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## Students give away money

### Lesson learned in charitable giving

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**CRESTVIEW HILLS** - Thomas More College handed out checks to local charities last week as part of a new program that allows students to determine charities that will receive the money.

The Partners in Philanthropy Program in collaboration with the Student Philanthropy Project was founded by Roger Grein, a local businessman who gave \$60,000 to the project to help students and professors design award criteria.

Each class had \$4,000 to award.

"Students are the nonprofit boards of directors for the future," said Jack Rudnick Jr., assistant professor of business administration. "Part of our mission is to train ethical and disciplined leaders for the future. This program dovetails nicely into that effort."

Rudnick's class, Principles of United States Health Care, donated its funds to the Visiting Nurses Association of Greater Cincinnati Birthright Pregnancy Center.

Rudnick said the project deepens the students' education.

"One of the best teaching methods is full student engagement," he said. "The enthusiasm and passion generated from getting involved and an ability to apply theory to real-world practice cannot be replaced with an in-class-only exercise to 'talk' about problems."

"Students felt involved and felt both meaning as well as purpose to this assignment," said Rudnick.

Associate professor Kathy Dye taught the capstone masters project class. Her class decided to give their funds to the Brighton Center Inc.

"I jumped at the chance to give them real-world experience giving away someone else's money," said Dye. "They were very careful with that responsibility."

Dye said her students' criteria for selecting the Brighton Center was to make the "biggest impact possible in helping families and individuals achieve financial stability."

"What was the expected impact and on how many people?" said Dye. "Other important considerations were linkage to the goals they had established, thoughtfulness of implementation of program, likelihood of success (return on investment) and overall quality of the submitted proposal."

"They also had a 'wild card' (gut feel) category that would be used only as a tie-breaker."

Dye said this real-world decision helped the students learn.

"This opportunity helped them understand the difficulty of assessing many good solutions, and to then struggle with the tough assignment of selecting only one. It was financial decision-making at its best - particularly because all the proposals were worthwhile and all the organizations made a positive impact

in the community."

The other award recipients were Sixth District School programs, the ProKids' Building Block Program and the Freestore/Foodbank's Power Pack Program.

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