



Collective Arts Development Association(CADA)

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2024 Quarterly Newsletter

Newsletter 05

CADA'S JOURNEY FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2024



“Peace of Art”, an initiative that was launched on the 08th of September 2023 by Collective Arts Development Association(CADA), a non profit organization located in Bamenda, the Northwest region of Cameroon with the goal to use life skill education, art training and social entrepreneurship skill development as alternatives to drug use, abuse and crime for disadvantaged youths(drug addicts, school drop outs) in Nkwen Bamenda III municipality in the Northwest region of Cameroon has finally become a regenerative and trans formative art and vocational training school.



It is with great joy and amazement to witness the transitional process of disadvantaged youths (drug addicts, school drop outs) through the power of art and social entrepreneurship skill development. “Empowering marginalized youths through life skill education, art training and social entrepreneurship skill development.” A flagship project that seeks to transform the mindsets of disadvantaged youths through visual arts, audio-visual arts, crafts and social entrepreneurship in a two six months intensive training cycle graduated the first batch of ten out of fifteen beneficiaries who began the training on the 08th of September 2023. They received Attestations of successful completion of the first six months intensive training cycle and seed funding to start up small business ventures on the 08th of March 2024 at CADA’s art and vocational training school located in Nkwen, Bamenda III Sub Division.

Facilitated by six permanent staffs, three non permanent staffs and volunteers from Collective Arts Development Association (CADA), among them visual arts, graphic arts and crafts artists, social entrepreneurs and mental health personnel, through a learning by doing approach beneficiaries received training in painting, sculpture production, graphic design and ICT, craftwork, commercial printing of t-shirts, stamps, sign post among others. They were also taught vital skills for social inclusion alongside entrepreneurial skills to prepare them for a ready job market and to enable them set up their own small business ventures.

Upon successful completion of the first six months intensive training program, ten out of fifteen disadvantaged youths (drug addicts, school drop outs and homeless youth) received diplomas of



successful completion of the course and seed funding to enable them set up small social businesses not just to enhance their livelihoods, but also to foster a positive attitude. Presently, ten disadvantaged youths are receiving a three months mentorship program after successful completion of their six months intensive program to enable them to effectively set up their own small social enterprises by staffs from the Collective Arts Development Association (CADA).

We are overwhelmed to witness the transformative power of life skill education, art and social entrepreneurship skill development on substance use/abuse youth victims, drug addicts and school drop outs through this initiative. At the end of the training, beneficiaries produced works of arts like paintings on canvas boards, sculptures from local materials (wood), traditional chairs, drums, mortars, beads among others. However during and after the first six months training cycle, we realized that peer pressure, environmental factors, limitation on the choices and amount of disciplines we offer was an obstacle to the other beneficiaries who did not complete the course. So we have decided to make the program residential by looking for the financial and material resources to construct our center on our already acquired piece of land. We saw the need for an in-campus residential and rehabilitative intensive training program to be an ideal environment for our beneficiaries.

On November 2023, we created an organic vegetable garden at CADA's would be Campus site. A piece of land we acquired to construct our art and rehabilitation center. Here we cultivate maize, tomatoes, onions, carrots and other cereal crops for subsistence and commercial purposes. We have also planted fruit trees like guavas, mango, pear and oranges.



With smiles, we want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Kanthari Foundation Switzerland, who provided us with the financial resources, moral and technical support in the form of grants to embarked on this great journey.

The second six months intensive training cycle with another batch of fifteen disadvantaged youths will begin on the 08th of April and will end on the 08th of October 2024.

Partner, volunteer, collaborate, and join us spread the word.