

Rock and Run for Justice a Great Success

On December 26-28, youth and advisers from across the Metro NY District took part in the second annual Rock and Run for Justice. The event, sponsored by the First Unitarian Society of Westchester (Hastings-on-Hudson NY), was a great success.

Friday night, all attendees took part in the “run” part of the rock and run, working with the organization [Midnight Run](#). Through Midnight Run, groups go into Manhattan and hand out food, toiletries, and clothing to the homeless at designated stops. However, the most important part of these runs are not the items that are shared, but rather the dialogue that arises and the strong sense of community that is established between the homeless and the participants. This year, there were enough participants to go on three routes. The runs were a tremendous success, and a life changing experience for many.

Saturday was filled with a variety of social action workshops, including dialogues on issues such as anti-racism, queer identity, the Midnight Run, anti-sexism, sustainable agriculture, and more. Workshops were followed by the keynote speaker, [Gabriel Bol Deng](#), who spoke about his life as a refugee from Sudan, and his current work to found a school in his home village. Deng's speech was truly inspiring, and greatly appreciated by the attendees.

This then led to the “rock” part of the evening, a concert attended by both conference attendees and the general public. The concert featured a variety of extremely talented artists including: Kimya Dawson, Anthony da Costa, Emilyn Brodsky, Griffin & the True Believers, Hop Along, Queen Ansleis, Dave End, and BB Sunshine. The concert was a tremendous success, and sold out. All proceeds for the concert went to the Midnight Run. For YouTube concert clips, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cii6P7mpq8>.