

*News Release*

## **Music Help for Parents of Special Needs Students**

The Foundation for Music and Healing, Inc. announces publication of a new book. Entitled *Making Our Own Kind of Music*, this is a major initiative to share innovative ways pioneered by the Foundation to bring the benefits of music and movement to students who have special needs.

Author of the book is Dr. Chris Robinson, founder and president of the Foundation for Music and Healing, Inc. Dr. Robinson is a researcher and music instructor who holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Notre Dame. He is a longtime musician and educator and has held managerial positions in business, education and healthcare.

Written for parents, caregivers and professionals, this valuable resource is designed to help people in communities across the nation to develop similar programs to get help in music and movement for their children who have special needs. The book traces the development and growth of the Foundation for Music and Healing, Inc., a non-profit, community-based organization headquartered in South Bend, Indiana. It also gives, for the first time, details of what has made services offered by the Foundation effective among students with special needs.

*Making Our Own Kind of Music* highlights the Foundation's unique approach of using broad psychological and sociological principles in bringing weekly

instructional music and movement experiences to students. The book is filled with useful information and practical tips. Rich in perspective and detail, the book's objective is to inspire people to take positive action to bring the benefits of music to those who never thought it possible, and, specifically, to serve exceptional students who have special needs.

Discussion points are included at the end of each chapter to facilitate dialogue among parent, family, educator and clinical groups as well as book clubs, so that they are empowered to take steps to establish similar music programs in their locales. Chapter endnotes also contain testimonials from parents, family members, and friends and from students themselves about what the addition of music and movement has meant in their lives. Specific chapters, under the banner of *Success Stories*, contain details of dramatic improvement experienced by people of all ages who have special needs. A long-range goal of this first book is to create a framework for further investigation into therapeutic benefits of music and movement.

Teachers associated with the Foundation have been bringing innovative music and dance instruction to those with special needs in northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan since 2001. The Foundation for Music and Healing, Inc. was officially organized in 2003. One of the Founding members of its Board of Directors is Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame.

This book is the first complete statement of what the Foundation has accomplished during its formative years. It contains a description of theory and methods, as well as details of how a group of teachers, parents and caregivers

assist students who have a wide range of special needs and disabilities, ranging from mild to severe. It tells of support received by a network of community and healthcare organizations that have dedicated resources to this project.

*Making Our Own Kind of Music* contains 15 chapters and 194 pages. Illustrations of concepts are included. It will be issued in trade paperback and electronic formats. Club discounts are available.

A second volume envisioned in this series is a practical, "How to" manual. It will give specific, practical steps concerned parents can take to create mechanisms for serving fine arts needs of students in their communities. This manual is being prepared in response to inquiries the Foundation for Music and Healing, Inc. has received from communities throughout the United States.

"This is an interactive workbook full of ideas, forms and meeting agenda items," said Dr. Chris Robinson, author and editor of the manual. "We intend to help groups wherever they are to bring music, rhythm and dance movement to students in need."

A third volume in the series will focus on clinical aspects of music and movement. It will contain useful information developed by physicians, psychologists, educators and parents associated with the Foundation for Music and Healing, Inc.

More information about the book is available from the Foundation's web site:

[www.musichealing.org](http://www.musichealing.org)

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