



Project Profile: Through Your Eyes

What this project is about and why we're doing it

The Through Your Eyes project aims to engage youth and community groups in exploring local and global perspectives on poverty and well-being.

Bridges will involve 6 groups in this project over 3 years from 2009 to 2012. We will enable group members and leaders to learn together and take action on poverty in the UK and around the world.

Recent highlights

The theme *What is caring?* has been used to explore the lives of young carers from around the world. A young carers group run by the Red Cross has used this as an accessible starting point for young carers in Shrewsbury to explore caring both personally, locally and globally.

Working with Community Artist, Lesley McKnight, the group used Adinkra symbols from West Africa as their inspiration to create their own symbols to celebrate caring.

How we've been working

Getting started in exploring poverty has needed an innovative approach because:

- it is a complex issue that can be explored in many different ways;
- it is a difficult issue fraught with sadness and frustration.

To overcome this we have taken the lead of the interests of the groups we have been working with and gently woven poverty related issues into this.

Since the start of the project we have asked over 700 people: "What couldn't you live without?". From shopping centres to church groups this question has opened a door to sharing and understanding what contributes to our well-being.

Across all groups, the number one response to this question has been other people such as family members and friends. The results have been an invaluable resource in informing our work and are used when visiting different groups.

Next steps

All the young carers artwork has been brought together to create a beautiful and eye-catching piece that celebrates caring. This is now on display at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury, so pop in and have a look.

To find out more about Through Your Eyes and how you can get involved please contact Nina Cowley on 01952 255526 or Nina@bridgesglobal.org.uk.

Through Your Eyes is funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development. Additional funding has been received from Shropshire Partnership Diversity and Equalities Award.

Bridges promotes knowledge and learning in Shropshire for a fairer world. Our vision is a world where all people are respected, learn together and are able to take action.