

Real Estate/Business

Students paint crutches for Third World disabled

By GEOFF WEST
HIGHLAND LAKES NEWSPAPERS

A new student curriculum sponsored by the Global Art Initiative (GAIN) in Horseshoe Bay hopes to help students understand the obstacles faced by the disabled in Third World countries.

Theresa Mosely, an adaptive art instructor who specializes in the use of art to treat people with brain injuries, is co-developing the curriculum with Dr. Fred Sorrell, president of GAIN, a non-profit supporting disabled artists around the world.

Crutches & Colors, a five-day curriculum for elementary students, was piloted in December at Lorena Elementary School in Lorena.

Students experience simulated disabilities and learn about crippling physical handicaps such as paraplegia, gaining an insight into the hardships by those affected, Mosely said.

"We're combining the education of disabilities with a basic art course," she said.

As part of the curriculum, students collect and paint crutches, which are sent to children in Haiti and Kenya. Those children then add to the design and distribute the crutches to the local handicapped.

Mosely said Dr. Sorrell once spotted a smiling man in Haiti walking down the road using the colored crutches.

The course can be adopted into regular class



COURTESY PHOTO

Lorena Elementary School students Zion Kelly, left, and Matthew Owens, right, paint crutches in Ella Snodgrass' third-grade class on Dec. 16 as part of "Crutches and Colors," a Global Art Initiative pilot educational program in the Lorena Independent School District. The curriculum, developed by Horseshoe Bay volunteers, helps students and adults understand the plight of the disabled in emerging countries.

time or during art class, Mosely said.

Two districts—Llano and Hereford Independent School Districts—have expressed interest in the program, she said.

But the program is not just for early education.

"It is targeted for fifth-grade students, but it is adjustable," Mosely said. "I've had adults out here (in Horseshoe Bay) that want to be taught this material."

Mosely started writing the curriculum in mid-November. She previously developed thera-

peutic recreation and art programs for Core Health Care in Dripping Springs, Deer Creek of Wimberley in Wimberley, and St. David's Rehabilitation Center in Austin.

The curriculum is sponsored by GAIN, which has opened an art exhibit of the work of five handicapped Third World painters at a gallery in Cottonwood, 4819 W. FM 2147.

The course aims to introduce these artists—and the obstacles they face—to an audience unaware of the challenges.

"These people are not

even poor—they've below poor," said Ben Sorrell, gallery operation manager. "You can't imagine the condition they live in."

Though Crutches & Colors will try to explain.

GAIN is seeking educators to pilot the course. Mosely will teach an overview of the curriculum on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., starting Jan. 9 at the gallery.

For information, Call GAIN at 512.217.1014 or visit online at www.GlobalArtInitiative.org.