

ABOUT THE KISORO ELDERS PROJECT FOR ENERGY POVERTY

Most Kisoro Elders live in poverty, without running water, heat, or electricity. This makes life very hard, especially if an older adult lives without family support and/or is frail.

By a stroke of serendipity and great fortune, in 2019 we were introduced to the wonderful foundation Let There Be Light International, based in Buffalo, NY, directed by Sarah Baird. LTBLI gifted us with our first distribution of 100 solar lights. Since then, thanks to their ongoing generosity and that of Kisoro Elders great friend Judy Krassner of New York City, USA, the Kisoro Elders Project has received and has been able to distribute more than 1500 solar light units. This has meant that nearly every older adult's household that meets eligibility criteria has received a light. By early in 2025 every needy household will have received a light.

The lights are truly transformative. Not only do they light up the interior of homes, reducing falls risk and keeping rats and snakes at bay, they also attract others from the family compound into the older adult's home, children to study by the light, other adults to converse, thereby greatly reducing social isolation. Older adults are now able to prepare food and perform other household tasks and personal care after sundown at 6:30 pm.

The lights have enormous health benefits as well. Some older adults who can afford kerosene use kerosene candles, which cause many house fires, and inhibit the use of malaria bed nets, since they catch on fire easily. Smoke from the candles is associated with a greatly increased risk of respiratory diseases.