



THINKING AHEAD SINCE 1932

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MIDLAND STUDENTS LEAD FUNDRAISER
FOR WOMEN IN DARFUR**



Midland Students Silvano Valdez '09 and Kevin Jung '11

Los Olivos, CA—Midland School students Silvano Valdez '09 and Kevin Jung '11 have been raising funds for women in Darfur over the last month. The genocide in Darfur has led to a situation where women are putting themselves in grave danger every time they leave camp to gather wood for their cooking. The money these two students have raised goes to buy solar cookers, which greatly reduces the amount of time the women have to travel. The name of the project is “Solar Cooker Project: Protecting and Empowering the Women of Darfur” by the Jewish World Watch Organization (website link: <http://www.jewishworldwatch.org/refugeerelief/solarcookerproject.html>).

The Jewish World Watch Organization recognized the two students with a certificate of appreciation.

Their fund just passed the \$1,000 mark, and has been matched by Midland alumnus Van Kelsey '39. Valdez and Jung have raised their money by selling soft drinks, with patrons paying on an honor system.

This is the second consecutive year that Midland students have raised \$1,000 to match Kelsey's donation. Last year's effort was spearheaded by Midland teacher Ian Cummings, and this year's effort was led completely by Valdez and Jung.

"I was inspired to raise money because of my World Studies class where I learned that women in Darfur were raped when they just went to collect firewood," said Jung.

"I have learned that even a small group of students can make a big difference in the world," said Valdez.

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 the Santa Ynez Valley 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. Midland currently enrolls 90 students and employs 20 teachers, all of whom live on campus. **For more information about Midland School, please visit www.midland-school.org.**

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