

Impact Statement

Deo Greene, Grade 7.
Providing Hope, 2020.
Mixed media on paper, 18 x 24 Inches.
LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL
Unsung Hero: Carl Wilkens

I found the story of Carl Wilkens inspiring because his acts of service during the Rwandan Genocide is an example selfless giving. Mr. Wilkens risked his life through unsafe territory to deliver water to an orphanage when no one else was brave enough to do so. Because of his bravery, Mr. Wilkens saved the lives of over 400 children and adults. Without him, many of those people would have died.

In my work, *Providing Hope*, I attempted to capture the moment when Mr. Wilkens was giving water to a young man who had been brutally assaulted by the opposing force who were wielding machetes. I can't imagine how scared that young man must have been after being attacked and then how he must have felt more at peace after receiving help from Mr. Wilkens.

I tried to convey this by making the young man large and relived to communicate his happiness. Compositionally I wanted to leave Mr. Wilken's face out of the piece I wanted the artwork to be not about the person who's giving the water but the act of giving itself. I constructed the art to have dark colors at the bottom to convey a sense of hopelessness and melancholy, alternatively, I made lighter colors at the top to provide hope and happiness. I visioned this piece as a symbol of hope, freedom, aspiration, happiness, and cheerfulness. I've been inspired to be a better person because of Carl Wilkens.

I have been trying to spread the important and crucial story of my piece to friends, relatives, parents, grandparents, siblings, and teachers because the story of *Providing hope* is supposed to inspire everyone to help, be compassionate and caring. I've been trying to convey that one person can save hundreds and change the world. I have been trying to spread the story on social media platforms as well as I've been promoting heavily on Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/ilkedoggs/>.