

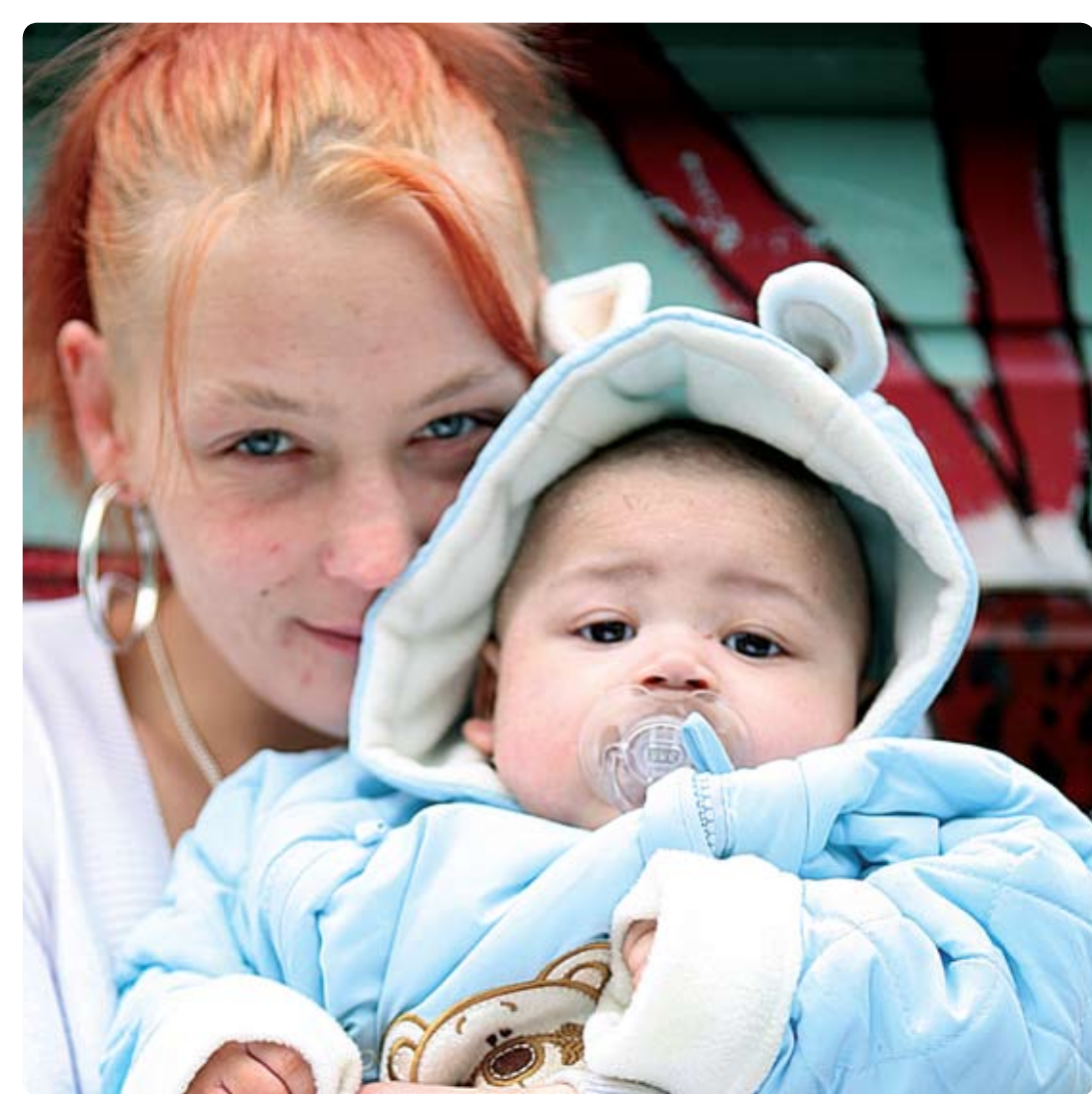


**KIDS**  
COMPANY



**KIDS COMPANY**

**A BRIEF OVERVIEW**



**KIDS COMPANY**



KIDS COMPANY WAS FOUNDED BY **CAMILA BATMANGHELIDJH** IN 1996. WE PROVIDE PRACTICAL, EMOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE INNER-CITY CHILDREN.

Our services reach 14,000 children across London, including the most deprived and at risk whose parents are unable to care for them due to their own practical and emotional challenges. For many, the roles of adult and child are reversed and, despite profound love, both struggle to survive.

These exceptionally vulnerable children not only negotiate significant challenges in their family homes, they also face immense threat within their neighbourhoods. Often they are exposed to relentless violence, some are forced into working as drug couriers or prostitutes, and many experience chronic abuse.

We provide a safe, caring, family environment where support is tailored to the needs of each individual. Our services and support empower children who have experienced enormous challenges to lead positive and fulfilling lives. Despite great difficulties, the children we work with are hugely courageous and embrace the support we offer.



## AMIE'S STORY

'When I arrived at Kids Company I was very angry and having lots of problems at school. My life at home was really hard too - I didn't have a relationship with my mother and didn't understand why she just didn't love me. At secondary school I was excluded 11 times in my first two years. By my third year I was school-less and homeless.

'My life was going on a very fast downward spiral, and it was only then that I admitted I needed help. Kids Company were amazing. They got me back into school and provided everything I needed once I got there. School uniform, school trips, the lot. And it wasn't just financial support, it was everything in between. My keyworker took me to the dentist, the doctor, and was there when I needed a shoulder to cry on too.

**'I now have 13 GCSEs, a handful of A levels and am at the start of a career in the media industry.'**



'Kids Company is a lifeline for a lot of people. If there was no Kids Company a lot of people would be on the street with nowhere to go for help. There should be a Kids Company in every city.'

Kane, aged 13





## OUR PHILOSOPHY

**KIDS COMPANY PROMOTES AND SUPPORTS EMOTIONAL WELLBEING.** OUR APPROACH IS GROUNDED IN ATTACHMENT THEORY AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSISTENT, LONG-TERM 'LOVING CARE'.

Experience has taught us that children who suffer trauma, abuse and neglect cope with their pain by shutting down their capacity to feel. Kids Company staff facilitate the healing process through the development of sustained, caring relationships, where both practical and emotional needs are met.

We believe that no child is born a criminal or a killer. In our experience, violent behaviour in children is typically evidence of the harm that they have been exposed to. All too often children are penalised for society's failures in care, when ultimately responsibility lies with adults who fail to care robustly enough.

We are relentless in our love, doing whatever it takes to protect children struggling to survive their childhood.





## THE NEED FOR KIDS COMPANY

MORE THAN 95% OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WE SUPPORT COME TO KIDS COMPANY INDEPENDENTLY, OR ARE REFERRED BY THEIR PEERS.

The University of London evaluated Kids Company over three years. This independent research found that:

Kids Company users face the following problems:

87% emotional and mental health difficulties

84% homelessness

83% sustained trauma

82% substance misuse

Our support empowers children and young people:

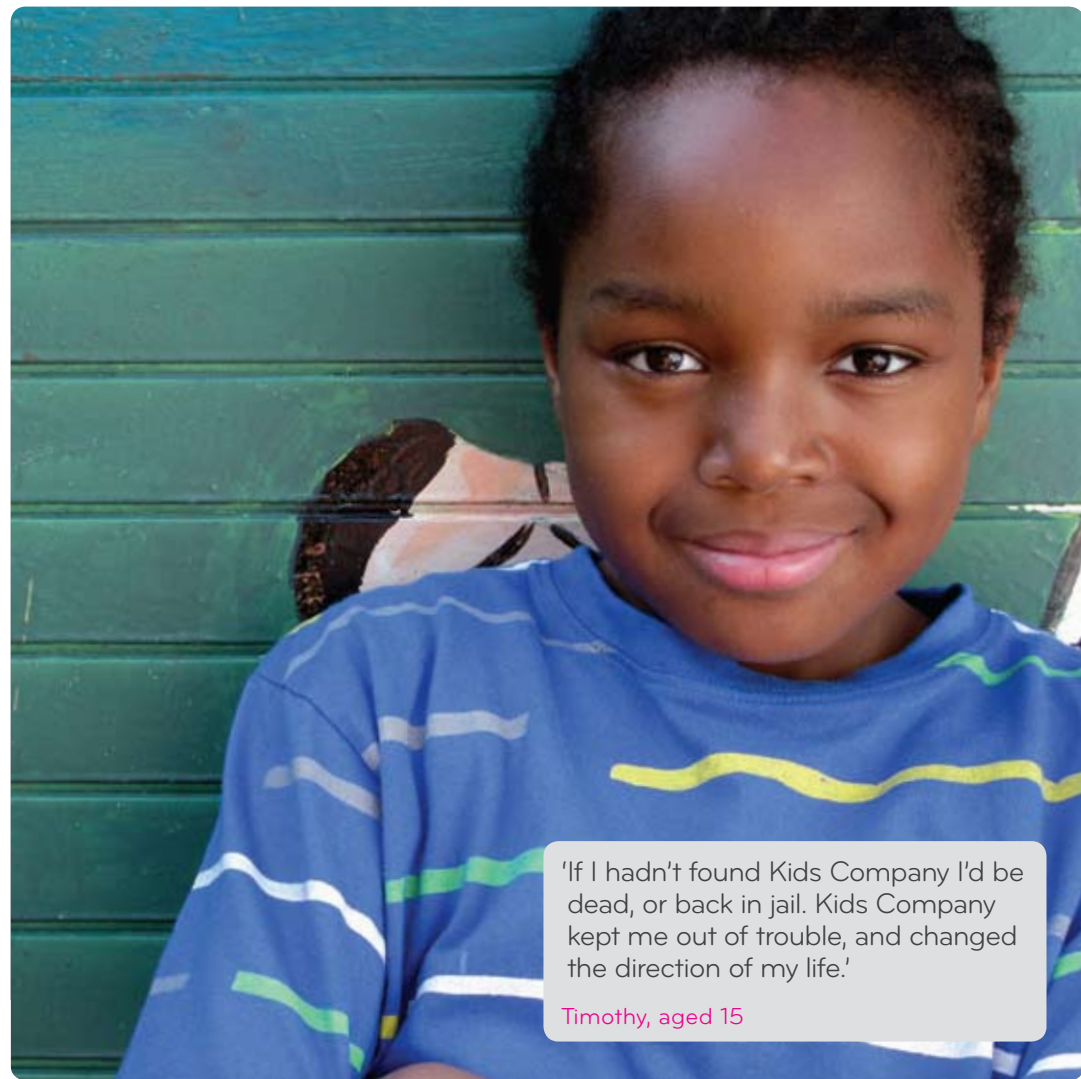
94% reduced substance misuse

91% were reintegrated into education

89% of our young people improved their anger management

97% of children found Kids Company effective in supporting their needs

Gaskell, 2008 (Queen Mary, University of London).



'If I hadn't found Kids Company I'd be dead, or back in jail. Kids Company kept me out of trouble, and changed the direction of my life.'

Timothy, aged 15



## OUR SERVICES

We are advanced in service delivery, employing a widely skilled team of professionals working at street level. We operate through three street level centres and a therapy house, as well as offering therapeutic and social work services in 38 schools.



## THE ARCHES II

THE ARCHES II IS A STREET LEVEL CRISIS CENTRE IN SOUTH LONDON WHERE WE SUPPORT MORE THAN 2000 EXCEPTIONALLY VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

Once we have found homeless children somewhere to live, we provide a welcoming, substitute family environment where each individual is given a comprehensive package of care, designed to meet their specific needs. Our unique multidisciplinary approach combines health, housing, emotional wellbeing, mental health, youth justice, arts, sports, education and employment.

The Arches II also houses an under-16 education centre for children who are unable to attend mainstream schools due to disruptive, hyperactive and often violent behaviour. We support these children and help to re-integrate them into mainstream education.



## THE TREE HOUSE

IN 2009 WE OPENED A NEW STREET LEVEL CENTRE, THE TREE HOUSE, IN NORTH LONDON.

Through this centre we provide therapeutic after school facilities and activities for under-16s, and a specialist pupil referral unit for children who have been excluded from mainstream school.



### THE URBAN ACADEMY IS AN ACCREDITED EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS CENTRE IN SOUTH LONDON.

It currently supports over 220 young adults aged between 16 and 23 years of age who reject, or have been rejected from, other educational facilities due to their complex emotional and behavioural needs.

Our focus is on helping young people move successfully into further education, training or employment. The centre also provides nutritious meals, a gym, and complementary therapies to address physiological distress.

The Urban Academy offers Kids Company's unique 'Path to Life' syllabus. Accredited by the Open College Network, it covers 41 areas, including literacy, numeracy and budgeting as well as art, media and fashion. Students choose a selection of modules, and are taught in small groups or one-to-one.

The majority of our young people progress to full-time further education and are offered ongoing support through the centre.

The Urban Academy is now officially an Arts Award Centre, accredited by the National Qualifications Network. These awards develop creative skills, boost confidence and open the door to further education and job opportunities.

Through our arts programme our young people have set up their own fashion label, Bare Thread, a film production label, Urban Films, and the Academy has developed partnerships with many cultural institutions.



'The Hood that Hugs', designed by students at the Urban Academy as part of Kids Company's Bare Thread fashion label.



THE HEART YARD IS A THERAPEUTIC SANCTUARY WHERE THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN RECEIVE INTENSIVE EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT, PROVIDED BY HIGHLY EXPERIENCED CLINICIANS.

Under one roof we uniquely offer: specialised psychiatric care, child and adolescent psychotherapy, as well as dance and movement, play and arts therapies. We also provide complementary health treatments such as acupuncture, reflexology, aromatherapy, massage, Reiki and yoga.

The Heart Yard's garden, family kitchen and nursery playroom offer respite, peace and comfort, as well as laughter and fun. For many, the Heart Yard provides their first experience of a safe, secure and loving home environment.



'This is my heaven, art, cooking, gardening. It's like a family and I feel looked after.'

Tyler, aged 10



## SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

**KIDS COMPANY WORKS IN 38 SCHOOLS ACROSS LONDON. THROUGH OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME WE PROVIDE ACCESS TO A RANGE OF SPORTS AND ARTS ACTIVITIES, CLUBS AND DAY TRIPS TO MORE THAN 11,500 CHILDREN.**

Therapeutic and social work interventions are offered by teams of qualified and trainee psychologists, psychotherapists, arts therapists and social workers.

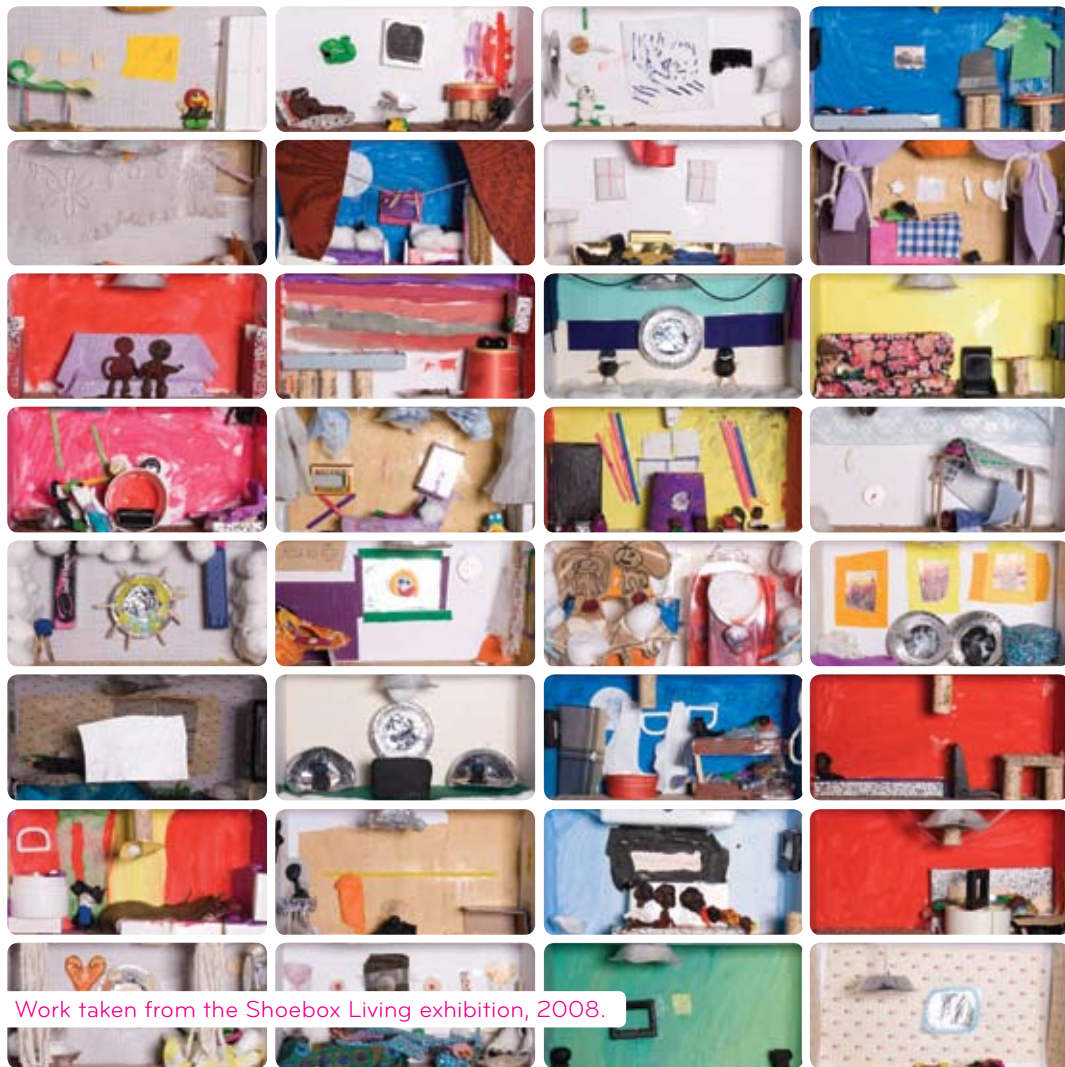
These services support children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and help prevent many of them from being excluded from or dropping out of school.

We also offer intensive support services for parents, families, carers and teachers, our priority always being to create a positive outcome for the child.



**Teachers have reported that as a result of our Schools Programme they have seen educational improvements in 83% of children.**





Work taken from the Shoebox Living exhibition, 2008.

## THE ARTS

OUR VARIED ARTS PROGRAMME PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES THROUGH VISUAL ARTS, FASHION, MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCE.

Each year thousands of children and young people work with Kids Company's art workers and therapists.

Art often becomes the most powerful form of expression, giving children a voice for their trauma and loneliness, and offering a window into their lives so that their needs can be better understood and met.

After two highly successful exhibitions, in 2005 (*Shrinking Childhoods*, Tate Modern) and 2007 (*Demons and Angels*, Shoreditch Town Hall), Kids Company's arts team and 125 children aged between eight and ten developed *Shoebox Living*. A powerful insight into children's perceptions of childhood, it was exhibited at the Treasury, the Home Office, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Guardian Gallery between 2008 and 2009.

As a result of this art project, 1 in 6 of the children who created their bedrooms disclosed abuse and neglect within the family home, our child protection team were able to help the families seek help and ensure the children's safety.

**'It makes for art that grips the soul'** - Guardian (Shoebox Living exhibition, 2008.)

Young people from Kids Company have successfully completed work placements at the BBC, and written and produced plays at the National Theatre to critical acclaim.



## GOVERNMENT FUNDING

IN APRIL 2008 KIDS COMPANY WAS GRANTED FUNDING OF £12.7 MILLION OVER THREE YEARS FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES, THROUGH THE YOUTH SECTOR DEVELOPMENT FUND.

This money enables us to continue to deliver services to 400 of our most vulnerable young people aged over 14. Under the terms of the grant we will:

- Research the effects of trauma and neglect on brain development
- Identify and address barriers preventing young people from accessing statutory services
- Create improved tools for evaluation and assessment of need in young people
- Develop an emotional wellbeing syllabus
- Address negative perceptions of children and young people.

In addition to government funding we urgently need to raise over £8m this year to continue our work.

To help us go to: [www.kidsco.org.uk](http://www.kidsco.org.uk) Or contact our fundraising team on: [fundraising@kidsco.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@kidsco.org.uk), or 0845 644 6838.



We continue to raise money to fund life-changing services for the 13,600 children not supported by our government grant.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP



### GIFTING

**Direct Debit:** A regular monthly donation will help us continue to provide much needed support and therapeutic care to vulnerable children. To donate, please visit: [www.kidsco.org.uk](http://www.kidsco.org.uk)

**Donation Of Goods:** From books to furniture, toys, TVs and toiletries, Kids Company relies on the generous donations of goods from our supporters. To make a donation, email: [goods@kidsco.org.uk](mailto:goods@kidsco.org.uk)

### GIVING YOUR TIME

**General Volunteering:** Whether you give one hour, or one day, your contribution will never be forgotten. You could decorate a depleted house, take a child on a day trip, or help out in a school. To get involved, email: [volunteer@kidsco.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@kidsco.org.uk)

**Mentoring:** Why not support one of our young people? To offer long-term, one-to-one support, as a Kids Company mentor, email: [volunteer@kidsco.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@kidsco.org.uk)

**Be Creative:** Kids Company runs art and drama workshops, providing children and young people with a unique therapeutic form of creative expression. To join or assist our team of artists and youth workers, email: [volunteer@kidsco.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@kidsco.org.uk)

### GIVING YOUR SKILLS

**Schools Support:** We require therapists and counsellors with experience of working with children. We also need group facilitators for activities as well as classroom and learning assistants. To volunteer in a school, email your CV to: [schoolsvolunteer@kidsco.org.uk](mailto:schoolsvolunteer@kidsco.org.uk)

**Therapeutic Work and Pastoral Care:** Kids Company works to promote emotional well-being and values the contribution of trainee or qualified, youth workers, social workers, teaching assistants and therapists. To work with us, email: [complementarytherapy@kidsco.org.uk](mailto:complementarytherapy@kidsco.org.uk)

### CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

**Contribute With Your Colleagues:** Organise fun days, school trips, sports days, decorate a school, or bring your own exciting, original suggestions for ways to create opportunities for vulnerable children. To contribute as a corporate volunteer group, email: [corporatevolunteer@kidsco.org.uk](mailto:corporatevolunteer@kidsco.org.uk)





**KIDS  
COMPANY**

**revive™**

Printed on Revive 50:50 white offset. This product has been awarded the NAPM 50% Recycled Mark. Produced at a mill that is certified with the ISO14001 environmental management standard.

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