Although Kayongo was born in Uganda, he lived as a refugee in Kenya after the president of Uganda seized power in a military coup before his family was able to settle in the United States. Shaped by these experiences, he has dedicated his life to helping others through entrepreneurship. Kayongo started his own nonprofit, the Global Soap Project, which recycles hotel soap and distributes them to refugee camps.

In late 2015, Kayongo was named as the new CEO for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights because of his personal history, experience as a human rights advocate and activist, and commitment to the mission of the Center. The National Center for Civil and Human Rights’ mission is to empower people to take the protection of every human’s rights personally.

Previously, Kayongo has been named a CNN Top 10 Hero, was given the honor of interviewing former President Jimmy Carter through the Amending America program, has given a TEDx talk on Simple Solutions to Complex Problems, and has been awarded the Certificate of Congressional Recognition by Congressman John Lewis.