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Five UM students raise more than \$1,000 for Chinese orphans

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NEWS RELEASE

March 6, 2007

Contact: Sarah Allen, president, Golden Key International Honour Society, 249-8987.

FIVE UM STUDENTS RAISE MORE THAN \$1,000 FOR CHINESE ORPHANS

MISSOULA –

One day while sitting in the University Center at The University of Montana, Sarah Allen watched a student collect money for rape victims. The girl had a jar and was doing it on her own, without the help of anyone else.

Allen, a senior in biology from **Hungry Horse** and president of UM's chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society, decided to help people the same way, too. The next time she met with her fellow Golden Key members, she suggested they do something to raise money and awareness, as well as help bolster their organization.

"We've been working on getting more people to think Golden Key is valid," Allen said. A lot of people find it hard to see the organization as a working student group because there is a lifetime membership fee, Allen said. But, she added, it's a student group of juniors and seniors who want to work together to make the community a better place.

Because four of the club's officers are biology students and one is a health and human performance major, they decided they wanted their cause to have a special interest in health.

And that's where Allen came up with the idea to raise money for China Care Foundation, a charity that collects money for Chinese orphans in need of medical procedures. While looking at the Web site one day she came across the story of a girl who was living with a malignant eye

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tumor. She felt compelled to help, even though she is a self-professed "poor college student."

"I know \$20 is a lot to me, but it's even more to a Chinese orphan," Allen said.

The group approached popular anthropology lecturer Garry Kerr, a professor with high student attendance and asked him to show a video about poverty in his class. Students were moved, Allen said, and she was surprised many even threw \$20 bills in the collection container.

When cashing the donations in for a money order to China Care Foundation, even the bank teller helping them was so touched that she donated to the cause.

"Five of us (Golden Keys officers) raised \$1,000, which shows that anyone can make a difference," Allen said.

Up next for the group is its spring semester textbook drive, in which they plan to collect for Better World Books, an organization that gives books to those in need. Last year the group organized a similar drive and the books they collected went to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Golden Key hopes to make the book drive a tradition, Allen said.

While the 120-member strong Golden Key invites only the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors to join, Allen stresses that anyone can join the Associated Students of UM-recognized group. "Anyone who wants to help can come to Golden Key meetings and network with other student groups," she said.

The group currently has 50 honorary members.

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