



Home ► Local

## Video makes a difference

📍 Central students in nation-wide video that educates teens on Afghanistan

KYLE REA/METRO NEWS (London, ON)

Published: May 18, 2011 2:57 p.m.



KYLE REA/METRO NEWS

Central Secondary School students Jillian Lapadat, 17, left, Melissa Hughes, 17, Gaby Marchese, 17, Sophia Liu, 18, Heather Roberts, 17, Doug Leighton, 17, and Thiago Prado, 18, gave their thoughts about Afghanistan, and a new school to be built there as part of the Rotary Club of Canada's Centennial Afghanistan challenge, as part of a video shown on a nation-wide tour. The video told of the benefits of a new \$600,000 two-storey school built in Jalalabad, Afghanistan for 4,000 students and how teens can get involved to do good in other countries.

It started as a request by a friend to be part of an after-class video, taking their opinions on Afghanistan and urging others to get involved internationally. Now comments from seven students at Central Secondary School in London form a key part of a 20-minute DVD video to be shown at more than 200 high schools across the country by the Rotary Club of Canada.

As part of a Rotary project to build a \$600,000 school in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, a video was produced to be shown at schools nation-wide to educate students on what's going on in Afghanistan and ways they can help.

Recruited by a friend earlier this year, they gathered unprepared for an after-school video shoot. Tuesday and Wednesday, they got a chance to view the video for the first time.

It depicts their comments as well as footage shot in Afghanistan of the school, its construction and the difference it will make for Afghans.

"It feels really good to be part of something like this and to know we're making a difference," said Jillian Lapadat, 17. "It's a really great project."

Thiago Prado, 18, noted when they first showed up to be videotaped, they didn't know a lot about the project, but thought it was a good idea.

"The video takes it to a whole other level about how thankful the kids are," he said.

Fellow student Melissa Hughes, 17, added, "I just feel really empowered by the whole thing because coming into it, you feel like you can't make a difference because we're young and we have our own things to worry about. But we can."

Heather Roberts, 17, who recruited her friends for the video said by showing the video, students will be encouraged to get involved in what's going on in the world.

"It's important that we let people know that something as simple as having an after-school meeting, you have an ability to make a difference."

- As part of celebrations to mark Rotary's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Canada, they organized a project to build a 4,000 student Grade 1-12 school in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.
- Rotary wanted to build a school because kids were sitting on the ground outside for classes, would often get sick
- Started early last year, the school opened its doors in September
- Total pricetag for the school was \$600,000 with half coming from Rotary, the other half from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
- According to Rotary, 10 years ago only 700,000 boys, and no girls, attended school in Afghanistan. Now that number is four million boys and two million girls
- UNICEF says only 28 per cent of Afghan adults are literate and less than one-quarter of women can read and write.

***"It's great because they can relate to their peers in another country. These are students that are going off into post-secondary learning and hopefully, they'll take with them a broader world-view," said Diane Twynstra, coordinator for Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development.***

***Metro website:***

<http://www.metronews.ca/london/local/article/864348--video-makes-a-difference>

***Afghanistan School website:***

[www.afghanistanschool.ca](http://www.afghanistanschool.ca)