



News Release

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Keuka College to Participate in World Vision 30-Hour Famine Feb. 25-26

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—Keuka College students are giving up hamburgers, french fries, pizza, ice cream, and even fruits and vegetables for 30 hours to get a taste of what poverty stricken people all over the world experience every day.

The students are participating in the World Vision 30-Hour Famine, an international, hunger-fighting program Feb. 25-26.

Founded in 1950, World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization serving the world's poorest children and families in nearly 100 countries. World Vision maintains health, education, agriculture, water, sanitation, and small business projects that help millions of people in their communities.

Participants in the worldwide famine collect pledges prior to the event. During the famine, they consume only water and fruit juices, and learn more about hunger through resources, games and activity ideas provided by World Vision. They also perform service projects in their communities in response to needs in their own neighborhoods.

Keuka College Chaplain Gerry Fish is organizing the famine on campus, which will also include youth groups from churches all around Yates and Ontario counties.

“Besides the many activities we have planned to learn about world hunger, we have scheduled the singing group Sounds of Freedom to perform for us,” said Fish. Sounds of Freedom will present *Trophies of Grace*, a program of music and testimony.

Sounds of Freedom, from the campus of Freedom Village U.S.A., is one of four gospel teams in Freedom Village's Save America's Youth program that travel to schools and churches throughout North America to share their experiences of overcoming addiction, abuse, and suicide attempts as teenagers. Freedom Village U.S.A. is a residential campus for teens that has helped more than six million young people turn their lives around since 1981.

“We also have things planned to do on campus including outdoor activities, volleyball and basketball in the gym, swimming in the indoor pool, worship at Norton Chapel, and so much more,” said Fish. “We're also putting together a community service project to help the needy in our area.”

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“The 30-Hour Famine changes the lives of not only the children being helped, but the [participants] themselves who really stretch themselves and sacrifice to put others before themselves,” said Debbie Diederich, national director of the World Vision 30 Hour Famine. “This year, our fund-raising goal is \$8.3 million, but the overall impact of the funds raised and hearts changed through the 30-Hour Famine is incomprehensible.”

Last year, half a million participants across the U.S. raised \$7.7 million through pledges from sponsors and group fund-raisers. Worldwide, similar famine efforts involved more than one million participants in 21 countries, who collectively raised more than \$22 million to fight hunger at home and overseas through World Vision projects.

“Keuka College’s Office of Campus Ministries is challenging every participant in the 30-Hour Famine to raise \$30 in pledges, which is enough to feed and care for a hungry child for one whole month,” said Fish.

The Feb. 25 performance by Sounds of Freedom is free and open to the public. It begins at 8 a.m. in the Barn, located behind the Weed Physical Arts Center off of Central Ave. in Keuka Park.

For more information, contact Fish at (315) 279-5378.