

## UNICEF to host speaker and screen film about Sudanese Civil War

The fundraiser will feature Peter Bul and “The Good Lie”

by Jesse McCauley

On Friday, Mar. 2, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Club will be hosting a fundraiser to raise money and awareness for the Sudanese Civil War and its lingering effects on the citizens of the country.

UNICEF will be airing “The Good Lie,” a movie featuring Reese Witherspoon and Ger Duany, which follows Sudanese orphans on their journey to a refugee camp in Kenya.

Over a decade later, the orphans settle in the U.S. and face the difficult task of finding jobs.

In addition to the movie, Peter Bul, a Sudanese war survivor, will tell his story. Much like the kids in the film, he also fled to a refugee camp in Kenya before settling in the States. Bul is a passionate advocate for his homeland, as well as the American Sudanese community.

The fundraiser was organized by



Activist Peter Bul will speak about his experiences as a Sudanese child refugee and his time in the U.S. | Hemmer

sophomore Kathryn Hemmer, who began volunteering for UNICEF in third grade, where she participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF after reading about maternal and neonatal tetanus.

She also is a UNICEF Young Ambassador, and she continues to raise awareness about maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). Hemmer

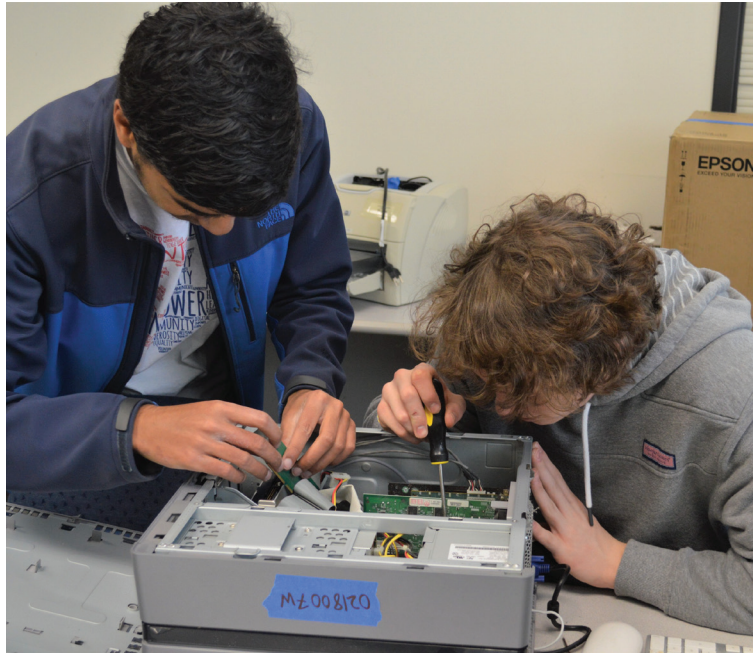
had heard Bul speak a few years ago and felt that the film could accompany his story perfectly.”

“By attending the event, students and community members get to watch a phenomenal movie while supporting a great cause. They’ll walk away more knowledgeable about UNICEF’s work protecting children around the world,” said

Hemmer.

“UNICEF supports giving malnourished children food and clean water and giving vaccines to remote areas where people die of diseases we have already cured. It also strives to give all children access to education, and prevent human trafficking and abusive government,” said senior treasurer and cofounder Jacob Levy.

## BinaryHeart uses tech for social justice



The club seeks to give underprivileged students access to technology | Rashid

New club repairs and donates used devices

by Eleanor Kaplan

Founded in June 2016, BinaryHeart has grown from a few friends fixing up an old computer to an organization with over twenty volunteers.

This January, the organization made the step to becoming an official club at New Trier. They meet every Wednesday after school in Room 224.

Since many jobs now require applicants to be comfortable using computers, students without access to technology are being left behind. The organization BinaryHeart is looking to bridge this gap and provide the opportunity for young people to become technologically adept.

While the club now has repaired over \$58,214 worth of devices, BinaryHeart has humble roots, beginning in one of the founder’s garages.

“Around five of us in a garage were huddled around this old HP all-in-one desktop, trying to figure out what was broken,” recalled president and co-founder junior Marzuk Rashid. After five hours of work, the group fixed the problem—the power connector—and celebrated their first

success.

At the foundation of the club, “we fixed anything we could get our hands on,” added board member and co-founder junior Asher Noel.

Now, with over 520 hours of service logged, BinaryHeart has streamlined their repair process and is able to turn around devices quickly.

“Our computers are meticulously organized in our New Trier storeroom and organized based on their status in the donation process. To fix computers, we have proper sets of tools and can replace dysfunctional parts with new ones from eBay or specialized websites,” said Noel.

As the organization began to publicize and make known their work, donations flowed in. In June 2017, a drive led to the organization collecting over a garage-worth of old devices. The group was then able to donate their first nine computers to students in Chicago.

While many service clubs at New Trier focus mainly on raising money, at BinaryHeart, volunteers get their hands dirty in the effort to repair real computers.

BinaryHeart is unique in that it combines the specialized knowledge of its volunteers with the will to help other people.

“Our focus on technology allows students to serve their community using a skillset that isn’t present in any other service group,”

said Rashid.

However, Rashid added, “We are also able to accommodate volunteers with no prior experience with technology.” The group is currently focusing on outreach and expansion by attracting new members to the club.

Most of the members have been involved with technology since a young age. Rashid was first introduced to coding in 2nd grade and hopes to make this opportunity available to more students.

While New Trier students spend much of their time doing homework on iPads and laptops, only half of high school students in Chicago Public Schools reported using technology in school on a regular basis, according to a study done by the University of Chicago.

Board member and co-founder junior Jack Altman also recognized the need of universality of technology.

“We live in a time period when access to the digital age is almost mandatory, but not universally affordable quite yet.”

According to a study done by Microsoft Corporation, 77 percent of jobs will require some sort of technological skills by 2020, making it even more difficult for those without computer skills to have jobs.

By donating personal computers to students without them, BinaryHeart provides underprivileged students with the opportunity to succeed in these jobs.

The donated device “helps them to do better in school and helps them learn computer literacy skills which are essential in today’s world,” said volunteer and junior Daniel Hess.

Providing access to computers to children is especially important. “The exposure and handling of technology at a young age shapes a person’s relation to it, and in the 21st century, perfect technological fluency is the expectation among almost all workers and contributors to society,” said Noel.

It is much more difficult for an adult to become comfortable using technology than it is for a kid who grew up surrounded by it.

“It is crucial that every student has access to master the digital tools they’ll need to succeed in the modern world,” said Rashid.

## Stop and smell the coffee



Cupitol serves Instagram-worthy coffee and tasty breakfast dishes | George

Cupitol is both authentic and Instagram-worthy

by Molly George

From unique brunch spot to cozy café lounge to fun evening bar, Cupitol seems to have everything customers want—unless what you want is a blonde vanilla latte with your name and a green logo on the cup. The quality and originality of this hip café in Evanston attract different customers than Starbucks rewards fanatics.

The weekday crowd is diverse and relaxed, with people snacking, chatting, studying, working, and meeting.

In one corner, a college student sits on a comfy bench with headphones on and a coffee cup, notebook, and laptop spread out over a decent sized two-top. In the middle of the café, two friends chat on counter stools. An interview is going on at another table.

Lively voices, chill music, constant clinking of dishes and whirring of appliances from the kitchen all create a background ambience that matches the vibe of the coffee shop. The large space makes it fairly easy to both tune out the noise and focus on work, and chat with friends while not feeling disruptive to anyone else.

On Sunday mornings, the line of social brunch goers is out the door. Several families crowd around a long dining table while another party gathers on sleek sofas by the front window.

There is a relaxed and creative vibe that comes from the unique blend of different people doing their own thing. This mood is enhanced with funky background music, a

The club organizes fundraisers like the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF as well as pizza sales. They meet Friday mornings before school to plan these fundraisers and to talk about the issues being tackled.

UNICEF Club has grown immensely at New Trier. Senior board member Alex Boudos said, “In my time, UNICEF Club has gone from a small group of friends getting together on Friday mornings to discuss the predicament of children around the world to a huge club of driven members.”

Levy estimates that there were over 80 kids at this year’s first meeting, compared to 12 kids in past years. “UNICEF has raised more money each consecutive year thanks to this growth. It’s really great that more people are coming, as it helps with fundraising and gets the word around the school,” said Levy.

“In the future, we plan to continue raising funds and awareness for all the amazing work UNICEF is doing,” said Boudos.

Tickets for tonight’s event are \$15. Donations are accepted online and at the Gaffney Auditorium door.

friendly walk-up counter (advertised as European style), the combination of artsy chalkboard and handheld paper menus, an open kitchen, the variety of seating, and the almost overwhelming range of menu items.

Various breakfasts are served, including specialty french toast (a pumpkin dish in the fall) and all kinds of pastries (such as cinnamon muffins, almond croissants, and berry scones). It is best to order these earlier in the day when they are freshest, as with any bakery.

The lattes are artistic enough to appear on Instagram, and teas come with small karafs for steeping. Beyond the typical beverages served in a café, the cold pressed juices and fresh smoothies are both flavorful and vibrantly colorful.

The menu spans occasions while limiting what they serve to ensure excellence. The distinction of their dishes justifies paying a little extra.

For the variety, vibe, and quality, a trip to Cupitol is worth the drive to Evanston, worth the pricey items, and probably worth a tip to the friendly barista.

Its location on Grove Street in the middle of Evanston adds to the bustling coffee shop feel. Cupitol is an independent business, and there is one other location in the River East neighborhood of Chicago.

The café is open from 7 AM until 9 PM on weekdays, but they stay open an hour later on Saturdays and close an hour earlier on Sundays. With accommodating hours, purpose, and menu, the statement on their website is certainly true: “Cupitol brings together all the best elements of a restaurant, bakery, café and exclusive bar.”

No matter what you’re looking for in a coffee shop, Cupitol probably has it. Unless it’s a pre-ordered triple-venti-soy-no-foam-latte.