

NEWS

For Immediate Release
October 14, 2021

Contact: Nicole Gerken (816) 472-4256 or
nicolegerken@haloworldwide.org

**Turn ‘Creativity’ Into a Safe Place to Live for Homeless Kids
Join the 2nd Annual #ArtDoesGood Fundraising Campaign Oct. 19-Nov.30**



Kansas City, MO — Nonprofit [HALO](#) launches its 2nd Annual [#ArtDoesGood](#) online fundraising campaign to continue serving as the foundation of a family for thousands of at-risk and homeless children around the world. This is a six-week campaign Oct. 19 - Nov. 30 with a \$12,500 dollar-for-dollar match.

“Homeless kids need a safe place to heal from their traumatic past,” said HALO Founder and CEO Rebecca Welsh. “At HALO, we’ve seen that art heals and supports the mental health of our kids, especially during COVID-19. We invite you to join this fundraising campaign so we can continue to provide homeless children with therapeutic art, safety, support, and a path to future success.”

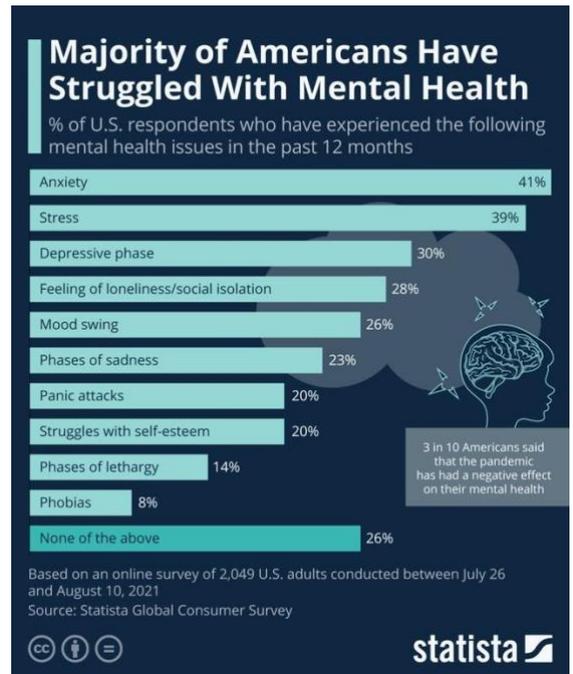
Individuals and teams of all ages can create their fundraising page at haloworldwide.org/artdoesgood to start their campaign. They can ask for donations and are encouraged to do art along with HALO kids.

“We believe in the work that HALO is doing and love that art is unique and fundamental to HALO's mission,” said Welsh. “HALO believes art heals, transforms lives, and gives children a safe outlet for self-expression when they feel they don't have a voice.”

HALO has seen a 62% increase of need from homeless youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, challenges with the mental health crisis continue to be a growing concern, especially within the homeless youth population.

According to a CDC [study](#) during August 2020-February 2021, the percentage of adults with recent symptoms of an anxiety or a depressive disorder increased from 36.4% to 41.5%, and the percentage of those reporting an unmet mental health care need increased from 9.2% to 11.7%. Increases were largest among adults aged 18–29 years and those with less than a high school education. Statista also conducted a recent online survey sharing the percentages of U.S. respondents experiencing mental health issues in the past 12 months.

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To combat mental health, HALO Learning Centers across the globe utilize art as a powerful tool to promote healing for HALO youth. Youth who attend the Learning Centers have experienced varying degrees of childhood trauma, including abuse, neglect and homelessness, that they must begin to heal from in order to visualize themselves with a positive, stable future. Rather than having HALO youth explain to yet another person or stranger what has happened to them in the past, HALO gives them the expressive outlet of art to tell their story, to get to know them, and to begin that healing process. Through this method, HALO has seen positive results such as beautiful memorials made for loved ones a child has lost, to youth learning how to accurately identify and express their emotions using different paint colors.

The HALO #ArtDoesGood Fundraising Campaign is October 19 and ends on November 30, 2021, also known as GivingTuesday. Participation can start anytime. The campaign goal is to raise \$75,000. Matching sponsors include Moroccanoil, Mariner Wealth Advisors, Carmen Tal, Riley Toyota, BillyHodes.com, and Cnick Designs. Prizes are awarded to top individual and team fundraisers. Interested individuals, groups and businesses can learn more and get involved at haloworldwide.org/artdoesgood, email halo@haloworldwide.org or call 816-472-4256.

ABOUT HALO:

HALO believes every child should have the foundation of a family. Since 2005, HALO has provided love in the form of housing, healing and education to heal homeless and at-risk children. Featured in the Moroccanoil INSPIRED film series, "American Spirit" of CBS Evening News, "Heroes Among Us" and "25 Women Changing the World" of PEOPLE magazine, "The Today Show," and Variety Magazine, HALO serves thousands of children each year and supports 21 homes and programs around the globe. HALO has Learning Centers and Housing programs in Kansas City, and Jefferson City, Missouri, and art programming in New York and Portland. HALO also supports orphanages and programs in Uganda, Kenya, Mexico and India. Learn how Love Heals at HALO and help one more child spend one less day alone at www.haloworldwide.org.

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