

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Students From 16 Different Cincinnati-Area Schools Participate In Walk & Rock Event Saturday**

CINCINNATI, April 2, 2009 – “Walk & Rock” is an event sponsored by **Unified for UNIFAT (U4U)**, a student-led organization that involves students from 16 different Cincinnati-area high schools and two colleges. Hundreds of u4u will join with the Unbound Movement Youth Gathering to “WALK” for justice and “ROCK” for peace Saturday, April 4, at Sawyer Point.

Overall, more than 600 high school students are expected to walk from Fountain Square to Sawyer Point to raise awareness of global injustice. Read below for more information on the Unbound and u4u events:

### **Unified for UNIFAT’s “Walk & Rock” Event**

Unified for UNIFAT (u4u) is a collaboration of hundreds of students from 16 Cincinnati-area high schools and two colleges who have embraced the cause of social justice for the children of Northern Uganda and who have adopted an elementary school in Gulu, UNIFAT, supporting the institution and sponsoring 120 of its neediest children.

The students of u4u have organized this “Walk and Rock” event to raise awareness and take action: They will WALK for justice and ROCK for peace. Their ultimate goals: **education, action, celebration.**

**Education:** Students arrive at Moeller on Saturday, April 4, at 1:45 PM. While there, they will learn about the dire situation facing the people of Uganda, especially the children who are victims in a decades-old civil war. Students will attend preselected educational sessions, ranging from the history of the Acholi in Northern Uganda to brainstorming and sharing fund-raising ideas to help and support u4u’s social justice efforts.

**Featured Speaker:** This event will feature Abitimo Odongkara, the founder of UNIFAT, the K-7 elementary school in Uganda that u4u helps support. UNIFAT provides a safe haven for the children of Gulu, while educating them to help them build a better life. Abitimo and her school provide the inspiration for u4u.

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**Action:** □ While at Moeller, the students will design t-shirts and flags and become walking billboards as they later march through downtown Cincinnati to recreate Gulu's "White Flag Peace Parade," a historic event in the peace process where Ugandan soldiers put down their arms and committed themselves to peace. At Moeller, they will also write letters to Washington urging leaders to continue to work for peace and justice in Uganda.

**White Flag Peace Parade:** Later that afternoon (approx. 5 PM), students will be bussed from Moeller to Fountain Square, where they will join with the Unbound Youth for the peace march.

**Celebration:** The peace march begins at 6 PM at Fountain Square and ends at Sawyer Point for a benefit concert, with bands ranging from high school to college to professional (ending at 10:30 PM).

**INTERVIEWS:** To schedule on-site interviews with Unified for UNIFAT's "Walk & Rock" leaders and speaker, contact Connie Ring at 513-260-3054.

### **About Unified for UNIFAT**

**Unified for UNIFAT** (u4u) is an organization dedicated to helping the children of Uganda, especially the students served by UNIFAT or the Upper Nile Institute For Appropriate Technology, an elementary school in Gulu, Uganda. Unified For Unifat is an affiliation of 16 Cincinnati high schools and two colleges, engaging hundreds of students who work directly with the non-profit Friends of UNIFAT.

UNIFAT itself is an elementary school in Gulu, Uganda, founded by Abitimo Odongkara in 1986. Its name is an acronym that stands for Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology. UNIFAT provides education for ethnic minorities forced into internal displacement camps in a brutal civil war. In Northern Uganda, thousands of children have been abducted to become soldiers and sex slaves in a rebel army called the Lord's Resistance Army. For decades, Ugandan citizens have been and continue to be terrorized by the government and rebel soldiers alike. To protect themselves, children walk miles from their villages into the largest nearby town to sleep in safety each night on cement floors, like parking garages, or wherever they can.

Some of the schools involved with Unified for UNIFAT include Moeller High School, Mount Notre Dame High School, Anderson High School, Wyoming High School, St. Ursula High School, Ursuline Academy, Purcell Marian High School, Roger Bacon High School, Sycamore High School, Taylor High School, Madiera High School, Mariemont High School, Princeton High School, Loveland High School, and Roger Bacon High School, and others from the Greater Cincinnati Area.

For more information, see [www.unifiedforunifat.com](http://www.unifiedforunifat.com).

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