



*THINKING AHEAD SINCE 1932*

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**MIDLAND STUDENT RAISES \$2K FOR HAITI,  
DONATES TO DIRECT RELIEF INTERNATIONAL**



Midland Student Kevin Jung '11 presents the check to Brett Williams at Direct Relief International

**Los Olivos, CA**—On Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 2:30 PM, Midland School student Kevin Jung '11, from Seoul, South Korea, donated \$2,000.00 to Direct Relief International at Direct Relief's headquarters in Santa Barbara, California, to be used for relief in Haiti. Jung raised \$1,000.00 just in this month alone after returning back to school after the holiday break. He had almost \$1,000.00 left over from last year's fundraising efforts, the majority due to a sizable donation from the Class of 2009. He decided to raise money again this year after raising money for women in Darfur with fellow student Silviano Valdez '09 last year. Jung's plan was to raise money first, and then decide where he would donate the funds. Once he learned about the magnitude of the devastation in Haiti, he decided that was where he wanted to send the money he raised. He hadn't intended on using the money from last year, but the severity of the situation changed his mind. The last decision for Jung was the organization through which to donate. Jung thought that Direct Relief International made perfect sense, especially due to the close proximity to Midland School.

"My inspiration for starting the fundraising for Haiti was from fundraising for women in Darfur. I was someone who did not care what was going on in the world. Maybe because it was the other side of the world from where I live, so that I don't see what's happening. However, in World Studies class (at Midland), while we

learned about genocide in Darfur, I realized how horrible the situation was among the innocent people in Darfur, especially women. They don't harm anyone, but why were they harmed by armed people? My World Studies teachers, Martina Svenningsen and Sarah Campbell, offered to take students to a 'Save Darfur' meeting, which was organized once a month. I attended and learned about the pain and suffering of refugees. This was how I gained awareness about people that live a different life than I do; so different, that I cannot even imagine what I would do in that situation."

"In World Studies class, we learned about activism, too. People who do not take action are bystanders. Too brutal to ignore, I did not want to be a bystander. Even though the people suffering are not directly related to me, they are my brothers and sisters. So I decided to take action. The first thing I did was find someone who had the same thought. Luckily enough, I found Silvano Valdez '09, who raised funds for Darfur women with me last year. We took action and were proud of what we were doing--selling sodas and taking donations from members in the community. We raised \$1000.00 by ourselves, and got matching funds from Mr. Van Kelsey '39, a graduate of Midland. Jewish World Watch Organization (<http://www.jewishworldwatch.org/refugeerelief/solarcookerproject.html>), the organization that we donated money to for solar cookers for women in Darfur, sent a letter and certificate to us, telling us how helpful our efforts were. I realized that small effort that I put into the fundraising project saved many women in Darfur from hunger, rape, and death."

"This year, even though I am busy since it's my junior year, whenever we had huge leftovers from a meal, I thought about those people who died due to hunger. I was starting to set up a fundraising project when the earthquake in Haiti happened. Many people died, and buildings were demolished due to the earthquake of over 7.0 magnitude. The first time I actually experienced an earthquake was when I was in Japan. It was a 2.0 magnitude earthquake, which caused a little shaking and happened for few minutes. It was scary. But, Haiti had a much higher magnitude quake. I imagined people's fear in Haiti when the earth was shaking and buildings were collapsing in front of them. They had nowhere to hide. I thought maybe when they were dying in that disaster, we were here whining about why there are so many people on the computers in the library, and worrying about updating our Facebook statuses, without even knowing what had happened in Haiti. Haiti might have been a country that some people never heard of or never cared about. Their situation is desperate. I heard horrible stories about people in Haiti running out of antibiotics and surgical tools. They performed surgeries on themselves without property equipment. This is not something that I can ever imagine. People in Haiti really need immediate help. This is why I rushed my fundraising for Haiti. I added money that was left over from last year's fundraising and this year's donations, totaling \$2000.00. Even though it is a much smaller amount than I originally planned, I thought that immediate help is better. I am planning to raise another \$2000.00 by the end of this school year, and donate to Direct Relief again."

"Students at Midland are taught to be self-reliant. As personal responsibility increases, they begin to recognize and appreciate the opportunities their education provides. Kevin is leading other students to understand that they also have a responsibility to help others. The effort of one student to contribute encourages all students in the community to consider where they stand in the world. Midland students continue to follow Kevin's example as they raise awareness as well as financial support," said Head of School Will Graham.



KEYT interviews Kevin Jung '11 at Direct Relief International

### **About Midland School**

Founded in 1932, Midland School is a coeducational, college preparatory boarding and day school for grades 9-12. It is located in Santa Barbara County on a 2,860-acre working ranch. The school combines rigorous academics with intensive immersion in the environment, and maintains a philosophical commitment to authentic student leadership, simplicity, self-reliance and environmental stewardship. It is the blending of coursework and ecological practices at Midland that makes this school unique. In addition, Midland offers competitive athletics, an equestrian program, arts and metals programs, countless extracurricular clubs and a guest speaker program. Midland graduates are attending some of the most selective colleges including Stanford, Princeton, Wellesley, Williams, UCLA, Cal Berkeley, Occidental and the University of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Midland enrolls 90 students and employs 20 teachers, all of whom live on campus. Midland was a recipient of the 2009 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award. **For more information about Midland School, please visit [www.midland-school.org](http://www.midland-school.org).**

### **About Direct Relief International**

Founded in 1948, Direct Relief is a Santa Barbara, California-based nonprofit organization focused on improving quality of life by bringing critically needed medicines and supplies to local healthcare providers worldwide. Direct Relief has provided more than \$1 billion in privately funded humanitarian aid since 2000, including more than \$150 million in assistance in the United States. It has earned a fundraising efficiency score of 99 percent or better from *Forbes* for the past eight years, and is ranked by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* as California's largest international nonprofit organization based on private support. For more information, please visit [www.DirectRelief.org](http://www.DirectRelief.org).

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