



Quality education in a faith based environment

## Union Catholic Students Reach Out to Help Others

This past September two members of the sophomore class at Union Catholic High School (Scotch Plains, NJ) took on the challenge of raising awareness about the causes of HIV by starting the school's own chapter of REACH, Raising Educated Awareness for the Causes of HIV. Sean Siburn of Westfield and Michelle Rynzel of Union attribute their own blessings of healthy families as the main reason they sought to establish REACH at UC. Through their hard work, they secured approval from school administrators, found a faculty moderator and now meet with members once a month during club periods held during school hours.

The purpose of REACH is to raise awareness of AIDS and at the same time encourage children and teens with AIDS to stay in school. Organizations that benefit from cooperation with REACH include St. Clare's homes and programs for children with HIV; Academy Street Firehouse in Newark and the KAHAMA mission in Shinyanga, Tanzania in East Africa.

The goals of Union Catholic's REACH chapter include a drive to collect 200 books for St. Clare's AIDS Foundation which lost their book collection as a result of flooding. The group will also hold a bake sale to purchase backpacks and school supplies to donate to the children of St. Clare's homes. Club members hope to obtain grants from Staples, Target and Wal-Mart to help fund this project. In addition to the efforts on behalf of St. Clare's, the club will also be making Easter Baskets for children in the hospital with AIDS.

