Gmail

Lindsay Redifer <lindsay.redifer@gmail.com>

progress report, receipts

1 message

Lindsay Redifer <lindsay.redifer@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 4, 2008 at 7:43 AM
To: "Ford, Rodney D" <FordRD@state.gov>

To the American Embassy of Madagasar:

In regards to the project Mothers of Madagascar, or MOM, our progress so far has been surprising and successful. While the project has gone in a different direction than originally expected, the enthusiasm and dedication of the students involved have taken it to a new, exciting place for me as a volunteer and for the American Corner of Majunga as a place of learning and cultural exchange.

MOM was originally designed as a simple, month-long art workshop to help students explore creative, abstract thinking while opening a dialogue about gender equality and the importance of women in a Malagasy community. However, enough interest on the side of the students pushed the class past its expected completion date of October 31st. As of today, the class is still in session.

Because the students have been especially dedicated, I took the opportunity to explain more about how the creative process works, different techniques in drawing in painting and how to see in a new, aesthetic way. All of these things lead to beautiful pieces and joyful creations and it's been truly wonderful seeing the students grow as artists right in front of me.

Now, we're moving into the next phase of the project. Instead of just spending a week or so on a picture of their mothers, students will now have a chance to spend several months on one piece and make it their absolute best work. Each student paid an entrance fee of 2,000 AR which will be used to develop four pictures, taken by me, of their mother or a mother-figure. One or all of these images will be used to inspire, guide and lead their final project, titled My Mother.

The class will end in July with a public art contest for these pieces. The community of Majunga will be invited to view and vote on the work done by the students. The top three artists will be given prizes with an additional prize to an "honorable mention" piece. Myself and other volunteers plan to give speeches about the importance of gender equality and respect towards women and how immortalizing a mother in art can be the highest homage given.

Attached to this e-mail are two receipts of the money spent so far. You'll notice that only part of the money has been spent. The remainder will be spent on prizes for the winners of the contest.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Redifer, Peace Corps Volunteer

2 attachments



lind.JPG
124K



lind2.JPG
61K