

Tamalpa ArtCorps News



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This year, we had the honor to offer the Tamalpa work again in support of human trafficking survivors and vulnerable youth in Kolkata, India. Learn about the ArtCorps programs our students and alumni are doing in the world. Meet our inspiring scholarship recipients and the vision they bring to our training programs. Thank you, as always, for your support - together we can continue changing lives through the healing power of creative expression!

Movements that Speak: Supporting Creative Expression Among Vulnerable Youth in Kolkata, India -By Esme Stucker

"I love this Tamalpa dance, it makes me feel alive." -Program Participant



As witness to the extraordinary resilience, courage and determination of these young girls and boys, my heart burst wider open each day. I was humbled and inspired by their willingness to try new things, to take risks, to face fears and challenges with integrity and care.

We met the majority of our participants where they lived. Despite the cheerful nature-inspired mural that greets visitors and the attentive caretakers bustling about the office and residences, I often felt despair. Though the girls had opportunities for study, I wondered each morning where their life paths would take them. Would they, under the cover of night, scale the high walls topped with barbed wire in order to run back to the only life they knew?

Would their identities as Bangladeshi citizens be confirmed, sending them back to their home country, without family or friends to support them? Or would they remain in the shelter for a decade, released at 18 to fend for themselves? These scenarios are the reality. As I entered the gates each morning I imagined the uncertainty & insecurity of such possible futures & I felt fear.

Read the full story [here](#).

Workshops in Support of Domestic Peace

Since January 2015, Tamalpa ArtCorps has partnered with The Center for Domestic Peace in San Rafael, CA. Tamalpa Practitioner Malena Mayorga has been working with survivors of domestic violence at their shelter.

Session after session, the women have been finding new resources for their life. The survivors share feeling relieved and invigorated through the sessions and express how healing it is to be creative and come back to their bodies.



Returning to the Body

Just this past week, we have launched a 3-week intensive ArtCorps program in the Philippines in partnership with the nonprofit Anakatira. For the second year, Tamalpa Practitioner Alice Mundschin will be offering classes for an underserved group of multigenerational residents in the city of Cebu.

Through dance, visual arts, and creative writing, participants explore their stories, identify personal and community challenges, and create opportunities for change.



Tamalpa Students at work in the world!

Tamalpa ArtCorps programs are carried around the world through our advanced students who are in their final level of the professional training program and work with diverse populations and disadvantaged communities, including: at-risk youth in public school systems, immigrants, women's centers, dance education, children in public school systems, centers for recovery, hospitals, centers and shelters for victims of violence, psychiatric centers, and hospices, among others. To learn about specific projects, [read more](#).

ArtCorps Scholarships support exceptional students working in the social arena to train in our work.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, in the past 4 months, Tamalpa has provided **three full scholarships** and **four partial scholarships** to very inspiring students, including: Kristen Rulifson, a young American educator committed to taking the work to vulnerable youth suffering with PTSD and addiction; Adrian Arias, a Peruvian multidisciplinary artist committed to social justice; Tariro Mavondo, a Zimbabwean-Australian multidisciplinary performer and social change activist; JungAe Lee, a Buddhist nun from Korea devoted to the social role of Buddhism.



"The Tamalpa training has been one of the most challenging and transformative experiences of my life so far. I have no doubt that what I'm learning in the Tamalpa Training will contribute to making me an even more capable and effective art practitioner committed to the health and social inclusion of all Australians."
-Tairo Mavondo



"The Tamalpa training has supported me in my journey building and directing a youth performance company in Sacramento. This program has been very successful and restorative for the students and school. I see my future continuing using the Tamalpa work to inform my practice as a dance educator and community activist."
-Kristen Rulifson

Your support is vital to the success of the Tamalpa ArtCorps program. Each and every donation makes a difference, so please give what you can. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Thanks in advance for your support!

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Photos by : Malena Mayorga, Alice Mundschin, Daria Halprin, Esme Stucker, and Kristen Rulifson