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Make a Difference

## Danbury students produce documentary about Darfur

by News Channel 8's Kent Pierce

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(Danbury-WTNH) \_ First it was informing a community about sex offenders living in their city. Now a group of Danbury students wants to focus the attention of the world on the ethnic and political conflict in Darfur, which has taken tens of thousands of lives since 2003.

Their 7 minute long documentary is called "The Promise." A group of Danbury high school students made it to show that 60 years after the holocaust there is another genocide underway.

"I can't believe there's a genocide going on right now and people don't know and nothing's being done to stop it," student Leanna Pomponio said.

That's why they put together this combination of photos, quotes and their own observations about the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan. They now travel around showing their documentary to other schools.

"It's really great when you have people coming up after the presentation to ask you how they can get involved," student Sabrina Wirth said. "It just kind of justifies all of our efforts."

The documentary even got the attention of State Treasurer Denise Nappier. She asked for a copy of it and once she saw it she made a decision that affected the whole state.

"Two weeks later they called to let us know that the state of Connecticut was going to divest all funds from businesses that do business in Sudan, and that our video spurred a lot of that action," Danbury High Assistant Principal Tim Salem said.

Salem and his students have some other high-profile fans, as well.

"When I saw 'The Promise,' put together by Tim Salem and his students at Danbury I thought, yes, this represents everything that we have to be hopeful about in young people," actress Mia Farrow said.

So now Farrow joins them for their presentations where she talks about her many trips to Darfur. The Danbury students haven't been there, but it has captured their hearts.

"They looked at this, they saw there was a tragedy happening and instead of just shaking their heads and saying, 'Wow, that's so sad,' and walking away, they decided to do something about it," Salem said.

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For more information on the student group that made the documentary visit

<http://www.dhsthepromise.com>



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