

'YOU'VE GOT MAIL'



Putting their pens to good use, Amnesty International members write to world leaders on injustice throughout the local and global communities.



COMPOSING Seniors Justin Berry and Brent Weisberg (top) work together to come up with heartfelt letters for influential people all around the world. Freshmen English instructor Curtis Smith (above) takes his time to formulate meaningful letters concerning pressing international issues.



INK Freshman Landon Wood takes time to write to influential leaders of the world regarding ongoing global issues.

taking action

Led by senior Henry Goldberg, the local chapter of UNICEF works through drives to help better the world for foreign nations and kids in need.

What makes UNICEF one of the most thriving clubs on campus?
Sophomore Andre Arsenault: It is one of the most thriving simply because of its goal - to raise awareness of the challenges afflicting those in impoverished countries in an attempt to combat these specific problems.
Sophomore Davis Bailey: It's a way to help others around the world and spread awareness about the problems and emergencies that children face and how we can improve their situations.
Junior Todd Murphy: It is great because it's fun and a productive way to help better children's lives around the world.

Why were you interested in the club?
Junior Corday Cruz: I really think that the mission of the club attracted me. I think the awareness they spread and their actions worldwide are what motivated me.
AA: I was interested in the club because I wanted to learn more about the organization and help those that are less fortunate that me.

How has the club impacted you?
AA: It has truly opened my eyes and provided a new perspective. Before, I never really understood the extent to which certain problems afflicted people in poorer countries. Now, I am more informed and hope to continue working with the club to make a difference.



LOBBYING UNICEF representatives Bradford Beck, Todd Murphy and Henry Goldberg discuss Congress with Elle Ross, member of the Legislative Council.

Not many groups on campus have the privilege of saying they send letters to powerful international leaders. For Amnesty International, that's exactly what they do. Meeting once or twice a month, the club writes letters to prominent world leaders. "We meet maybe two times a month in Mr. Smith's room," co-president senior Mahir Karim said. "Each meeting we handwrite letters to world leaders. The idea behind it all is to in a peaceful way let these leaders know that the entire world is watching. Usually the letters address something that they've recently done, so hopefully the leaders see them and do something because of the letters." Recently, the club wrote to Russia to free a democratic prisoner. After months of trying by the St. Mark's and other chapters, Amnesty International was successful and the prisoner was released. "The most amazing moment for me," Karim said, "was when one time we really saw the effects of all our letters and work. What happened was that there was this prisoner that was being held in Russia, and we kept writing and writing to the people to free him. Eventually, they actually ended up freeing the guy and he came back to the US. He made a stop in Dallas and we got to go see him, which was just awesome for me because of the sense of accomplishment I felt at knowing I helped free that man."

leading the way

The Lion and Sword Society tours prospective families across campus all year.

I love it because it gives me the chance to show other people the community that's given me so much.

-junior GOPAL RAMAN

It gives me a chance to brag about what I consider my second home.

-senior AVERY POWELL

It is special to me because it really puts St. Mark's into perspective. Often I forget how privileged I am to be in such a loving community.

-junior SHAILEN PARMAR



GUIDING Senior Tim Skapek greets and shows a visitor the sights and sounds of campus life through the work of the Lion and Sword Society.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, LION AND SWORD, UNICEF

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