

DONALD A. STRAUSS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION SAMPLE PROPOSAL

Challah for Hunger

Overview

In an ever more connected world, we can be more aware of and have a greater impact on lives of people near and far than ever before. We must participate actively in our world to ensure that everyone can greet a future full of opportunity. As Dr. Martin Luther King put it, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Challah for Hunger (CfH) is a vibrant student-led organization whose goal is to raise awareness of and relief funds for the victims of the genocide taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. A grant from the Strauss foundation will allow me to expand the program and multiply its effects.

History

When I arrived at college I began baking challah for Hillel at the Claremont Colleges as a social program. The bread gained fans among Hillel students and others who came to bake. With its growing popularity, I decided to create a project to sell challah and raise money for tzedakah charity: Challah for Hunger was born. The Challah for Hunger group chose the cause of Darfur because of the dire situation in the region and our personal obligation, as Jews, to the not sit idly by in the face of genocide. The project, to which most of the volunteers have come with just an interest in baking, has invested all of us in the issue of genocide in Darfur and has made us more aware of other social injustices around the world.

The Project

Challah for Hunger has found a unique and effective way to raise awareness of the silent tsunami of the genocide against the tribal black people of Darfur. Through appealing to students, that we have sent to organizations working in Darfur. But more importantly, Challah for Hunger has had a ripple effect in more than monetary terms: our presence on campus has made people aware of the genocide taking place; our offers of discounts in exchange for letters or calls to politicians have made people more involved in and committed to advocacy for Darfur; our volunteers who came to bake because they missed cooking have become passionate advocates for Darfur and more aware about other issues around the world; and our actions and the press we have received has inspired people outside of the Claremont Colleges community to become involved. Alone, neither money nor awareness can impact the situation in Darfur so profoundly. Challah for Hunger has developed a model that combines informing people to create activists and raising money.

Proposal Objective

My project is to expand CfH in three key areas: 1) Increased advocacy for Darfur, 2) replicating our model on other campuses and 3) eventually, expanding awareness of other situations of ethnic cleansing.

1) Challah for Hunger has been immensely successful at bringing attention to the issue of Darfur at Claremont, and I would like to continue and expand those efforts by creating exhibits to place in different areas around the Colleges to alert more people about CfH and Darfur. I would also like to enable CfH to be more efficient by purchasing more professional equipment.

2) Students at other colleges and universities have expressed interest in developing programs akin to Challah for Hunger on their campuses. As well as growing the organization and its presence and scope at the Claremont Colleges, I would like to help students at other schools undertake similar efforts. Starting a program like CfH is a daunting task. When CfH began, I received vital financial, logistical, moral, and emotional support from Hillel of the Claremont Colleges. In the year and a half since starting Challah for Hunger, I have gained expertise in the kitchen, on the issues of genocide, Darfur and human rights, and in starting this kind of an enterprise. The Strauss Scholarship will allow me to assist groups on other campus to expedite the process of starting a Challah for Hunger chapter by traveling to share my expertise and to provide onsite help, practical training and encouragement, as well as seed money.

Potential locations for Challah for Hunger, and my contact at those campuses, include:

University of California at Santa Cruz (Talia Coutin)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sarah Tasman)
Smith College (Robin Bennett)
Long Beach State (Katrina Gordon)
University of Texas at Austin (Jonathan Panzer)
City University of New York at Hunger: (Jonathan Newcombe)

I would also like to create a brochure, manual and documentary on the advocacy and activism efforts, featuring CfH, at the Claremont Colleges. These tools would encourage students at other schools to undertake similar efforts.

3) While I hope that the genocide in Darfur will end soon, the need for Challah for Hunger will always exist. I would like to begin raising awareness of other situations of ethnic cleansing, again, through exhibits around campus. Another potential aspect of this project is to develop a website and newsletter about situations of ethnic cleansing and student activism regarding those causes to enable better networking between campuses.

Budget

- \$3000 Expansion on Claremont Colleges
- \$600 Advocacy
 - \$200 Stamps
 - \$300 Phone Cards
 - \$100 Office Supplies

- \$1000 Posters
- \$800 Ingredients
- \$600 Other supplies (Embroidered aprons, Challah for Hunger t-shirts, kitchen supplies)

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- \$3900 Expansion to at least six colleges
- \$650 Expansion to Other Campuses
- \$200 Capital Ingredients and supplies
- \$400 Travel
- \$50 Local Publicity

These costs are the seed money to start a Challah for Hunger chapter. The benefits from investing this seed money will include increased awareness about genocide in Darfur, a sustainable program that can generate funds and advocacy efforts, and a program that will create more and better world citizens.

This will differ at different campuses depending on what resources will be available for Challah for Hunger to use.