

## ARHS clubs pushing through to reach goals

By Emily Goldstein

Trying to raise as much money as they can before the year is over; ARHS clubs and students are pushing through at full speed to meet their collective goals and deadlines.

Schools for Africa has collected \$12,000 so far in its continuing effort to raise enough money to build a school in Cameroon. Its goal of raising \$20,000 "should be met by next November. Then hopefully the club will be able to go to Cameroon over February break," said president Ryan Diplock, '11. They are proposing to raise the remaining \$8,000 by hosting a rubber duck race at Puffers Pond in the spring, and by providing baked goods for sale after school.

Women's Rights Club has taken an adventurous dive into unfamiliar waters and hopes to launch its first micro-financing project this spring using the online organization Kiva.org, "We will be able to give micro loans to women in developing countries for business investments. Once they return the money that was borrowed it goes to the next

person and so on," said co-president Taylor Aldrich, '10.

STAND will be as busy as ever in the upcoming third and final trimester. STAND presidents Sasha Lansky, '10, and Hannah Varner, '10, along with the help of all club members, are in the midst of organizing a human rights awareness week. "We have organized a week in March entirely focused on human rights. We have asked other clubs who are focused on human rights issues to join us during the week. We also plan to hold an assembly that Wednesday focused on the conflict in Darfur," said Varner.

Animal Action Group, a club dedicated to animal rights, has been hosting open discussions on controversial topics in hopes of raising awareness. AAG plans on "continuing the topic discussions already planned for the spring, as well as fundraising money by organizing food drives and bake sales," said Co-President Laura Aierstuck, '10. The club also plans to have a group regularly volunteer at the Dakin Animal Shelter within the upcoming months.

Students for A Free Tibet, another student run club promoting human rights, will continue their efforts to educate the school about the situation in Tibet throughout the spring. SFT plans on hosting a "big fundraiser in April at the yoga center. It will be a night of yoga and Tibetan meditation," said president Anya Rosenberg, '10. The proceeds of the fundraiser will go to the national organization, which can be accessed at SFT.org.

Environmental Action Club continues its efforts to make our school as environmentally friendly as possible with new and creative ideas each week. Currently the club has three bake sales left on its agenda to help fundraise for their numerous projects. A new endeavor has the club excited. "We're going to be fixing the compost system and very probably attempting to build our own composter here at ARHS," said president Kaia Zimmerman, '10. EAC plans to participate in the STAND Human Rights Awareness week in March, in which many clubs will be participating.

## Survival Living rewards students with sense of accomplishment

By John Ferola

Complete with campfires, cold, and a bit of outdoors cooking, the Survival Living Night Hike is a test of individual will, group cohesion and orienteering. Students are sent, at an undisclosed time in the middle of the night, to a dark trail head and given a basic set of instructions; they are to follow a blazed trail to its end, carrying their packs on their backs and their sleep deprived expressions on their faces. After spending the afternoon waiting at crudely constructed campsites they feel ready to embark upon their night hike journey and trudge through the snowy trail that rests in front of them.

Given the training the students received, success in this venture was almost certainly assured, but a comfortable hike was not. The students faced many enemies in the dark woods: cold and

sweat can lead to hypothermia, and thick tree cover limits the starlight necessary to spot important blazes on a poorly beaten path.

Students are rewarded with a lifelong sense of accomplishment and a treat at the end of the hike. After a short debrief they are sent home, ready to collapse on their beds for a hearty night of well earned sleep. "I think I actually slept for 12 hours," said Cam Fay, '10. It takes a cold night to truly appreciate a warm bed, a lesson these students won't soon forget.

A true test of will, the Survival Living night hike offers students a unique challenge combining athletic ability with mental fortitude in a team setting. An elective course, the students of Survival Living have opted to test themselves under extraordinary conditions, for whatever reasons, and have passed their first test with flying colors

## 'Opportunities for Communities' fundraises for Haiti, but organization unable to make the trip due to earthquake

By Robin Palmer

Even before the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, Amherst students had been working to improve the chronically impoverished third world country through fundraising and clothing drives.

Kenny On, '11, and Jessie Duda, '11, got involved with Haiti relief through their youth group, called Young Life, which has connections with a non profit organization called Opportunities for Communities. The group has run a successful clothing drive and raised \$600 in donations

thanks to our school. "People have been really generous and we have been so touched," said Duda.

Even though Haiti is not currently accepting clothing donations, Duda and On assured that the donations will

*"People are still suffering in Haiti, they have so little that we can't even fathom it." - Jessie Duda*

be delivered once allowed.

"People are still suffering in Haiti, they have so little that we can't even fathom it," said Duda. The \$600 in donations was given to the Red Cross for Haitian relief or-

chestrated by Ms. Haygood.

The students involved including On and Duda, were planning on traveling to Haiti before the tragic earthquake on January 12, 2010 and stressed the importance of helping the country at that

point in time. "They were the poorest country in the western hemisphere before the earthquake," said On. Now after everything the country has gone through, "They have no government, no resources,

there was nothing before, and now they have less than nothing," said Duda.

Because of the earthquake the group will not be able to go to Haiti during the February break as intended, "Us being there now would be more

of a burden to the people there," said Duda. With

Haiti's small airport and the most crucial necessities being food and water it is hard for any Americans to have access to its airport. The group is still very passionate about their project and is hoping to

be able to go to Haiti in the summer.

On and Duda aren't satisfied with simply supplying money and clothing, the two are also working on starting a project with the aim of sponsoring Restivek children with a monthly fee that would supply the kids with an education that would otherwise be impossible. The two also hope to create a high school chapter of the Opportunities for Communities organization.

Anyone interested in helping with the Haiti relief is encouraged to contact Kenny On or Jessie Duda.