

The *Street* Home

LOCAL VIEWS FROM OUT THERE

T H E M U S T L E A F R I C A T R U S T N E W S L E T T E R

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EDITOR'S LEAF



Welcome friends to the first edition of *The*

Street Home published by the Zimbabwe based MUSTLE Africa Trust .

This new publication is targeted at those working in the community development, education and youth arts fields. The overarching subject matter of *The Street Home* is vulnerable children and young people living on the streets. By reading this, you can gain different insights from across the world and share practices with

The quarterly free newsletter will also be a platform for you to share your own stories on young people. In here we will also highlight the activities of stakeholders involved with young people and also bring you a global perspective. Lastly the newsletter will be a media through which street youngsters share stories from

their world with us!

In this issue, get to know about MUSTLE Africa and some of the activities we have engaged in.

Our featured interview is a glance into the United Kingdom's disturbingly high rate of teenage knife crime. Gee Walker, a brave mother tells of the brutal murder of Anthony,

others who are interested in giving street youth a livelihood rather than them surviving the hardships of life on the streets.

Zimbabwe's street youngsters face all kinds of problems, including sexual abuse, police harassment, drug abuse, disease, hunger to mention but a few.

Street children are denied the upbringing that their peers in affluent and stable families enjoy. Health, access to education, secure shelter and love are rights that allude them.

The Street Home will be a platform for us to share with you our experiences of working with street youngsters in different countries. Let's network and share strategies in helping them to alleviate their plight on the street. We also hope to give a glimpse into some positive developments in Zimbabwe a country that appears to receive only negative news in the international media.

her 18 year old son. His life was taken in one of Britain's worst racist attacks.

Do share with us your take on the newsletter and what you would like to see featured in the second edition.

Enjoy the topics on offer in the maiden issue.

James Robinson (Editor)

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MUSTLE Africa trust was formed in 2005 by James Robinson from Liverpool in the United Kingdom and Ivor Kasongo then both overseas volunteers with the Daneford Trust.

Drawn together by their interest in helping vulnerable children, the two joined forces to form MUSTLE Africa a service providing trust. MUSTLE's purpose is to provide imaginative to street children in collaboration with different Non Governmental Organizations. The vision is wholesome rehabilitation for the service users together with their families and community.

MUSTLE is an acronym for Multicultural Storytelling for Literacy Empowerment.

The Trust has since worked with over two hundred street children. Our work has been made possible with partnerships with the Zimbabwe HIFA (international arts) festival, British Embassy, Harare, Streets Ahead drop in centre, Harare and Breadline Africa.



Street children in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe prepare to march at the Day of the African Child celebrations on 14th June 08.

Turn to page 4 for a further insight into Mustle Africa

The most shocking thing about my son's death is that he was killed by fellow students-students he went to school with. I have not yet been told the full story of what happened to Anthony that day" Gee Walker.

INTERFACE WITH GEE WALKER



Gee Walker

By Lillian Nalumansi

July 29th 2005 is a day Steve and Gee Walker residents of Liverpool in the United Kingdom will never forget.

In an interview at Liverpool Hope University during the Big Hope Global Youth Congress, Gee told The Street Home- the gruesome story that ended the life of her promising 18 year old son Anthony Walker.

Fellow teenagers he went to school with aimed an ice-axe at Anthony, which embedded itself into his skull and resolutely led to his death from excessive bleeding.

Anthony would meet his death that day between 10:00p.m and 11:00p.m. As the Black British 'A' level student of Roby College escorted his white girlfriend Louise Thompson

to the bus stop in the company of his cousin Marcus Binns, they were confronted by two white teenagers who hurled a torrent of racial abusive words at them.

"Out of nowhere came some white teenagers who started abusing Anthony, Marcus and Louise. Being the peaceful person that my son was, he suggested to the two that they move to the next bus stop," the soft spoken but brave speaking Gee narrates.

As the trio neared McGoldrick Park, they were attacked by a gang of three or four White men.

"McGoldrick Park is a park Anthony was very familiar with and he was thus not afraid of walking that late. The lads ambushed them in this park and I have not yet been told the full story of what happened to my son then," she says.

The attack seemed to have been aimed at Anthony because a man seen with an axe by Binns and Thompson, confronted the deceased.



Anthony Walker

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U.K'S KNIFE STABBING TEENAGERS



The murderous ice-axe

Binns and Louise ran to get help but when they returned minutes later, they found Anthony laying on the ground inflicted with serious head injuries. According to the BBC, Anthony was taken to Whiston Hospital and later transferred to Walton neurological centre where he died at 0525 GMT.

Home Office pathologist Dr Brian Rodgers told court the axe had smashed a 5.5cm-wide (2.1in) hole into Anthony's skull, penetrating his brain.

Records from the U.K's Police Recorded Crime Statistics (PRCS) state that 22,000 knife stabbings took place in Britain last year and that a knife attack takes place in the U.K every 4 minutes.

The Walker family has since launched The Anthony Walker Foundation in memory of Anthony.

Liverpool University sponsored the Anthony Walker Festival at the June 4th-11th Big Hope congress which brought over 600 youth from 53 countries to reflect on better leadership.

Young Actors at the HIFA Festival

MUSTLE AFRICA NEWS



In May 2008, Mustle Africa delivered six days of drama devising workshops during the prestigious HIFA festival in Zimbabwe's capital.

Facilitated by Mustle's James Robinson and Ivor Kasongo the workshops enabled street youngsters to present dramas based on their own dilemmas.

The youth were referred through the Harare based Streets Ahead drop-in centre. Each evening, the performers renamed by themselves as "Shanduko," played before international festival audiences.

Street children performing at the 2008 Harare HIFA Festival.

FAREWELL

The Trust joined hands with Thuthuka staff in mourning the death of Susan Mpande their Director who perished in a terrible car accident. Susan of the street youth training facility in Bulawayo was a special friend and maternal figure to us. We will remember her for her hard work and valued support.

Serious outcomes of the *Shanduko* programme included open dialogue between the members of the community and the young people. Besides conversation between representatives of different children's rights organisations, there was frank conversation between members of the police and the young people. This was useful in hearing both sides of a healthy debate.

The process of gathering the stories came from the children's own wall murals. The festival organisers were equally supportive in providing catering facilities and artist entry passes for the street youths. The audience's reaction was very encouraging too as it was very positive.

MESSAGE FROM TRUST'S DIRECTOR

It has been a learning curve for MUSTLE Africa since we were founded in 2005 with initial project support from Street Child Africa (UK).

The successes and challenges we have faced on this journey have shaped our current strategies.

Just like in any struggle, some of the successes have created new challenges just as some of the challenges have ushered in opportunities.

We have been able to provide assistance to young people from resources we did not realise we had.

So far in Zimbabwe, we have worked with over two hundred street children that comprise those that sleep or work on the streets.

Harare has a harsh economic climate with few employment opportunities available even for the most educated and skilled. This makes the situation extremely difficult for the urban poor.

Young people living on the streets of the capital city are viewed as undesirable people particularly by the police who view them as petty criminals. As a result, they are frequently beaten and harassed to vacate the area. Their dilemma is that they have nowhere to go and



Ivor Kasongo

Director's message

there is very limited support available through the state social services. MUSTLE Africa is aiming to promote the spiritual, emotional and practical wellbeing of the young people through future rehabilitation trips.

UNICEF's Executive Director Carol Bellamy stated:

"The world must differentiate between the politics and the people of Zimbabwe. The global generosity towards tsunami victims was inspiring, but it has dried up for Zimbabwean children who are facing a deadly crisis every day of their lives." (Bellamy, 2005).

The number of street children is increasing in many cities around

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/press/news>

the world. They are said to be one feature of the numbers of people migrating to cities from rural areas. This movement of migration has been described as the push and pull factor which influences people from a poorer city or country to a more affluent one. It can be applied with reference to young people living on the streets and the reasons behind them leaving their homes.

Ivor Kasongo
Director
MUSTLE Africa Trust.

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

I started work with Mustle Africa Trust on 1st March 2008. Being my first experience working with street children, the beginning was difficult. However I asked myself if I did not join Mustle Africa in looking after these children, who would be a mother figure to them?

Eventually my maternal instincts took over and I became part of Mustle Africa. Since joining Mustle, I have now realized that these children are just like any others and deserving of love.

Our strategy here has

been to convince these children that living on the streets is not a good idea.

For many of them it is not their wish but difficult circumstances at home-no shelter, money problems and dire food shortage, have forced them onto the

streets.

We intend them to get into work which should enable them to offer a better life to themselves and their children.

Bethel Mpofu Administrator.

MUSTLE AFRICA PICTORIAL



MUSTLE Africa staff at the launch of the project's attainment of trust status



The Shanduko performance in Harare



Storytelling in Uganda



Learning storytelling in Zambia



An arts creativity session at a workshop in Zambia



The Bulawayo residential camp for street children

A MUSTLE AFRICA SNAPSHOT

MUSTLE AFRICA TRUST



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"Young initiatives from older wisdom"

MUSTLE AFRICA'S MISSION STATEMENT

To socially rehabilitate disadvantaged street children and youngsters by equipping them with lifelong skills through the use of storytelling, drama and different art forms. MUSTLE is working towards resettling the street youth with their families.

METHODOLOGY

- Offering high quality counseling mentoring service to disadvantaged street youngsters.
- Referring disadvantaged young people to a host of vetted agencies for further education and entrepreneurship training.
- Planning and delivering communication in life long skills, capacity building and self help.
- Offering a range of diverse remedial recreation activities including drama, music, dance, games and sports towards psycho-social support.
- Using drama to change the public perception of streets youths.

In appreciation

MUSTLE Africa is grateful to those that have helped us progress. In particular we thank HIFA, the British Embassy in Harare, Streets Ahead and Breadline Africa.

COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE STREET HOME:

A children in cities theme will be featured with analysis of street youth from:
Kampala, Uganda
Lusaka, Zambia
London, U.K.
Bulawayo, Zim.

FIRESIDE FOLKTALE

The Origins of Hunger and Beard

Once upon a time, there were two young people named Hunger and Beard.

Hunger said to Beard, "Let's go find some food to share for a meal,".

"How, when we have no cash and remains to eat?", Beard asked.

"Come," said Hunger as he moved away from the ditch and walked towards a nearby village with Beard closely following behind.

They stopped their walk when they met a man drinking beer at a bar. Beard drifted towards the man's chin while Hunger disappeared into the man's stomach.

Beard tried in vain to follow suit but instead found himself stuck on the chin of the drinker. From that day on man has suffered hunger in the stomach and a beard on his chin!

(As adapted from a story told by a Ugandan orphan at In-Movement during a storytelling session by James Robinson).