



NEWS

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“Defying the Odds”: A HALO Art Auction Benefiting Homeless Youth Feb. 24 and March 9 *Watch HALO Film Premiere Featuring HALO Alum Caylin*

Kansas City, MO — [HALO](#), a nonprofit that helps homeless and at-risk children around the world, is hosting its annual [Art Auction](#) fundraiser in person on Sat., Feb. 24, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo., AND Sat., March 9 in Jefferson City, Mo., showcasing stories of HALO youth “Defying the Odds.” Guests who are not able to attend the two in-person events are encouraged to watch the Feb. 24 event livestream for FREE on HALO’s YouTube Channel [@HALOEmpowersYouth](#) at 7:30 p.m. CST. Anyone can register for free for both events to bid on auction items, make a donation, and/or purchase Instabuy and raffle tickets. The Auction is an action-packed night featuring entertainment, the HALO Documentary Short Film Premiere “Caylin,” and a live and silent auction.

“The HALO Art Auction is filled with so many incredible silent and live auction packages generously donated by supporters of HALO who want their donation to directly impact the 3,000 homeless and at-risk youth HALO serves each year,” said HALO Founder and CEO Rebecca Welsh. “Oprah Winfrey donated a few of her favorite bags and even autographed them with a special message! Each bag is a gift that will give back to children in need.”

For almost 20 years, HALO has provided housing, healing, and education to thousands of homeless and at-risk children around the world.

Twenty-five-year-old HALO Alum Caylin is featured in the HALO Short Film Documentary titled “Caylin,” premiering at the HALO Art Auction. This documentary is the third film of the award-winning [HALO Stories](#) series that amplifies young voices of homelessness.

“HALO believes every child should have the support of a family,” said Welsh. “For years, we’ve supported kids like Caylin, who share powerful stories of resilience and become contributing members of our community. When we invest in our kids, their life’s trajectory can positively change forever.”

HALO provides the foundation of a family by providing homeless kids a safe place to sleep and fulfilling a spectrum of needs, from simply surviving the night to surviving their first job interview to helping them learn how to make it on their own as successful young adults.

“HALO met Caylin at the age of 15 when she was in search of stability and a safe place to live and raise her baby Avalynn,” Welsh said. “Caylin was a hardworking, young teen mom who wanted to give her daughter everything she could. Through the years, she has remained involved with HALO and always comes “Home” for the holidays. Caylin graduated high school and went on to college. She has a secure job with benefits and just bought her first home. Caylin dreams of creating the best life for her 10-year-old daughter Avalynn, to provide her with the opportunities she never had. When we invest in the youth of our communities, great things happen. Caylin just needed some support, and she absolutely deserved it. She has broken the cycle for her daughter Avalynn and generations to come.”

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HALO Alum Caylin shared with HALO, “When you help someone like me, you’re not only helping me, but you’re helping the next generation. You’re helping my daughter have a better life. So the fact that I can give her a good life, she can give her kids a great life, and we can have a better world.”

In the greater Kansas City area, HALO serves 700+ homeless youth in the HALO Learning Center. The Learning Center’s main objective is to educate and heal youth to help them set and attain goals for their future. Each night, HALO youth are served a warm meal, participate in programs, and are surrounded by positive role models, including HALO Staff and trained volunteers. Programs facilitated at the HALO Learning Center include Education, Art and Life Skills, and Specialized Individual Services. The new Kansas City HALO project opens in Spring 2024. The project includes a Boys Home, Girls Home and expanded Learning Center, allowing HALO to serve over 800 kids annually in Kansas City. Ongoing project updates are [here](#).

The number of homeless children is growing every day. The demand is outpacing the supply. As [cited on Voices of Youth Count](#), each year, an estimated 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness, of which 700,000 are unaccompanied minors, meaning they are not part of a family or accompanied by a parent or guardian. On any given night, approximately 41,000 unaccompanied youth ages 13-25 experience homelessness.

“Our work has become so critical with so many kids who are living on the brink of homelessness and are in dire need of support,” said Welsh. “It’s a simple question - How do we reach more kids? We need more people to help. HALO is fueled by volunteers. Reach out on our website, haloworldwide.org, to get involved.”

Event Details:

There are several ways to participate. Learn more by registering at <https://haloworldwide.org/2024HALOAA/>.

Saturday, February 24 in Kansas City, Mo.

1. Attend in-person on Feb. 24 from 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. in Kansas City, Mo., at The Midland Theatre. Honorary Co-Chairs are Marty and Cheryl Bicknell, Billy and Mara Hodes, and Bill and Becky Krueger. Only a few tickets are left! Get your ticket here: <https://haloworldwide.org/event/kcaa24/>
2. Can’t attend in person? Register for free at <https://qtego.us/qlink/halokansascity> and bid on silent auction items, donate, and purchase instabuys and raffle tickets. You can also watch the free live stream on Feb. 24 from the comfort of your home with family and friends to make a big impact. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. CST on YouTube [@HALOEmpowersYouth](https://www.youtube.com/@HALOEmpowersYouth).

Saturday, March 9 in Jefferson City, Mo.

1. Attend in person on March 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Jefferson City, Mo., at Capital Bluffs Event Center. Honorary Co-Chairs are Kelli and Scott Jones; and Greg and Megan Hoffmeyer. Get your ticket here: <https://haloworldwide.org/event/jcaa24/>
2. Can’t attend in person? Register for free at <https://qtego.us/qlink/halojeffersoncity>, bid on silent auction items, donate, and purchase instabuys and raffle tickets.

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As featured on The CBS Evening News, the live and silent HALO auction boasts items from HALO youth, professional artists, businesses, and individuals for almost 20 years. The Executive Producer Presenting Sponsor is Mariner Wealth Advisors.

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 Moroccan oil [INSPIRED](#) film series, “American Spirit” of CBS Evening News, “Heroes Among Us” and “25 Women Changing the World” of PEOPLE magazine, “The Today Show,” Variety Magazine, and Oprah Daily, HALO serves over 3,000 children and supports 15 programs around the globe each year. It 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, and Mexico. Learn how [Love Heals](#) at HALO and help one more child spend one less day alone at www.haloworldwide.org.

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If interested in interviewing HALO Founder & CEO Rebecca Welsh, please contact nicolegerken@haloworldwide.org.

Online Media Kit:

Event photos, videos, and brand assets are available [here](#).

HALO Social Media Handles:

Facebook: [@HALOFoundation](#)

X: [@HALOFoundation](#)

Instagram: [@haloempowersyouth](#)

LinkedIn: [The HALO Foundation](#)

YouTube: [@haloempowersyouth](#) (Event is FREE to watch on Feb. 24)

Event Tag:

#HALOArtAuction