Concert Band Raises Money for Hospice House

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CONCERT BAND RAISES MONEY FOR HOSPICE HOUSE

In the spring of 2018, 47 members of Dordt’s concert band performed two concerts in a Hungarian Reformed church as part of the band’s 10-day, seven-concert tour of three countries rich in musical history—Germany, Austria, and Hungary.

The students stayed two nights with members of the Reformed church and enjoyed each other’s company immensely, even though the Hungarians spoke little English and the students spoke even less Hungarian.

“With our host, a translator, and a little help from Google Translate, we were able to share many moments of laughter and hold short conversations,” says junior nursing major Alexa DeRuyter.

But it was the faith that students and their Hungarian host families shared that created a special bond that became evident during the band’s performances on the Sunday and Monday of Pentecost.

Band members also shared in the work of the Hungarian church; their concerts helped raise funds for Majosházai Hospice House, which opened in September 2018 in Majoshaza, Pest, Hungary. The hospice house offers a comfortable and peaceful environment where terminally ill people can live out their final days. Majosházai Hospice House serves cancer patients from 20 towns and villages located in the Ráckeve and Szigetszentmiklós districts outside of Budapest.

“Hospice care is sometimes a difficult concept to understand, but it plays an important role in healthcare,” says DeRuyter. “It is one area of nursing that I can foresee becoming involved with as a nurse. I know that many people will be blessed by this facility, and I was thankful that our concerts could benefit such a powerful cause.”

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