a cat walk to showcase their beauty through confidence. <https://youtu.be/-KOoQRisaJ0>

The KIPEWA couture is a income-generating project, hand-crafted bags meant to accessorize casual wear for any occasion. They have been knit by PLHIV women and provide a forum for the women to meet, talk and keep them engaged. Funds raised from sales are used to offer nutritional support, pay school fees for OVCs, buy uniforms, cover for opportunistic infections and giving them a life to be proud of. Orders can be made through the telephone line +254 795 579399, e-mail [info@kpewa.org](mailto:info@kpewa.org), or direct messages on their social media pages. (<https://www.facebook.com/kipewa>)



Phylis Wanjira, community health volunteer (CHV), and Mercy Wairimu and Veronica Nyaithiru, home-based care clients, share how working with Kenyan organization Kiambu People Living with HIV & AIDS (KIPEWA) has transformed their health and given them hope in this short (4 minutes), inspiring and informative video clip. <https://youtu.be/AgSigE2Y8-s>

In another 2-minute clip one of the directors explains how they work: <https://youtu.be/p0X6PNR5m9Q>

Information is from the website: <https://www.kipewa.org/>