

ROSS Program

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During the month of December the Ross students became fully engaged in the process of moving from dependency to self sufficiency. Like the poverty cycle, the process of moving from dependency to self sufficiency is a process which they must engage in to achieve their goals. The first step in the process is to be come Self-Determined; the second stage is Self-Empowerment, then Self-Reliance and then finally Self-Sufficiency.

During the month of December the students began to work on Self-Determination, and then moved into the arena of Self-Empowerment.

To help the students engage in the cycle of Self-Sufficiency, they participated in many different activities which are focused on obtaining the basic skills which will help them move towards Self-Sufficiency. Our basic focus of training is in the Building and Maintenance field. We have discovered that this focus really allows the students to gain new skills and when they master that skill they then are able to transition into an understanding that they can also master their own lives. In other words, they discover that they are responsible for their self esteem.



During this cycle of training, the students worked on learning to successfully wire a house, including electrical theory and hands on experience with wiring. They also learned about themselves and how to communicate effectively.



Even the simplest task is used to help the students to build themselves up. To that end we help them to learn and use a tape measure, how to drive a nail, how to use a square and other tasks as well.



Another important component of the ROSS program is helping our students to dream and to look into the future. To help them accomplish that task we spend time learning about visioning, and goal development, plus we use Entrepreneur training to help them start dreaming about the control they have to change their lives.

Teresa Killen came in and taught the ROSS students candle making as a viable business. She talked about how she made over \$700 in one month selling candles part time. She also talked to them about how easy making money is if you use your creative talents and tell people what you are doing. "And don't forget", she said, "to ask them to buy your product or service!"



One of the newest features of the ROSS Program is our growing partnership with the Huntington School of Fine Woodworking. During this rotation of students three of the ROSS Students took advantage of our partnership by simultaneously participating in the Woodshop program. Those students are Vinson Higginbotham, Felix Anih, and Angela Lovejoy. All three of the students remarked how much they really enjoy participating in both programs. And they really love getting a pay check!