

NEWSLETTER

CADA



Our Flagship Project

Following the graduation ceremony of the first batch of our flagship project 'Empowering marginalized youths through life skill education, art and social entrepreneurship skill development'. Between the months of April-June, ten out of the fifteen who successfully finished the first six months training program went through a business coaching and mentorship program. They were drill on how to design their business plans, and orientated on the requirements to put in place in order to apply for seed funding from Collective Arts Development Association (CADA). During this time our beneficiaries intern with other related social enterprises to understand the realities of managing and operating a small social enterprise to foster positive change.



Our Second Batch of Beneficiaries

Though the Anglophone crisis continuously creates an insecure political and fragile economic environment in Bamenda the Northwest region of Cameroon. On the 08th of April 2024, we began training the second batch of our two six months intensive training program with fourteen beneficiaries. They include: school drop outs, drug addicts, ex-prisoners, internally displaced and homeless youths.

APRIL-JUNE 2024



On the 26th of June 2024, six staffs and fourteen beneficiaries of the second batch of our flagship project celebrated World Anti Drug day with 145 juveniles (inmates) at the Bamenda Central Prison, Northwest region Cameroon. Project beneficiaries received a talk calling for positive change of mindsets from CADA's founder and director. He recounted to them his past experiences with drug use and abuse, his transition strategy, and the possibility for them to use artistic disciplines and social entrepreneurship as a means of transformation. He told them to accept their present situations but learn to be self aware, self discipline, conscious and creative. And made known to them the objectives and activities of CADA and the opportunities we offer. They received mental health education, psycho-social support and counseling from CADA's mental health expert, counseling from a community youth counselor and a peace and advocacy talk. As part of our humanitarian program, we serve 145 inmates with food, detergents and other toiletries.



This occasion marked a collaboration between Collective Arts Development Association (CADA), the regional delegation of Penitentiary Administration for the Northwest and the Bamenda Central Prison. It was a pleasure to have Rev. Dr. Fuhbang Emmanuel Tanifum, founder of Ndabuchiseh, a peace led organization based in Bamenda, Northwest region, as part of the occasion. He gave a talk on the need for peace and sustainable development. And reemphasized on youth collective action in the restoration of peace in the Northwest region of Cameroon.



One of CADA's direct beneficiary who attended the drug use, abuse and crime sensitization campaign, a school drop out, drug addict and internally displaced youth, expresses his appreciation through an open confession. He goes ahead to recount a short personal experience on how he indulged in substance use, abuse and crime and missed being a prisoner. He testified about his time as a trainee in CADA's art school, how for a short while he has acquire self sustaining skills.

Also, a testimony from one of the inmates from the juvenile section at the Bamenda Central prison, who denied to appear on camera, took the stage to thank Collective Arts Development Association (CADA), for such a much timely needed substance use, abuse and crime sensitization campaign, giving the crisis situation. He also went ahead to advised other inmates, CADA's direct beneficiaries who have not experience as such and other youths out there to stay away from drug use, abuse and crime. He confessed how hard and frustrating life is in such a confine environment and expressed his desire to become one of CADA's direct beneficiary, after his prison term gets over in 2027

As concerns CADA's infrastructural and technical development, inline with prospects to scale the project, after several brief meetings with CADA's board of directors based on our evaluation and activity reports from the start of this flagship project, the most challenge we face is that of beneficiaries effective and timely participation. Some of our direct beneficiaries when they do return to their communities after our daily training sessions become easily expose again to a drug use and abuse environment.' Not leaving out the negative influence of peers all of which increases the propensity for them to indulge in substance use, abuse and crime. These situations makes them vulnerable and negatively affects their zeal to evoke positive change and, it thus takes a lot from us to follow up on them giving the present circumstances.

We discussed on the advantages of a residential setting for our beneficiaries and realized how effective and more conducive it will be for them. Under such an auspices, our beneficiaries will be strictly guided and groom to effect positive change from within in a confine and serene environment.

Considering our financial standing and other technical aspects such as operational cost which includes the rents for the building ie. our art school, light, water bills among others, we realized that a residential, rehabilitative art and vocational training center will minimize our overall costings. Hence our future plan is to construct a residential, rehabilitation, art and vocational training center. It is against this background that we initiated income generative activities besides doing commercial arts and created an organic garden were we cultivate cereal crops for commercial motives to raise income to sustain the project.

Despite these challenges, it remains our mission to consistently and tactfully transform the mindsets of disadvantaged youths through our annual two six months intensive training program in our art school. On a sound note, we use this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Northwest regional delegation of Penitentiary Administration, the Registrar at the Bamenda Central Prison, and the Cameroon government who made it possible for us to carry out a drug use, abuse and crime sensitization campaign at the Bamenda Central Prison. Our delight also goes to other administrative, community and religious stakeholders.

We shall never conclude without saying a big 'Thank You' to Kanthari Foundation Switzerland for setting the pace, not leaving out the Pollination Project for the spark during our pilot project, as well as other well-wishers of Collective Arts Development Association.

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

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