

Huntington Fellowship Raises More than \$10,000 for UU Service Committee's Darfur Relief Fund, Protests China's Role in Genocide

On October 21, as the highlight of its UN Sunday and also as the "action" part of its Peacemaking Study/Action project, the UU Fellowship of Huntington (NY) held a 5K Run/Walk for the benefit of the UU Service Committee's Darfur Relief Fund. The UU Service Committee (UUSC) also helped in publicizing the event.

A total of 151 UUs from Huntington and other Long Island congregations, members of SaveDarfur.org, friends, and interested runners and walkers enjoyed the beautiful North Shore of Long Island while raising funds for humanitarian aid for the desperate inhabitants of the refugee camps in Darfur and Chad. There were also a number of virtual runners who contributed their registration fee to help this cause. This intergenerational event featured age-appropriate awareness-raising for the children and youth in the Fellowship's religious education program. There was also a demonstration of solar cookers that allow Darfuri women to avoid leaving the minimal security of the camps for gathering brush wood that puts their lives in jeopardy and frequently results in rapes. The UUSC is supplying solar cookers and teaching camp residents how to use them as part of its humanitarian effort.

The event also highlighted UUSC's campaign to change the position of the Peoples Republic of China which is tacitly supporting the genocide taking place in Darfur: At the awards ceremony, presided over by UUSC president Charlie Clements, the winners were asked to assume a position of bowed head and crossed arms as a gesture of "Olympics" protest. This will be publicized by the UUSC through using photographs of the race winners. Clements, who also ran in the race, awarded the prizes, and also delivered the sermon on "Whose Responsibility to Protect?"

– Submitted by Marc Leopold, Fellowship member and event organizer