

youth on the move to business success in India.

Street Kids International, in partnership with local youth organization Saathi, delivered its Street Business Toolkit in February. Working together, we will continue to reach youth in Mumbai and surrounding areas and help them realize their full potential to earn a living.

As the country with the largest population of street kids in the world, many youth in India have turned to the streets for reasons including poverty, family break-up, and abuse. With the skills learned through the Street Business Toolkit, these youth will be able to take control and improve their own lives in safe, productive ways.

Street Kids International previously worked in India in the 1990s, partnering with local organizations to provide youth job opportunities through bicycle courier

and auto-rickshaw services. We also previously delivered the street health program in the country, educating youth on sexual health and drug use.

Our latest collaboration with Saathi marks the beginning of a renewed commitment to helping youth in India better their lives.



Street Kids previously delivered its street health training in India.

donors recognize dedication of Street Kids.

Street Kids International's generous donors and partners are helping us successfully reach more youth in our commitment to help street kids make feasible, substantial change in their lives.

"It's really quite remarkable that a small organization like Street Kids can have such an impact in so many cities around the world," says Jeff Baikowitz, President of Microban Canada Inc. and the Chairman of L.O.V.E. (Leave Out Violence) Central.

It costs just \$75 for one youth to successfully complete our business or banking course, which prepares them to earn a living. Samuel, for example, is a 23-year-old from a slum of Nairobi, Kenya who recently moved off the streets after completing our Street Business Toolkit and starting his own roadside restaurant.

We are currently able to deliver our courses to youth like Sammy in eight countries worldwide, thanks to

supporters who recognize the value of our work.

"We were amazed by the devotion and work that Street Kids International has done at this time toward the betterment of children," says Micheline Villeneuve, manager of Air Canada Kids' Horizons, a long-term Street Kids supporter.

Lori Bennett, a sales associate with REMAX, became involved in our Street Kids Kitchen Party campaign and echoes these sentiments. "Street Kids teaches youth to hold themselves accountable for who they are and who they want to become," she says. "I'm proud to be associated with it."

Street Kids is extremely grateful to our corporate and individual donors for taking on the rewarding task of getting involved. Check out our upcoming Street Kids Kitchen Party campaign, and other fundraising events to

Street Kids International

by Natasha Cassinath, senior programme manager

Despite Sierra Leone's reputation as the source of "blood diamonds" and a bed of civil unrest and political instability, the country has found peace. And real peace at that, not only on paper, but also in the streets. It is surprisingly calm and pleasant to explore.

That is not to say that the turbulent battle between the government and revolutionary factions that took place through the 1990s is forgotten. In fact, it has resulted in a collapse of national services, including schools.

For 10 years, the education system was completely dysfunctional. No longer receiving wages, teachers left. Children, who are now the youth of Sierra Leone, were deprived of their right to learn in peace. These youth, arguably the hardest hit by the post-war legacy, continue to struggle for the future in a country consistently at the bottom of the UN's Human Development Index. New non-formal education and vocational programs allow them to gain practical skills and learn to read and write.

Street Kids International's Street Business Toolkit training, which has been particularly challenging.



Participants from February's Street Business Toolkit training in Sierra Leone.

Out of 16 students, only four can write, and very slowly. Their youth workers, from the International Rescue Committee, mention that normally they shy away from numbers. But seeing the toolkit engaged them during the Street Business Toolkit.

The training gathered great interest from small local organizations tackling the issue of youth employment with vulnerable groups. Street Kids International hopes to expand into the West African region to respond to the growing demand as emergency relief gives way to long term development objectives.

Street Kids International

by Chris Mejaski, communications coordinator



This candle-making entrepreneurship began as a practice business.

Street Kids launched Business training in Nepal in February, which provided an opportunity for youth workers to come together and share how to successfully help youth run their practice businesses.

As an extension of the Street Business and Street Banking courses, practice businesses allow youth to test the skills they've learned.

support of local youth-serving organizations. Youth are able to invest time and energy into running a business

selling food, crafts or providing other services, without the need for formal training.

With youth workers' guidance, practice businesses provide safe and supported environments for youth to learn directly how to communicate with customers and respond to the demands of the marketplace. In some cases, youth workers help youth start new businesses, or continue their practice businesses.

The Practice Business training in February brought youth workers together to discuss and learn how to best support youth in their practice businesses. By learning best practices from each other, youth workers will be better equipped to help young people succeed in their practice businesses and beyond.

Tim Dennis and Street World visiting Canadian classrooms.

Tim Dennis of Scotland continues his journey around the world in his Toyota Land Cruiser, raising awareness for Street Kids International on his Rambling Rat Overland Expedition. After traveling east through Canada, Tim is expected to arrive in Toronto in late March where he will meet new groups of youth with whom he will share stories about his journey.

Accompanying Tim while he is in Toronto, a Street Kids representative will share the Street World program to interested classes. The Street World program consists of lesson plans that complement the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum. They introduce youth to the concepts of global citizenship, the rights of the child, youth and entrepreneurship and the importance of local involvement.

If you are interested in having Tim visit your group, club or school please contact Kristy Vanderplas, programme coordinator, at kristy@streetkids.org.

Street Kids International and the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness present **Get Honest: Do our youth really matter?**

The Streetjibe project is about to wrap up a year of workshops, relationship building, networking and collaboration with youth workers in York Region, thanks to support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. As such, we now look forward to sharing this process and experience with others in the community.



On April 22, 2009 join us to celebrate the work of youth practitioners, foster new relationships and have your say in determining how the community can move forward to strengthen programming for marginalized youth.

Look out for an upcoming publication which will build on what we have learned and assist others in strengthening programming for the youth that they work with.

To register for the event, please visit streetkids.org.

Carolina's story.

by Asha daCosta, international programme manager



Carolina is using her creative talents to earn a living.

Carolina is a 16-year-old girl who lives in a single-room house in La Paz, Bolivia, with her mother and brother. She spends her days on the streets collecting plastic bottles and metal from the garbage to sell for mere coins per kilo.

Once she gets talking, it becomes quickly apparent that Carolina has a dramatic ùRdž DYV žl R_Ž^ Rə/U R_U ə' fXYeM] R_U YRd R] gV` W theatre and people.

To pass the time while picking through garbage, Carolina and some friends share their experiences of life on the streets, which she has compiled into a collection of short plays.

After participating in Street Business and Street Banking training, Carolina decided to use her love of theatre to start her own business. She now uses scraps of ^ RəVəR]d dYV ø_Ud Z_ əV XRcSRXV è ^ R\V af aaVød and marionettes that she sells while performing street theatre based on the short plays.

Recently, Carolina and her small theatre group were invited to perform their street theatre in a local school – and they were paid to do it.

Carolina now plans to approach schools in the city and sell them her "Street Education" kit. This includes marionettes and short plays teachers can use to teach other youth about the realities of street kids in Bolivia.

"I learned more than how to start a business, I learned to start a business that will survive, so I can survive, too," says Carolina. "Now I can help my family, and teach people about what life is really like for kids like me."

