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children in philanthropy award

ELISA LEONARD "STAND UP WITH STYLE"



On May 5th, 2007, students in the Akron area took action in order to reach out a helping hand and stop the genocide that is ravaging Darfur. Elisa Leonard began this campaign with the idea of having a style show and a luncheon. She hoped to raise between two and three thousand dollars, which would be sent to the International Rescue Committee, earmarked for Darfur.

Her entire committee consisted of five girls from various high schools in the area. Each of the girls is an honor roll student and involved with a wide variety of activities in their various high schools:

- Courtney Chlebina, currently a senior at Hoban
- Mary Forchione, a 2007 graduate of Copley
- Molly Leonard, currently a junior at Copley
- Julia Salem, a 2007 graduate of Firestone
- Chelsea Shew, currently a junior at Walsh

Elisa chose her committee and models with the intention of involving as many high schools as possible.

The committee did everything; they designed invitations, gathered addresses, met with caterers, chose the meal, put together the designers, organized the models, helped choose their clothing, ran the dress rehearsal, organized the seating, choreographed the music, and went to many local businesses multiple times in order to put baskets together for a raffle.

They charged \$15 dollars for student tickets and \$20 for adults, allowing themselves the small profit of \$5-\$10 per person. They knew their biggest profit would come from the raffle tickets and their audience willingly purchased many tickets. In the end, the event raised over \$5,600 for Darfur. The students learned a great deal and would like to extend a special thanks to Cheryl Murphy and Jeanine Marks for their time and guidance.

The committee hopes that "Stand up With Style" will become an annual event, run by students, for their charity of choice.

nominated by
member Cheryl Murphy