

# NEWS RELEASE

## **YOUTH-SPONSORED 'iDANCE' RAISES \$4.4K TO SUPPORT UGANDAN SCHOOL; PLANS NEW 'WALK & ROCK' EVENT**

CINCINNATI, February 18, 2009 – Recently, 825 students from 10 different Cincinnati schools came together to dance with their iPods (hence, “iDance”) and raise money for a Ugandan school, UNIFAT (Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology). The sponsor of the iDance was Unified for UNIFAT (U4U), an organization involving students from 13 different schools whose mission is to help support UNIFAT and sponsor 120 Ugandan children.

Connie Ring, U4U’s founder and a math teacher at Moeller High School, was particularly impressed with the student leadership for this event. She said the iDance planning committee greatly exceeded her expectations. “I am consistently filled with pride at the amount of dedication and work (they) do for UNIFAT! They talked it up. They made Facebook events for it. Their knuckles bled from all the poster making. The place looked amazing, the party was KILLER, the DJ rocked... In addition, they were professional with the money, kind to the chaperones, on task during set up and take down (fastest ever!), and still managed to have a great time.”

Overall, Ring said she couldn’t have been more pleased by the outcome. “The place looked amazing (it was held in Moeller’s Activity Center), the party was KILLER, the DJ rocked...The iDance was by far our most successful event in terms of number of students and funds raised so far. But if you thought that was good, you ain’t seen nothin’ yet!”

And she may be correct. Now Ring’s U4U students are embarking on their most ambitious event yet – a “Walk and Rock” – which will be held Saturday, April 4, beginning at 1:45 PM at Moeller and ending at 10:30 PM at Sawyer’s Point. This event will feature the founder of UNIFAT, a K-7 elementary school in Uganda. Her name is Abitimo Odongkara, and she’s the inspiration behind the success of UNIFAT and responsible for providing a safe haven for the children, while educating them to help them build a better life.



**Moeller High School senior Eric Werner checks students in as they arrived at the iDance.**

Later that day, students will be bussed from Moeller to Fountain Square for a social experiment and simulation of the Juba Peace Walks to Sawyer Point called the White Flag March. It was a march stimulated by the Mayor of Gulu that marked the start of the Peace Talks. Students will walk from Fountain Square to Sawyer Point, where a rock concert will be held until 10:30 PM. Then, the students will be bussed back to Moeller.

All high school students are welcome to participate and join the cause for UNIFAT school and the children of Uganda. A registration form can be found at [www.unifiedforunifat.com](http://www.unifiedforunifat.com). The registration deadline is March 13. For more information, contact Connie Ring, U4U director, at [CRing@Moeller.org](mailto:CRing@Moeller.org).

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### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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