



HALO

By Gord Bain, Program Manager, Deerview

The Residential Program in Cookstown has recently begun a unique partnership with "HALO", a non-profit agency that originated in the United States. The HALO Foundation's mission is to enhance the living conditions and provide therapeutic art programs to orphans world wide. Orphans supported by HALO are provided food, water, shelter, clothing, education and an opportunity to explore art. HALO's initiative with our Residential Program was spearheaded by Tanya Alfieri, a volunteer at New Path.



HALO partners with local non-profit agencies such as New Path. They raise money for donations of art supplies (or cash for art supplies) from local businesses and arrange for an art instructor and another volunteer to lead the art sessions. The projects vary and include sculptures, paintings, pastels, creative writing, making jewelry and working with clay. New Path's Residential clients are able to keep the art work they make or they can choose to donate the project. The art projects donated by our clients will be auctioned off to raise money for a girl's program in Kampala, Uganda. Halo's art instructor and volunteer will run the weekly program and New Path staff will provide support. The weekly program began in October with the residential clients in our on-site school program and client feedback has been very positive.

New Path staff and clients joined a Charity BBQ and Art Drive at Blue Beetle Comics in Barrie to raise money for art supplies. The event raised close to \$400 to support the program. HALO reps hope that youth will play more of a lead role in fundraising efforts in the future. Halo views their art program as empowering for New Path clients as it helps them build self-esteem and awareness of issues which impact others worldwide.

For more information about HALO, you can visit their website at: www.haloworldwide.org

