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ADRA Benefit Concert aids projects in Japan, Niger

Keri Suarez
Andrews University

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Steven Lee (left) and Aaron Suh (right) performed during the ADRA Benefit Concert on Thursday, Mar. 31. The concert, sponsored by Action AU, featured student performers and unique selections by Girls of Mercy and F.R.E.S.H. drum corps. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Niger Well Project and Japan Relief Project.

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Michigan—Members of the Andrews University community poured out more than \$1,500 in donations to support ADRA and its cause to bring clean water to the people of Niger and provide relief to the people affected by the tsunami that slammed northeastern Japan.

Action AU, in collaboration with the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA), hosted a benefit concert at the Howard Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Mar. 31. The concert raised funds for ADRA's Niger Well Project and Japan Relief Project.

The benefit concert featured a variety of musical performances by University students Steven Lee, Aaron Suh, Wen-Ting, Isabel Ong and Daniel Estrada. Girls of Mercy and the F.R.E.S.H. drum corps also performed.

"The benefit concert went very well," says Nic Reichert, Action AU vice president. "It was a great atmosphere and I could tell that everyone there truly cared

for their suffering brothers and sisters in Japan and Niger. Also, Ayako Miyata and Yumi Kuramochi made 1,000 paper cranes in honor of Japan and its people, which was spectacular!"

The concert was not the first Action AU initiative to support the Niger Well Project. Action AU has sponsored ADRA since the beginning of the school year and raised nearly \$3,500 prior to the concert. All funds are directed to support ADRA's work with government and local authorities to increase good health and water access for people in the western region. Currently, the organization is working to install 20 borehole water wells in villages throughout the southwestern department of Kollo at the cost of \$9,000 per well.

"Any contribution of any amount can literally change someone's life," says Rose Vargas, Action AU public relations officer. "If each student and staff at Andrews University would give \$1.50, we would have enough money to change the lives of a whole village in Niger. We can be the change."

Action AU recently decided to support ADRA's response to the devastating tsunami that shook Japan on Friday, Mar. 11. Funds will help provide meals to those at an evacuation center in the Miyagino Ward of Sendai City. ADRA Japan is coordinating efforts with local authorities and anticipates involvement in managing and coordinating evacuation centers in the effected areas. ADRA hopes to accommodate 1,000 evacuees and coordinate the availability of food, non-food items, equipment and transportation.

To date, Action AU has raised nearly \$5,000 of their \$10,000 goal toward these projects. In addition to fund-raising events, they have also been selling T-shirts and bags at the Andrews University Campus Center. For more information on how to get involved with Action AU, contact Nic Reichert at nic_kreichert@yahoo.com.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,
Office of Integrated Marketing &
Communication, Andrews University

HAA seniors impacted by mission trip

Illinois—Ten days, 14 teenagers, four sponsors, one island... No, this is not the latest installment of "Survivor." Rather, this was the Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) senior class mission trip.

On Mar. 21, the seniors and their sponsors flew to Roatan, an island off the northern coast of mainland Honduras. For ten days the students refurbished a bakery, hosted a Vacation Bible School and squeezed in some time at the beach.

Lyndon Dieter, one of the sponsors, and one student worked at a local medical clinic. Seniors who worked at the bakery were impacted by the sights and experiences there. The bakery will help students on Roatan earn tuition in order to attend the local Adventist academy.

The Vacation Bible School was held at the Sandy Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church and was attended by as many as 100 children. Four of the seniors, for whom Spanish was their first language, led out in the Vacation Bible School. Before they left for the trip they were informed of their task, which caused them much consternation! Their anxieties were calmed by the children's beaming faces, and willingness to sing in a foreign language and listen to stories about famous biblical characters. The seniors who led the meetings found courage they would not have, had they stayed in their comfort zones. Stephanie Rascon said, "I was nervous because I had never preached before, and certainly never in Spanish! But the kids were smiling and happy, so I was not as scared. It was a good nervous! They helped me appreciate all that I have!"

In the neighborhood, many of the local children wore torn clothing and few had shoes. There was no concrete or asphalt, yet these children were not deterred from playing tag, soccer