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# Class project turns into real-life support

**Parkland students create holiday CD that benefits agency.**

By Sarah Fulton Special to The Morning Call

Enterprising students at Parkland High School have adopted Adoptions from the Heart — as their charity.

Six students in a Parkland music production class produced, recorded, engineered and are now selling a compact disc of 10 holiday songs for \$5. The proceeds will benefit Adoptions from the Heart, a regional nonprofit that helps couples adopt babies regionally and internationally.



"I am wonderfully impressed," said Kathy Lieb, director of Adoptions' Allentown office. "... Their hearts are in the right place."

The CDs are for sale through Friday at Parkland holiday music concerts, including one scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the high school on Cedar Crest Boulevard.

Scott Watson, director of the music production class, said he wanted his students to gain real-life experience when he assigned them the task of producing "Parkland: A Season For Giving."

"I was looking for a real-world, practical application of the things we're learning in the class," Watson said.

Students were appointed different roles in the CD's production, such as producer, sound engineer, public relations, graphics and treasurer.

Watson challenged the students to use their music to make a difference. What he got was a group of enthusiastic teenagers dedicated to helping area families and children by donating proceeds from the CD sales to the Allentown chapter of Adoptions from the

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Senior Allison Hofmann, the project's marketing director, selected the cause after her employers were successful in adopting a baby girl from China through the organization.

"I knew how happy their family is now that they're all together," Hofmann said.

Hofmann said her fellow students put a lot of effort into producing the project.

"It touched us to know that all of our money we're making for being creative is going towards children that need homes and children overseas that don't have anything," Hofmann said. "This helps out a lot."

Adoptions from the Heart is one of the largest adoption services on the East Coast. The agency helps find homes for hundreds of children each year from within the United States and from countries such as China, Vietnam, Russia, Ukraine, India, Guatemala, Lithuania and Kazakhstan. It also raises money to support orphanages overseas to house children not considered adoptable.

Students selected all 10 tracks on the CD and produced it in a whirlwind four weeks. Eight of the songs are public domain and the rights had to be obtained for two others. Students arranged the music, selected musicians from within the high school, faculty members and even musical parents to perform the songs. The tracks include "Carol of the Bells," "Greensleeves," "Deck the Halls" and lesser-known songs. The disc is a broad representation of music, from jazz and rock to new age and traditional choir pieces.

"I'm very proud of their work," Watson said. "I like the spectrum of styles represented."

Watson said there has been an overwhelming response from the public and 200 CDs have been sold so far, raising \$1,000. Half of that money will cover the student's expenses in producing the album, such as CDs, jewel cases and paper for printing case liners. Half the money, or \$500, and any more funds raised are dedicated to Adoptions from the Heart.

The public can contact Mark Stutz, Director of Fine & Performing Arts, at 610-351-5666 to request a CD. Sales end Friday.

Sarah Fulton is a freelance writer.

SENIORS Max Stein (left), Brian Angelina, Albert Lazaro, all 17 and from Allentown and junior Andrew Newcombe, 17, of Allentown attach labels to the compact discs and stuff cases at Parkland High School.

Don Fisher

The Morning Call

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