

# Local Students Make Life Better For Kids In Uganda

## *Teenagers Traveled To Africa To Provide Books, Supplies*

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**CINCINNATI** -- When Dennis Walsh entered Madeira High School, he probably could not have pointed to Uganda on a map. Four years later, the southeast African nation has changed his life forever.

Walsh said he was deeply moved four years ago by a video documenting the plight of children in Uganda. He joined a group called Unified 4 Unifat, a student-run organization that raises money to provide supplies, uniforms and books that kids in Uganda might not other have.

Walsh and students from Taylor, Mount Notre Dame, Sycamore, Moeller, Madeira and Wyoming arrived in Uganda three weeks ago, documenting their experiences with cameras provided to them by WLWT.

"No matter where we went, we were welcomed," said Walsh. "It was a great feeling."

It was a new experience for the students from Cincinnati, just as much as it was for the kids in Uganda.

"You know, they were fascinated by a digital camera and seeing their face on the little screen, and they loved it," said Walsh.





Unified 4 Unifat raised money to provide new textbooks to the school the students visited and the textbooks arrived while Walsh and his colleagues were in Uganda. Before this summer, there were four students for every book. Now, there are two students for every book.

The 120 students and their families repaid the students with traditional Ugandan food.

The textbooks bought with money raised by United 4 Unifat arrived at the school while the students were in Uganda.

"And for them, that's a huge, a huge gift, because they don't have enough to feed their families," said Walsh.

When it was time to go, the Cincinnati students were serenaded by their Ugandan counterparts, with songs expressing their gratitude and wishing them a fond farewell.

Walsh said the most difficult part of his trip to Uganda was leaving.

"The experience as a whole was just absolutely wonderful. It's really hard to put into just a few words because it really is an experience as opposed to something I just did," said Walsh.



Ugandan students sing to the students from United 4 Unifat on their last day in Africa.

Walsh was this year's senior winner of the Simon Lazarus Human Relations Award. He will attend Indiana University in the fall.

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