



# Tents of Hope *Petaluma*

A journey of compassion and peace with the refugees of Darfur, Sudan

## ***Tips: Painting the Tent***

The tents are made of canvas and don't need to be primed or gessoed before painting as long as you use water based acrylic paint. An inexpensive and good alternative to artist's acrylic paint is water based latex acrylic enamel housepaint you can get in a hardware store. With the basic colors red, yellow, blue, white and black you can then mix the secondary purples, greens, oranges and browns. You'll probably use up more paint than you think, so half pints or pint size is a good idea. If you want to go the artist acrylic paint route, get the larger containers as the tubes will be used up too quickly.

A variety of inexpensive foam and /or bristle brushes can be found at the hardware store as well, and they work great- just be sure to keep them wet while you're painting, if they dry out with paint on them they will be ruined. Putting dirty brushes in a few open pails or jugs filled with water is a good way keep them ready for more painting or wet until you're ready for clean up. For clean up, just rinse the brushes well in clean water until all the paint washes out. If you want to change or make a correction in your painting, just let the paint dry (10-15 minutes usually) and paint over it. You can paint over it as much as you want.

Water based paint is great for our uses because it is less toxic, has no strong fumes, dries fast, can be painted over for changes and is easy to clean up after. Plus, its cheap and durable.

Happy tent painting and thank you for being part of Tents of Hope!

- Chris Newhard

If you have any questions or need help with tent or paint related issues, please contact me at (707)762-3860 or [chrisbix@juno.com](mailto:chrisbix@juno.com)

## **A few other areas**

What to paint in your square. Try sketching your design on paper before taking the brush in hand. Think of a brief message or symbol of hope, peace. Not too preachy or political, but loving, caring, hopeful....Examples of what has already been done help on that.

**Buying paint** is your organization's responsibility - best to do before the tent arrives, so they're ready to go. We could offer the suggestion of passing leftover paint and brushes along with the tent too.

**Setting up the tent:** The painted tent is waterproof, but it is better to keep it indoors in a safe

place, overnight. You will find simple assembly instructions with your tent. Plan to have someone help you set it up.

**Additional resources:**

Tents of Hope national website: [www.tentsofhope.org](http://www.tentsofhope.org)

Tents of Hope Petaluma: [www.tentsofhopepetaluma.org](http://www.tentsofhopepetaluma.org)