

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL DONATES DARFUR PAPERDOLLS TO ILLINOIS
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER**

Highland Park, IL...As part of their "Reach for Change" project, next Monday evening, June 11, at 8 p.m., the 8th grade class at Elm Place Middle School will donate 70,000 paper dolls to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center during their graduation ceremony taking place at Elm Place School Auditorium, 2031 Sheridan Road, Highland Park.

For the past year, students at the school have been engaged in a project to bring about change in the Darfur region of the Sudan. The paper dolls represent each individual life lost due to the genocide in the region, which since 2003 has totaled 400,000 lives. The students have collected 70,000 dolls from 41 states and 4 countries, including Estonia, Puerto Rico and Israel with the project continuing until their goal of collecting 400,000 dolls is reached.

IHMEC Vice President and Holocaust survivor, Aaron Elster will accept the dolls on behalf of the museum at the ceremony and will address the audience on the power of children to affect change in our world and make a difference.

The dolls will be housed in the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, which is under construction and scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.

For more information, call Kelley Szany, 847/491-0905 or 847/848-0191.