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Global Petals shows support for Chicago Bulls

Parth Kapadia
TECHNEWS WRITER

IIT student Parth Kapadia's non-profit organization, Global Petals, showed its support of the Chicago Bulls and their efforts to promote youth education in Chicago, over winter break with a flowery display.

In collaboration with the Chicago Bulls, Global Petals donated a custom Chicago Bulls logo comprised of specialty roses from around the world to the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. The Kroc Corps Community Center provides underserved communities with the highest quality recre-

ational and arts facilities to afford children the opportunities to build their natural gifts and talents.

Global Petals is looking forward to continuing their relationship with the Bulls and Kroc Center to identify ways to engage and support the development of the next generation of students.

Global Petals is a web portal that provides access for florists, businesses and non-profits, community organizations, and retail consumers to the world's finest quality flowers. Global Petals allows customers to develop direct relationships with growers and simplifies the shipping process.

The custom arrangement was prepared by University of Illinois (U of I) student designers Sam Kowalczyk, and Candice Miller (of CM Cakes and Flowers), and Rachel Prescott, a U of I Horticulture Alumni, in collaboration with the founders of Global Petals and presented to the leadership of the Kroc Center.

Although they are a global business, Global Petals maintains strong local roots and is continuously focused on identifying avenues to support youth initiatives in the Chicago community. Founded by Chicago area natives, Michael Lyons and Parth Kapadia, Global Petals empowers floral buyers to purchase directly

from global flower farms, enhancing relationships, providing greater transparency and efficiency, and offering substantial value to buyers and sellers. In addition to providing premium quality flowers, their aim is to use Global Petals as a platform to better the local community.

As entrepreneurs, they recognize the importance of encouraging youth to pursue their dreams in artistic and entrepreneurial careers and are pleased to support such endeavors in our communities.

Kapadia (CAEE '13) is also the current president of the Armour College of Engineering Themes Student Council, and a member of the Entrepreneurship Academy.



Photos courtesy of Parth Kapadia

Syrian students hold vigil for Aleppo University victims

Utsav Gandhi & Katie Peters
CAMPUS EDITOR & COPY & LAYOUT EDITOR

On January 15, 2013, when Illinois Tech students were just coming back for the start of the new semester, more than 80 people, many of them students on their way to their first day of exams were killed when two blasts fired from warplanes struck a university campus in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.

Just think about the enormity of the above statement. First day of exams. University students. More than 80 victims. One can very easily just read the headline, reflect upon it for a few minutes and get on with their life hoping the war would end soon. But what made this specific incident so irrefutable was that here at IIT we have Syrian students, some of them who have transferred from Aleppo University in a recently instituted university initiative. They could very easily have been there on that fatal day.

In a strong show of solidarity, scores of IIT students showed up on January 18th, 2013 on the MTCC South Lawn to participate in a vigil organized by these very Syrian students. Even the blistering cold winds couldn't extinguish the passionate appeal of these stu-

dents to encourage peace and promote harmony.

The Syrian students were gathered on the South Lawn with candles and posters, having imprinted "R.I.P" and a heart on the sand. To start off, Raed Tawil gave introduction, thanked everyone for coming, noting that the number in attendance was close enough to the number of casualties in Aleppo. Some of the students had signs that said:

"You can kill a person but not an idea"

"Illinois stands with Aleppo"

"I would like to congratulate the 90 students who graduated from Aleppo U with an honorable martyrdom status"

The students proceeded to sing a song called "Mawtene" to honor their fallen brothers and sisters, accompanied by some incredibly poignant and somber music.

Tawil then proceeded to provide a brief background of the Syrian civil war and the students finished with singing the Syrian national anthem.

TechNews, and by extension, IIT is proud to stand in solidarity with these students, who are as equally a part of the IIT family as anyone else.



Photos courtesy of The National & the IIT Admitted Undergraduate Facebook Page