



**FATHER JOE'S**  
VILLAGES®

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## **Homeless students' documentary selected for Human Rights Watch International Film Festival**

A film created by homeless students at Toussaint Academy of the Arts and Sciences (TAAS) has been selected from a worldwide pool of more than 250 submissions to premiere at the annual Human Rights Watch International Film Festival to be held June 20 and 21 in New York City.

"I Want My Parents Back" is one of only nine youth-produced films selected for the festival's first ever showing of Youth Producing Change. The 11-minute documentary shows the personal impact of U.S. immigration policies when undocumented parents of the Munoz family are deported without warning to Mexico, leaving their three young American-born children behind.

"The topic of immigration is so hotly debated right now, this film couldn't be more timely. That teenagers were able to address this issue so poignantly says a lot about the level of talent and support at Toussaint Academy," says Rick Newmyer, director of TAAS.

The film was made possible by a collaboration of TAAS, a residence and high school for homeless teens in downtown San Diego, with the San Diego Media Arts Center, which provided instruction and curriculum to make the documentary. TAAS students were involved in all aspects of the film including interviews, image selection, filming, and editing. The film will be screened through 2009 at Human Rights Watch International Film Festivals in Boston, London and San Francisco.

Human Rights Watch's International Film Festival has become a leading venue for films and videos with a distinctive human rights theme. The festival showcases the heroic stories of activists and survivors from all over the world and celebrates the power of the human spirit and intellect.

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Father Joe's Villages® is a San Diego-based nonprofit that helps homeless neighbors in need regain their lives through a unique life-changing program that is nationally recognized and modeled for its effectiveness. Our groundbreaking approach to rehabilitation, known as the "University of the Human Spirit," addresses the underlying causes of homelessness to break the cycle and help thousands of people become responsible, self-sufficient, productive citizens and pass their newfound independence and life skills on to their children and families. When we help one person, we help generations of families and communities.

Members of Father Joe's Villages®

