

The Isaiah Trust

Newsletter: Spring 2008

www.isaiahtrust.org

Resource Centre

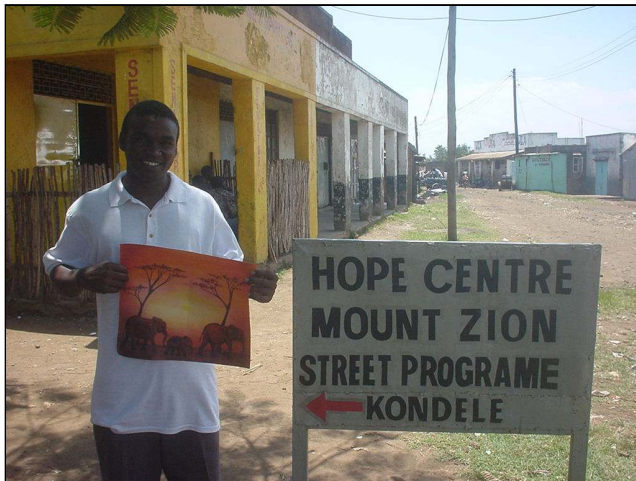
In the Summer of 2007 the Isaiah Trust began a new program for street children in two key areas of Kisumu, Kondole and Kachok. Kondole bore the brunt of violence in the recent troubles and is close to two of the largest slum areas in the city. Kachok is home to the city's rubbish dump, which is home to a large concentration of street children, some as young as 9 or 10, who scavenge amongst the litter for food or for plastic bags, tins and bottles to recycle for a few shillings.

It became clear that many of the street children were too old, or had missed so much school, that it would be very difficult for them to return to complete their studies. For these children, the best road forward is to provide them with a skill with which they will be able to earn a living.



Teacher David, with a student, Bernard Ochieng

The Trust set up a "Resource Centre" in an old Hope Centre building. The building was equipped with desks and chairs, along with all of the raw materials that the boys needed for an initial trial of 5 boys. The boys were all well known to the Trust, as they had been attending the Hope Centre programs in Kondole and Kachok.



David, the teacher, has taught the boys many things, from painting, through to etching and carving. The artwork some of the boys have produced is wonderful!

The boys now have the opportunity to earn a living in Kisumu. Sign Writers, artists and painters are in high demand, especially now the rebuilding of Kisumu has started following the troubles. Further, the Trust has made contact with resellers of crafts in Nairobi who have expressed interest in the products.

The future of the resource centre is healthy. Following the successful first trial, the Trust is committed to ensuring it will provide boys with new skills well into the future. Capital donations will be used to provide new equipment for welding and carpentry, The Trust is currently looking at moving to a new building with electricity supplies and a more space to accommodate additional children.

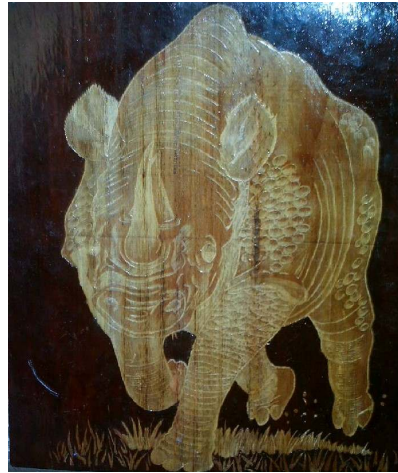


The Resource Centre Program

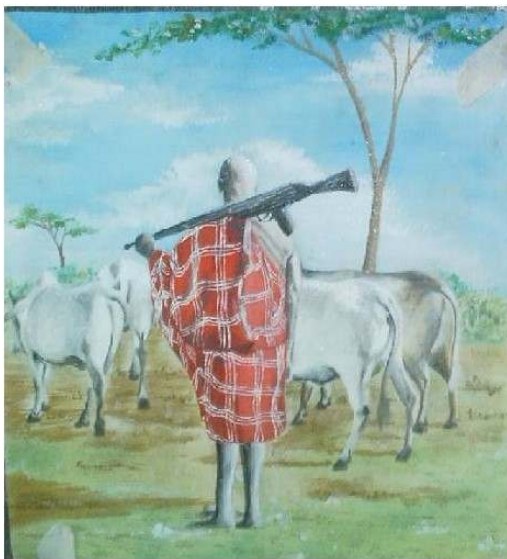
The following pictures reflect the resource centre program set up to teach skills and crafts to older street children, with no chance of returning to school, in order that they might earn a living and leave the rubbish tips.



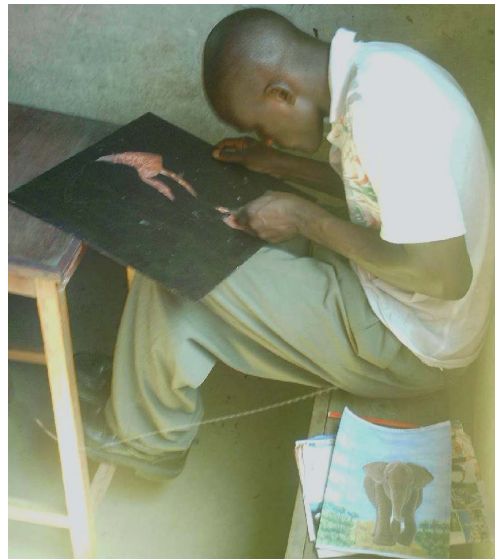
David, teaching one of the boys etching.



A Rhino, etched on Metal



Painting of traditional Masai Herdsman



A trainee, hard at work!

Unfortunately, two of the boys who attended the program have left Kisumu as a result of the troubles following the election. They were simply from the wrong tribe.

Never the less, the Trust firmly believes that the resource centre, and the skills taught to the boys are invaluable. Boys with no hope, no education and no skills are equipped to stand on their own two feet. It is an old saying, but so true – If you give a man a fish he will eat that night, but if you teach him to fish, he will eat well always!

Over the next 12 months we will further equip the centre, move to a new, larger location and begin training with more street children. Another five trainees will begin work in April.

