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Local seniors host benefit concert for Darfur



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Ursuline seniors Caitlyn Scherer, Laura Zorko, Ashley Holbrook and Sycamore junior Meghan Marth hosted the Unite Our Voices, a benefit concert for SaveDarfur and Unified for Unifat.

The concert was Aug. 8 in Nisbet Park to create awareness for SaveDarfur and Unified for Unifat. They hope to attract teens from all across Cincinnati. The event is free.

Their primary goal is to raise awareness and donations for these two organizations. The bands performing are Motions, Color the Sky, Becoming the Legend, Static Vessels, Code 4, Borderline, Zach Steele and Last Year's Resolution. Also, food and beverages will be available to purchase.

In 2003, a rebellion in Darfur occurred, causing the regime of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the Janjaweed to campaign for the destruction of the civilian population of different ethnic groups associated with rebels. At least 400,000 people have been killed in this genocide and more than 2.5 million have been forced out of their homes.



Provided. Submit photos to: rmaloney@communitypres
The concert organizers are, from left, Caitlyn Scherer, Laura Zorko and Ashley Holbrook. Loveland, Montgomery, Symmes Township

These refugees still face starvation, disease and rape in the refugee camps, and the people still living in Darfur risk the possibility of torture, death and displacement.

SaveDarfur is dedicated to finding an end to the genocide. SaveDarfur uses outreach and public education to pressure government representatives and Congress members in the United States and in the UN to help end the crisis. SaveDarfur is unique because it focuses on political leaders to end the crisis in Darfur instead of temporary solutions.

Unified for Unifat is an organization dedicated to helping the children of Uganda, especially the students served by the Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology. Unified is an affiliation of Cincinnati high school students that work directly with the non-profit Friends of Unifat. Unifat itself is an elementary school in Gulu, Uganda, started by Abitimo Odongkara in 1986. The school provides education for ethnic minorities forced into displacement camps.

Uganda is in the midst of a brutal civil war, children are abducted to become soldiers and sex slaves in a rebel army, citizens are terrorized by government and rebel soldiers, and children are forced to walk miles into town to sleep in safety each night for fear of being captured.