

Basketball tournament to help children of Uganda

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Fairfield High School Interact is teaming to raise money for children in Uganda.

It is often that students hear about Darfur or other tragedies in Africa, said senior David Dehne, special events coordinator.

"The people in Uganda need just as much attention," he said.

The entire community is invited to a basketball tournament between the students and the teachers at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 24. The \$5 tickets will go toward the charity Unified for Unifat, formerly known as the Invisible Children of Uganda Project.

Senior Ashlea Broughton, 18, said she presented the idea after talking to her boyfriend, a student at Moeller High School. Mount Notre Dame and Moeller high schools have been working together to support displaced children in Northern Uganda for the past two years. Unifat is a technology school in northern Uganda, an area that has numerous children orphaned from war, many forced into battle.

"It's just mostly helping out the kids that have been caught up in the genocide of the war," Broughton said. "It's really touching to know we can do something in the U.S. when they're so far away."

Last year students raised \$2,500 to support Sammie Herman, a Fairfield student with cancer. They decided to make it an annual event where each class competes against each other and then finally the teachers.

"These kids are really motivated," said Interact co-adviser Debbie Cropp. "They are the leaders. They do the work. There's not a whole lot we have to do, because they're so good at it. It's a good group."

Junior Whitney Lawson said it is worth the work to see how classes come together in the spirit of competition.

"I think we might win," Lawson said. "The teachers won last year, so I think there's a little animosity. The students want to come back and wipe out the teachers."