

## walking for life with ECCO.

For the past three years, Street Kids International has received tremendous support from our partner organization ECCO. Their Walk for Life fundraisers—held in Denmark, Poland, and Germany—are a huge success each year.

On June 13, three walkathons took place in the historic Danish cities of Odense, Aalborg, and Aarhus. Representatives from Street Kids International were among the 5,500 participants, and we shared stories of the work made possible through ECCO's annual donation. September and October saw three more successful walkathons in Warsaw, Hamburg, and Kolding.

This year we are proud to report that a staggering 47,000 people attended the ECCO walkathons, raising over \$175,000 for Street Kids International. Thanks to their generosity, we have been able to make a dramatic change to the lives of street youth in Kenya and Poland.

To date over 340 impoverished street kids in Kenya have begun business ventures from hairdressing to roadside restaurants, earning enough income to move into shared or subsidized housing, cover daily living expenses, and start saving for their futures. In Poland 15 street youth have received the Street Business Mentorship Scholarship Award, which will fund the vocational training required to start a business.

Upon the completion of our current programs in Kenya and Poland, our local partner organizations will have trained over 140 youth workers to carry on the work made possible through ECCO's generous support.



ECCO walkathon



Javen Okoth

## Javen Okoth: Kericho's newest entrepreneur.

by Paula MacKinnon

Orphaned at a young age, Javen Okoth called a park in Kericho, Kenya his home, where he lived with other homeless youth. A youth worker from a local organization reached out to Javen and offered him shared accommodation. He also taught Javen business skills through Street Kids International's Street Business Toolkit. Javen says the most important business lesson he learned was how to attract customers—a skill he has since put to good use.

Working with six of his peers, Javen received approval from the municipality to renovate and manage a run-down public washroom in the park where he once slept. He is able to charge for its use and save half of the 200 Kenyan shillings he earns per day, using the rest for food and basic living expenses.

After 21 years on the street, Javen has used his newly developed business skills to leave behind a life of homelessness. He has seen the progress both he and his friends have made and hopes others will have the same opportunity.

## Pascal's story.

### the impact of one youth worker in Tanzania

While participating in the very first Street Business Toolkit training in Tanzania in 2004, Pascal learned that it just takes one person to have a positive impact on the lives of countless street kids. The session was led by Nelson Bricher, a youth worker from Bolivia's Centre for the Development of Alternative Education (CDEA). Pascal returned to his hometown of Arusha, Tanzania, working with Mkombozi as a Street Educator. He works with youth on their home turf—the streets—where he engages them through business training, non-formal education, and family reunifications when possible.

A natural facilitator, Pascal uses his great sense of humour, playfulness, and relaxed disposition to create an immediate rapport with youth. His ability to form meaningful connections with his peers and his in-depth knowledge of the Street Business Toolkit has allowed him to graduate to the Master Trainer Level. Pascal says that he enjoys the challenge of using the toolkit to help street kids launch businesses and become self-reliant.

From 2007 to 2008, Pascal co-developed the Business Mentorship training, now one of Street Kids International's core products. Most recently, Pascal was hired by Street Kids to deliver trainings in Kenya and Liberia, where he shared his passion for the learning tools and his experience in catering them to the unique needs of different youth groups.



Pascal Irungu



Paula enjoying a short break with a friend

## postcard from the field.

by Paula MacKinnon

During my last visit to Kenya, I had a chance to work with one of our partner organizations to deliver the first mentorship training program in Nairobi. It's important that youth are given all the support possible to help ensure their success, and having a mentor makes a big difference in the lives of young people.

The mentors live and work in the same community as the street youth and come from many different industries, such as tailoring, metal work, and retail. Some of the business owners have been operating their own businesses for more than 10 years and had a wealth of experience to offer.

At first many of the mentors were quiet and hesitant to share their experience, but as the training progressed, they opened up and had a lot of fun. One of the best parts of the training was when the mentors were given an opportunity to reflect on the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that they have built over time. Sessions like this helped the mentors realize that they had the life experiences that can indeed help another individual. It was also important for youth and mentors to understand the entrepreneurship skills that youth have to offer. They bring a fresh perspective to the business and a better understanding of what products are popular among the youth demographic.

During the training I had a chance to talk to Rehab and her mentor Agnes, who has been in business for 20 years. Rehab explained that she is only 18 and already has 2 children to raise. Like many mentors in the program, Agnes wants to offer guidance and support to young people like Rehab because she was also raised in the slums and endured similar hardships growing up.

I'm off to Kenya again in December and am looking forward to meeting some of the mentors and youth in their communities.

## Catalytic Convergence.

### sharing ideas, shaping lives

by Kristy Vanderplas

This fall Street Kids International hosted Catalytic Convergence, which brought together representatives from partner organizations in Bolivia, Kenya, Ethiopia, India, and the Philippines. From October 5 to 8, conference participants discussed best practices, shared ideas for effective programming, explored innovations, and strengthened relationships among our network of trained practitioners. Participants also had the opportunity to visit local youth programs such as Sketch, Eva's Phoenix, and TurnAround Couriers.

On the final day, a panel of representatives spoke to the challenges that youth face in finding employment in Canada and internationally. With the economic crisis compounding growing youth unemployment, "Linking Marginalized Youth to Employment Opportunities: A Global Challenge" was timely and well attended. Catalytic Convergence was generously funded by the Canadian Education and Research Institute for Counselling (CERIC) and the Canadian International Development Agency.



Participants of Catalytic Convergence, October 2009

## no ordinary gentlemen.

by Aruna Aysola

The League of Ordinary Gentlemen are self-described as having benevolent audacity, a resilient spirit, and boundless enthusiasm. Street Kids International recently witnessed the accuracy of these attributes when we became a beneficiary of these Canadian philanthropists. Recognizing the pressing need to build upon our successful programming in Nepal, the Toronto-based organization has quickly agreed to fully fund the expansion of our work into the country's poorest region—the Southern Terai.

The program will focus on providing small-business training to the youth of this impoverished area. The League has set out to raise an impressive \$60,000 by April 30, 2010 through a series of local fundraisers. Their goals have materialized at an accelerating rate, with a tremendously successful golf tournament in Kleinburg, ON, this past September. Through this single event, the Gentlemen raised over \$40,000 for the 2010 Nepal Initiative.

Moreover, pledges for the upcoming Polar Bear Swim at Barrie's Winterfest on February 7, 2010 have already surpassed expectations. The League is now closer than ever to attaining their goal of assuring healthy and self-sufficient lives for children in the Terai District of Nepal. We are delighted to announce that once the programs are in place the League will travel to Nepal on Aeroplan Miles donated through our partnership with Air Canada Kids Horizons, allowing them to witness first hand the impact of their generosity.

It is with the deepest gratitude that we tip our hats to Larry, Marc, Troy, and Shawn, four friends who are no ordinary gentlemen!



The League presenting a cheque to David Pell at the Street Kids head office



Some of the amazing prints on auction at D2D

## Drawn to Develop 2009.

### a spectacular night of photography, entertainment, and hope

by Jo Cutajar

On October 15, the Drawn To Develop Committee held the second annual Drawn To Develop (D2D) gala in Toronto's historic Distillery District to broaden awareness of street youth around the world. Thanks to the support of all participants, the D2D gala raised over \$35,000 for Street Kids International.

Over 40 of Canada's celebrated photographers showcased original works inspired by the drawings of street kids in developing countries. As a basis for creating their unique prints, the photographers drew from the moving stories told through the sketches of street youth from India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, and Sierra Leone. The result was a poignant demonstration of the power of courage, creativity, and collaboration. Captivated by the images, along with the authentic street survivor stories that inspired them, guests were mobilized to participate in an exciting silent auction of the artwork on display.

The D2D Committee extends a special thank you to title sponsors ChitizPathak and Mantella Corporation for their generous support and the talented photographers who contributed their work. We would also like to thank our wonderful sponsors, musical artists, guests, and volunteers who made the D2D gala come alive as a night of magic and beauty.

To view pictures from this year's gala and stay in the loop with the evolving D2D story visit [www.drawntodevelop.com](http://www.drawntodevelop.com).

## around the world with Tim Dennis.

by Kristy Vanderplas

Tim Dennis has been travelling the globe to raise awareness for Street Kids International and youth poverty for over a year now. The RamblingRat Expedition was launched from Scotland in June 2008. Named after the Year of the Rat, the project is described by Tim as an “ongoing sustainable project, not just a quick little trip around the world.”

After successfully circumnavigating the globe by land and sea, Tim is now embarking on the Trans-America leg of his expedition. He has already reached the Arctic Circle and will travel to Ushuaia, at the southern tip of Argentina, where he will take a ship to Antarctica. During this section of his trip, Tim plans to give a voice to the marginalized youth he has met by sharing their songs and messages through videos online. So far, Tim’s custom Toyota Land Cruiser has logged over 70,000 kilometres across 12 countries and 3 continents.



Tim Dennis

Tim has recently spoken at Apple Stores in Glasgow and London, UK, about his adventures and his aspirations to help youth worldwide. To learn more about RamblingRat and to watch his short video “Around the World on a Mac”, visit Tim at [www.ramblingrat.com](http://www.ramblingrat.com).

### the catalyst circle.

#### ignite the potential of a better life for street kids around the world

We are proud to announce the launch of the **Catalyst Circle**, a gift club that lets you directly support the training of a youth worker in the developing world.

Street Kids International trains local youth workers to provide entrepreneurship skills and health awareness to street kids within their communities. A donation of \$1,200 will provide a youth worker with the skills to help transform lives and will continue to help an increasing number of street kids year after year. This dissemination of knowledge is the catalytic effect for which Street Kids International is recognized.

To become a member of the Catalyst Circle, please contact Aruna Aysola at 416.504.8894 ext. 32, [aruna@streetkids.org](mailto:aruna@streetkids.org).

### kitchen party.

#### bling is out – benevolence is in. but everyone loves a party!

Soon friends and families will celebrate and give thanks for a safe and healthy year. Put a twist on your holiday party and host your event in support of our work in India, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. Our Kitchen Party Host Kit will get you started with party planning ideas, fundraising tips, and strategies. So have a party on us, and help street kids everywhere receive a chance at a promising future.

For more information, please contact Aruna Aysola at 416.504.8994 ext. 32, [aruna@streetkids.org](mailto:aruna@streetkids.org).

**If you have made a donation in our fall appeal, thank you very much for supporting our work!  
If you have not already done so, we ask that you please make a donation this season.**

Yes! I believe in the resiliency and potential of street kids around the world!

I would like to support a onetime donation of:  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a monthly donation of:  \$5  \$25  \$50  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please find my gift enclosed by: Cheque Money Order OR Please charge my:

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**On behalf of the youth we help, thank you very much for supporting Street Kids International!**

A receipt for your tax deductible donation will be issued using the details above.

Street Kids International respects your privacy and adheres to the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents act. From time to time we send our donors updates to inform them of Street Kids International's programs, services, and special events. If at any time you wish to discontinue receiving regular updates from us, please call us at 416.504.8994 ext.32 / 1.800.387.5326. We will not trade your name with other organizations. Registered Charity No. 12890 7870 RR0001

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