RITSONA KINGDOM JOURNAL

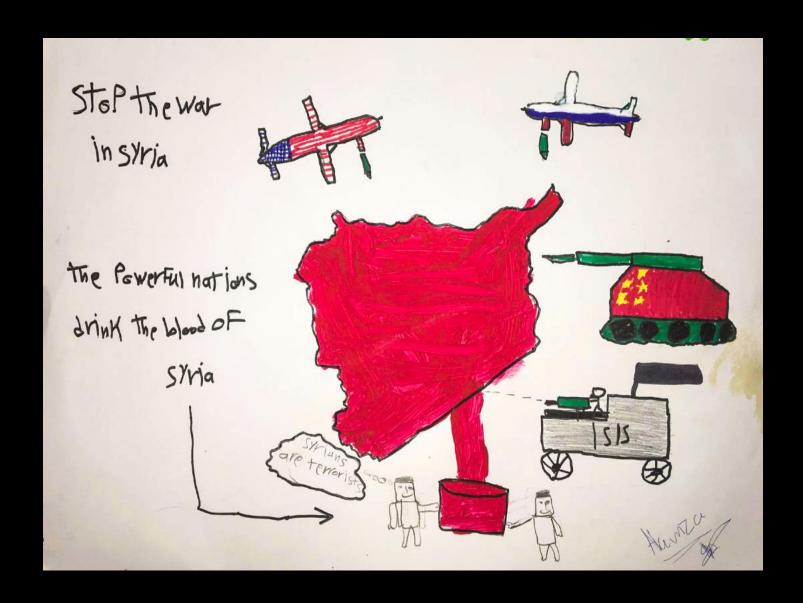




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Changing Seasons

With summer days away, Youth Ritsona has also begun a new season. Two isoboxes donated by MSF have now become our new home!

After weeks of hard work thanks to our amazing volunteer Paul Brumbaum who built custom shelves, roofs, trellises and benches, we have nearly completed the Lighthouse Relief Youth Engagement Space (YES).



Despite the heat, youth have spent hours painting the inside of our new spaces warm and uplifting colours, and are now able to relax on our pallet benches, under the shade of our new roof as they take their guitar lessons, work on art, or sip on a cup of chai.

The space will now serve as a drop-in centre, where youth can continue to partake in workshops, but also come to unwind, read a book, watch a movie or socialize.

The changing of seasons has also been represented in the youth we have recently said goodbye to, and the ones we know will be leaving soon for the next part of their life journey. Our message to them and to all of the youth we are so honoured to work with is this; Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire.

From our hearts to yours,

Daphne and Hannah



The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Lighthouse Relief, and are the individual opinions of Youth Ritsona







WORKSHOPS





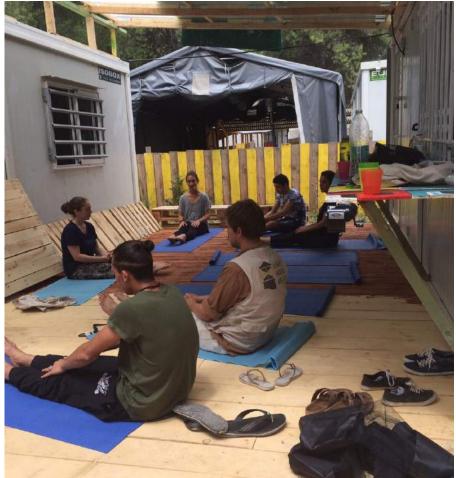










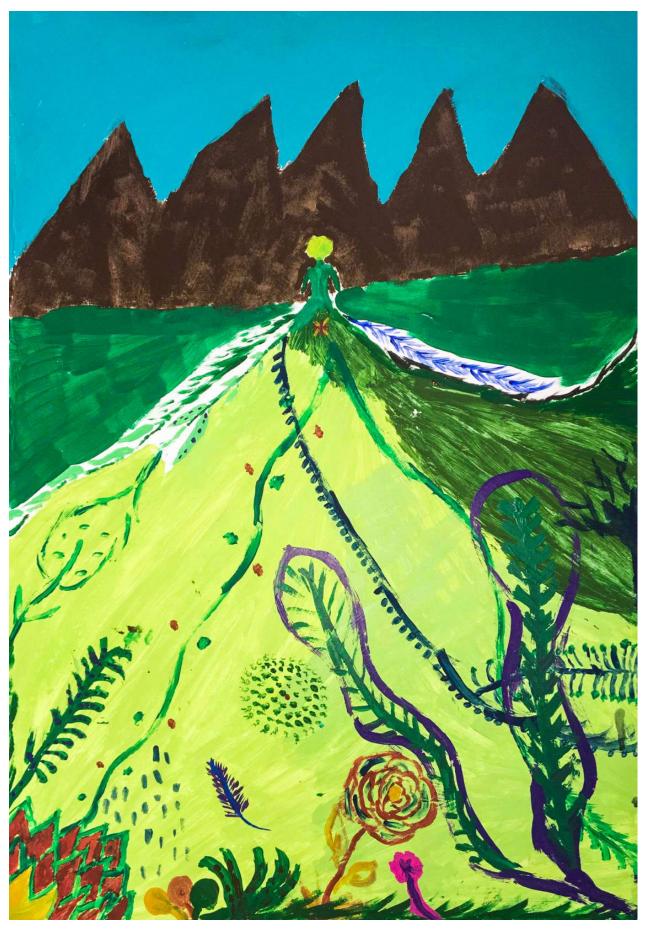


New Beginnings Ferhad Heme

Leaving is both happy and sad
Goodbyes sound like an end
So instead, I say "see you later"
Too many goodbyes make the heart heavy
The day I see my family again
Is a new beginning
I will be reborn

Color Bassam Omar

Look at yourself as a color
maybe you will not be the favourite
color of some people
but be sure that one day someone
will need you to complete his/her
DRAWING



by Amina

Murals by Youth Ritsona

"Under the Sea" located in the CFS





"The Shop" located in the Echo Warehouse







Do you know where the Syrian people are now?

The Syrian people are now in camps that they say are for humans.

They are now in many countries all over the world and are called Syrian refugees. They are in Greek refugee camps. Lebanese refugee camps. Turkish refugee camps. Jordanian camps.

They are now fleeing from war and no one can imagine the cruelty of this war. The pain and suffering that is hard to forget, even until this moment, remains. Yet all these suffering are ready to help anyone who asks for their help.

These are the people who did not build tents for those who came to Syria for help. Do you know how many people the Syrians have received? Now they have become a trading commodity between countries.

Halfway through the 19th Century, Circassian communities feeling genocide settled in Aleppo, and then 1,000 more followed. They have been present in Syria until now and they have all their rights. There is no difference between themselves and Syrian people. They are now Syrian people.

In 1915, Aleppo received displaced Armenians because of the massacres that took place in Turkey. According to estimates in 2011, 60,000 Armenians live in Aleppo and they are mostly descendants of those who came to the city in the beginning of the last century.

During World War II in 1943, when Greece was occupied by the Italian army and the German army, there was a mass flight of the Greek people into the Arab East. The Syrians received 12,000 war fugitives - they were not given the name "refugee". Syrians are now in Greece, fleeing war and are labelled "refugees".

The displacement of Palestinian people to Syria began in 1948. They now make up part of the fabric of Syrian society with nearly 581,000 people in Syria.

During the Gulf War, in 1990, Kuwait was occupied by the Iraqi army and Syria received many people. Kuwait is closing its doors to Syrians and refugees.

During the April War in 1996, between the Israeli Army and Lebanon, many families escaped from the flames of war to Syria. During the July War in 2006, more Lebanese people were forced again to escape to Syria. Syrians opened the doors of their homes to those fleeing the war both times and offered them security and a comfortable livelihood. When Syrians now flee from war, Lebanese officials have closed the border so that it is difficult for Syrians to enter Lebanon.

In 2003 when the USA and UK were fighting in Iraq, many Iraqi families and people from surrounding countries escaped to Syria. Syrians opened the doors of their homes to them.

Syrians are not bad people, we want the world to understand us.

Where are the interests of the world? When will the world stop caring about the business of refugees and start caring about the people?

You have the freedom of your opinion.

Malak Othman and Musstafa Musstafa





REFUGEE

The word, REFUGEE is a hard word when you hear it from the people, calling you refugee

But after all, that's who we are now, just a BAND of Refugees, without a name, without a home, without anything......

They only know us through a number on a piece of paper....

I am a Syrian boy, one of the Syrian people who crossed the sea from Turkey to Greece....

I know many of you do not know why we came, but I can explain it.....

In 15 of March 2011, People started out in demonstrations against the government, against injustice.....

The Syrian regime suppressed peaceful demonstrations!

After months of peaceful demonstrations, the peaceful revolution turned into an armed revolution. The Syrian regime started bombing the positions of the rebels with all kinds of weapons. Unfortunately the revolutionaries were hiding in the residential suburbs and among the civilians, and after the formation of the so-called (Free Syrian Army), many of its gunmen formed an Islamic battalion!

People from all over the world came to participate in the killing of the Syrian people, They began slaughtering people on the grounds that they are "infidels" and the Syrian army began to recruit young people to the army to participate in the war, and to defend the government!

Statistics say that there are more than 700,000 people killed since the outbreak of the revolution, the figures have not stopped so far, it keeps going....

Maybe you hear just numbers, but for us they are dreams, hopes, families, brothers, friends, all DEAD...

In 2015, all of you know that what happened, people started to cross the sea, even that they knew they might die, but it was simple, they didn't have any other choice, they thought that at least they will have hope again....

After most of us survived this trip.... People started to choose the countries, for me I found my hope in Sweden, To be able to complete studies, After being forced to leave, because of this bitter war!

To start to join the football academy, which I was deprived of in Syria!

"No matter who you are, you are a refugee...

Some people feel proud that they are refugees, others are not, but for me no, I will never feel proud when people fear me because I am a refugee!

Maybe they think I'm a terrorist!

Maybe..... I don't know!

So I hope the end of the war is very close.....
To be a human again, without the word "REFUGEE"

Bassam Omar





by Malak

Top View

by Zanyar



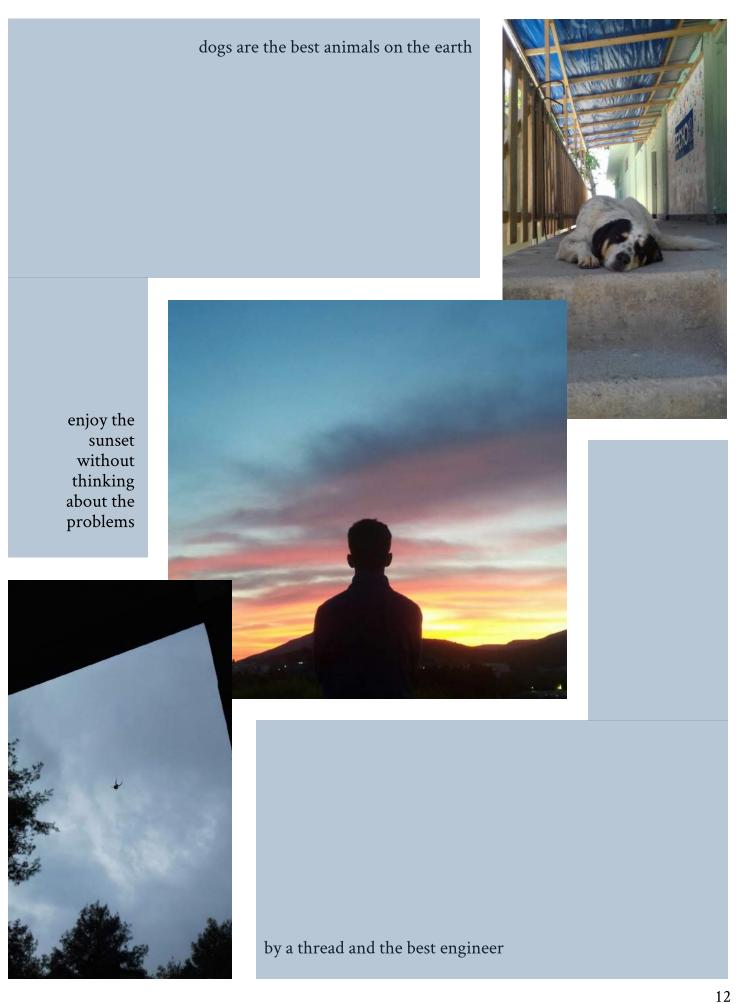
lighting in front of you just a walk



small but so beautiful most people don't see

rain is the best thing in my life





New in Youth Ritsona: Guitar

Guitar lessons with Jason from the International Sports and Music Project and Antonis from Echo 100 Plus, every Monday at 2pm!

"The sound, it makes me feel relaxed. If it's action music it makes me feel active. If it's sad music, they make me cry. If they are playing happy music, it makes me happy."

"When someone plays guitar, it reminds me, it makes my heart do boof boof boof boof it makes my heart bump fast, and the life is the chord and the hand is the human because the human makes life, and the sound is the bird singing. the guitar is the planet, the birds are the voice and the human is the hand. The thing that's inside the guitar, this is the sea."



"It feels nice" Amina

Hamza





"I love teaching guitar and playing music with people at camp. People are getting really good and are now able to use what they've learned to express themselves. This is what makes music rewarding - it helps people take emotions and turn them into something beautiful. it helps people have an outlet to release their feelings"

Jason



"I come to learn guitar because I like it. I feel comfortable when I'm playing . It's good to learn new stuff, so guitar is one of my favorite instruments. I love the sound, it makes me feel free"

Mustafa

"I just like music - it's so important" Ivan

Peace to you with the blessings of God

This is a letter from the refugees who suffer from the awful conditions that they experience. Enough with the injustice!

Some people live in palaces while others live in tents, in the streets or under the bombardment of the cannons of the war. Where is the justice? Where are the treaties that all the nations signed for the human rights? We ask: which are our rights in this life? In our country, the war is raging. Too much blood of the men, women and children was shed. That's enough!

The people who left because of the war, heard and believed the propaganda that the EU countries are humane and love people. Then, those people fled to Europe and suffered from the dangers of the journey, including the Aegean sea that has swallowed thousands of people. Today, we are shocked by the fact that borders are closed in Macedonia, that people are stacked in the Greek camps, most of which are in forests. One of them is in Ritsona. In this camp, children wait in a queue to have a meal or drinking water to quench their thirst. Are these the children's rights?!!!

People here deal with snakes, insects and animals that live in the woods. Today, I am writing about the awful situation we live in and about our daily routine. I address my letter to the presidents around the world, the UN and especially to Mr Ban Ki-Moon, General Secretary of the UN saying to him that: The decisions you made for the refugees are wrong. We are people, not animals. How can you let us live in the woods around animals? How can you let the children exposed to illnesses? If you understand what is being human means, the border should be open and the people's rights should be protected. I challenge any president of any country to stay in a tent for one night if they can. I thank everyone who help us and respect humanity.

My name is Hamza Moustafa, 14 years old.

Refugee of the war in Syria, I am staying in Ritsona camp in Greece. Writing this letter, I wish to describe the tragic reality.

Thank you.

Hamza Moustafa, written April 2016





Photos about home But Ritsona is not home Syria is home

by Amina

Some people cannot go to the shop to buy vegetables, so they are growing their own







Clothes cover the camp







Cooking dinner through the window, because we don't have a kitchen

Theatre



A Refugee Story - Looking for Home

A play written by the Ritsona Theater Team with support from I Am You.

One day me and my six friends decided to work on making a play to represent the walls we put up around refugees trying to leave their homeland to go to Turkey, and the many difficulties that stand in their way to get to Europe.

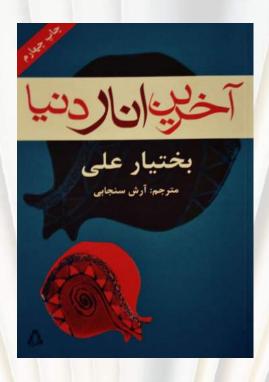
At the beginning we were faced with some difficulties in the representation, when we were not sure about how to work on the play. But we were determined to make it work.

We had a lot of ideas, and we decided that we would train every day for the play, but after two months of training, our friends went to Athens in order to hear the decision of the resettlement program in Europe, and they did not return to camp, so we had to bring in two other young people from camp to help us to complete the play.

Finally I've found it helps to complete the practice two before the play, and we faced a lot of challenges but we were very happy with the work of this play.

Review by Farhad Rashid

Book Review



The Last Pomegranate of the World

By Bachtyar Ali (1960, Sulaymaniyah, Iraq)

The Last Pomegranate of the World is about war, on political leaders, poverty, love, death and trampled innocence. Bakhtyar Ali in effect is along and walking with the people in defence of their basic rights. This book is my favourite because it's talking about all categories listed in society, and tries to find dearest people in our lives and hope.

Review by Zanyar Hassani



Past and Future, by Mustafa Shabo

by Michael



Don't Give Up

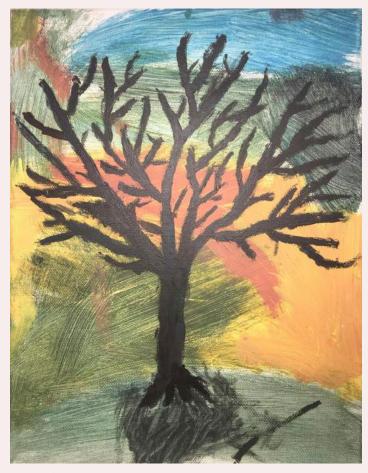


You have a lot to do, a lot of things that make you optimistic in this life, failure is not justification to despair - try to be successful, don't give up to reach to your goal. Be yourself, don't wear some other's mask.. stay patient, fill your soul with positivity and let hope lead the way.

Let optimism be your guiding light, keep a smile on for it's your key to peoples' hearts. Love ... peace, two

wings of a bird that carry you to the roads of the sun. Show the world your love and message of unity among all humanity.

Yazan Omira



Time for change, by Ivan



by Ivan

Men's Fashion





Model: Monir

Photographer: Mustafa Shabo



The Art of Ritsona

by Ferhad



Something from Nothing



The Death of Humanity



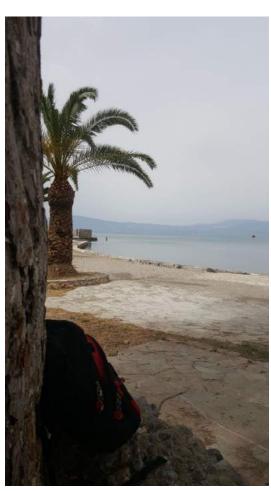
Planet Hope

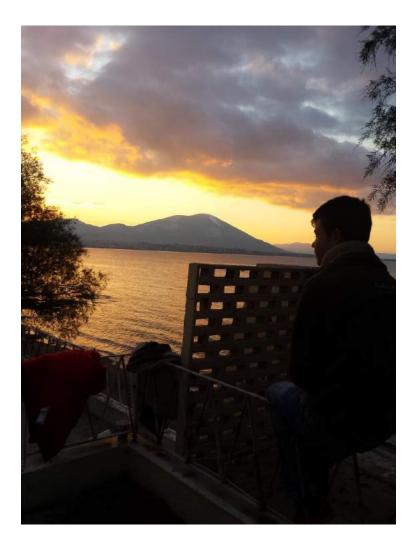


The Peace Tree

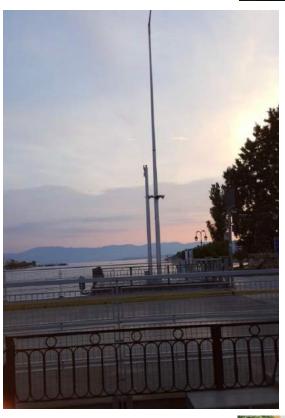


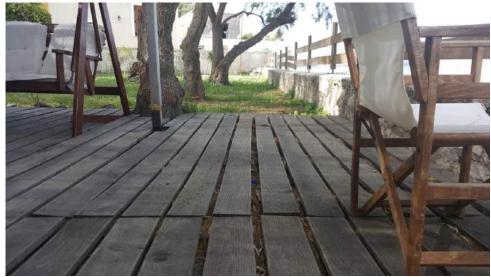
Life Goes On by Mustafa











one of my biggest fears is that I will end up alone and unloved

by Bassam

by Saman

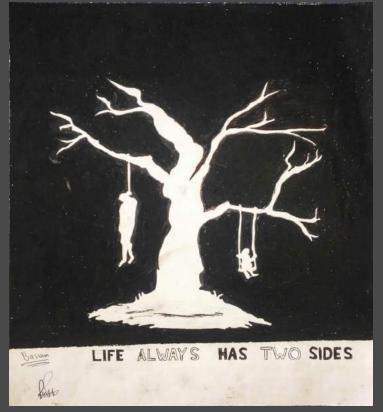


Reflections



by Hamza

by Bassam



ART WORKS

Hamza Moustafa "Stop the War"

Ivan Mohamed Landscape

Murals by Youth Ritsona
The Shop
Under the Sea

Mustafa Shabo Past and Future

Bassam Omar Life Always Has Two Sides

> Saman Hassani Eye

Malak Othman Trees

Amina Rashid Nature Trail

