

Teens for the Future article for New Castle now:

A handful of energetic Chappaqua teens announced their presence and their cause at the Chappaqua Community Day Saturday, Sept 29. "Teens for the Future" is a group founded under The Youth Project (TYP) of the World Foundation for Original Human Development (WFOHD), a New York State certified not-for-profit educational organization. A group of Chappaqua youth was given the opportunity to think about what type of future world they would like to live in, express their observation of the world as it is today and seek actions that would bring the world from what it is to what they hope it will be. This intergenerational program respects the innocent wisdom of the youth and the practical wisdom of the elder. The youth formed their mission: "to make awareness of needs" and they named themselves "Teens for the Future".

In order to bring awareness of needs to others, the teens first needed to become aware of and be educated about the needs. The teens devote time to researching the problems. Currently they are concerned about the children in northern Africa. It is hard for them to accept the harsh contrast between their own comfortable lives and the suffering children an ocean away. Apart from academic research, the teens observe social dynamics that can develop into prejudice, disrespect and the violence that victimizes these children. Teens for the future have another motto: "Respect self and respect others". They adapted Martin Luther King's statement "I dream of a time when...[we are] judged by the content of our character." They determined to develop the character of fostering respect through their example. We can be proudly amazed of the young people we put into the world from Chappaqua.

Concept and theory aside, Teens for the Future take action. Last Spring, they participated in New Castle Clean-Up Day, served at the Neighborhood Link Mother's Day family celebration, and stimulated cooperative efforts between several Westchester schools to support Darfur. After collecting over 1000 composition notebooks and other school supplies for children in Darfur last Spring, the teens continue to care for the children's needs in that area of the world. The teens discovered that many of the Darfur refugees and orphans are collecting in Uganda, a country with already 36% of their children orphaned due to war and AIDS. There are several good humanitarian projects with missions of caring for the orphans, yet the needs are overwhelming. Many children suffer from malaria, worms and other medical problems that we rarely concern ourselves about in our lives in Chappaqua. The people are so poorly educated that if they do find medical services, they don't know how to take the prescriptions given to them and they get sick from misuse of the medication. The project that Teens for the Future has taken on for this fall is to financially support a pediatric nurse to fulfill her dream of serving the children in Africa. She will join a medical team that will visit orphanages and refugees to provide medical care. The teens hope to collect the \$3500 that she needs to get to Africa and participate with the team. They would also like to get medical supply donations from companies and additional money to support other medical needs for the people (including the ability to purchase food).

We thank the community of Chappaqua for their generous support at Community Day and welcome your additional support as Teens for the Future strive to meet their goals. Donations and request for more information can be sent to WFOHD, PO Box 7, Chappaqua, NY 10514. We can be reached by email at theyouthproject@aol.com IF you have a need to be researched or a desire to be part of the solution towards fulfilling a need, we hope you will be contacting us.