

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 10, 2007



NEWS RELEASE

AREA STUDENTS RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT POVERTY IN AFRICA

CINCINNATI, April 10, 2007 – What happens when you bring 20 motivated, conscientious students together to brainstorm ways to raise awareness about poverty in Africa? Wonderful things! Recently, Moeller High School hosted over 300 students from 15 Cincinnati area high schools for an overnight event to learn about the plight of children in Uganda. They were fortunate to have the “Invisible Children Roadies” as their teachers. The students not only listened to presentations but they also subjected themselves to the conditions that poverty stricken children face every day, namely, lack of food. What they could not duplicate, of course, is the threat of violence these kids also face daily, including kidnapping to be used as slaves.

The schools represented included Kings, Loveland, Summit, Moeller, Mason, Sycamore, Mt. Notre Dame, Ursuline, St. Xavier, McNicholas, Purcell-Marian, Princeton, Withrow International, Maderia, and St. Gertrude Youth Group. The speakers were a group of young adults who have been to Uganda and witnessed the horrors against the children first hand. They bring their story to the United States in hopes of awakening our government and our citizens’ sense of humanity to help these people overcome their deplorable conditions. Their main goal is to bring education to the children because it is through education that

these children can learn to build better lives and defend themselves more effectively. Across the world, students, like those listed above, are rallying their entire schools to think of creative fundraising ideas to rebuild schools in Northern Uganda. The money that is raised will provide everything from essentials like water, books, and teachers to new classrooms and technology. Moeller's program was also privileged enough to be able to host Abitimo Odongkara, the founder of a school located in Northern Uganda, namely UNIFAT (Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology).

Moeller High School has responded by adopting Abitimo's school. She single-handedly built this school back in 1985 and continues to work countless hours to keep it going. She is 71 years old. The school began under a tree. It now serves 1500 students in Pre-k through 6th year. Since then it has experienced many difficulties caused by rebel activities, hunger, and an outbreak of Ebola, causing closure of schools for months in Gulu district. But in spite of all these difficulties, the school has maintained high standards of learning. Each year more parents seek vacancies to enroll their children in UNIFAT School. There has been considerable success in the number of students passing their Primary Leaving Examination and gaining admission into good high schools. Some of the pioneer students are now enrolled in colleges and universities. The children eager to learn, the teachers qualified and committed, and the school has built a reputation of excellence throughout the country. While Moeller, Sycamore, and MND students continued to brainstorm ways to help UNIFAT, the other students at the overnight event formed into teams and used the inspiration provided by the speeches to address the situation facing the children of Uganda in their own unique ways.

There are many ways that you can help. The website www.moellerunifat.org is a great place to start. In addition, if you live in one of the school systems listed above, contact the high school and lend your support. If you'd like to start a new project at your school, the students at Moeller High School are excited to share what they have learned to jump start your ideas. They've laid the groundwork; now they are ready to share their best practices. You can learn more about Moeller's program by visiting www.moeller.org/pastmin and click on "One Uganda." Keep an eye out for fundraisers. Many of the students came away motivated to help those who don't have the financial resources to help themselves, but have the motivation to learn!

#

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Connie Ring, Math Department
Invisible Children Coordinator
Archbishop Moeller High School
9001 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, OH 45242
(513) 791-1680
CRing@Moeller.org