



Across U-hub

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For Immediate Release

600 youths raised their yellow ribboned-arm in “Lament” Youth Concert to take action for Sichuan

(June 8th, 2008 –Toronto) “It’s too hot that I’d rather stay home, but for the sake of China’s earthquake, I think I’d come to support”, one of the youth said. On Sunday night six hundreds young mourners gathered in vigil for the victims in the recent Sichuan earthquake disaster. Even in the 30 degree, humid and rainy weather enthusiasm was still high.

Last Sunday (the 8th of June) the Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church hosted the: “*Lament*” *Youth Concert*. The concert was organized by the Markham-based organization Across U-hub, with Hong Kong Association of Christian Music Ministry (ACM Canada), Ambassadors for Christ (AFC), East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church, Logos Baptist Church (Milliken), Richmond Hill Chinese Community Church and Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church as co-organizers. As well as raising funds for the Sichuan disaster the event also brought together a large number of youths encouraging peace and caring in a positive energy.

Today the death toll for the Sichuan earthquake surpasses 69,000, and the Burmese Cyclone more than 120,000. One must ask if the youngest generations actually have emotional feelings towards these cataclysmic events... are there feelings of grief or are they feeling totally indifferent? Right after the earthquake Across U-hub gathered many Chinese Canadian youth and found two answers to this very same question. Many were devastated by the massive loss of lives, but at the same time felt completely helpless in such a situation, how could one person help hundreds of thousands of suffering people on the opposite side of the earth? Many other people felt nothing at all, why worry over people that one had never met in a place that they had never visited? What has the future of mankind lost in the modern world? Is there still any hope? In response to this Across U-hub organized *The Lament Youth concert*, in hopes that writing, music, and creativity will bring together youth and drive them to introspective analysis about themselves and about society as a whole.

The concert will be divided into three meaningful parts: the first part starts by awakening youths feelings towards these massive events, leading to how youth react to them and ending with youth responses. These various stages will use a variety of expressional arts including music, dance, and poetry, not only to express the artists’ feelings but also to cause the audience to ponder their own outlooks.

The atmosphere in the concert was very touching. Many youth cried. One of the youth said, “luckily I came to this event, so that I can express my deep down feelings.” Another youth



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performer said, “Although my effort is so small, I think by gathering everyone’s input, it’ll be a large impact for this disaster.” JiaQi Wu, university student, wrote a poem to express her feeling about this earthquake and encourage other youth to take action to support the needy. She planned to write supporting letters for Sichuan children in disaster in the next three years to encourage them, and tell them to never give up.

All audiences received an arm ribbon in remembrance of the over 69,000 deaths and missing in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake. They extended their arm with ribbon and were asked to keep their arm in the same position for over 10 minutes; it was easier to say than done. They had to be enduring and patient to maintain position. The organizer used this exercise to remind audiences what it would be like for the Sichuan victims during their wait for rescue under the collapsing buildings; some Sichuan victims waited over 100 hours. This action encouraged young audience to keep supporting the needy in China in the future.

Across U-hub is pleased to host “Lament” Youth Concert, many youth musicians such as Desmond Lo, Miyo Fish, takeNation, Whitebase, parties were excited to share and express their love and care to Sichuan victims through music and story telling. A collection of their songs was recorded in a CD, this limited edition CD was on sale at the concert only for fundraising purpose. In addition, a special designed t-shirt for the event was also on sale for the same purpose. 100% of all donations and sales incomes at this concert were donated to World Vision Canada for earthquake relief in Sichuan China.

Across U-hub Overview

Together we help nurture our youth:

- *to become a bridge across cultures by taking roots in Canada while developing a global perspective*
- *to become servant leaders for communities by helping them grow holistically*

Work:

We adopt creative, interactive and multi-disciplinary approaches:

- *to nurture our youth’s holistic growth*
- *to cultivate their servant leadership skills*
- *to promote peer support and mentorship*
- *to foster their sense of community and to encourage active participation in cultural and civic activities etc.*