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Music makes magic

By [Christine van Reeuyk - Peninsula News Review](#)
Published: February 16, 2011 1:00 AM

Sam Weber believes music can make lives better.

The Stelly's student has proven it gig after gig, and it has earned him the 2011 Hearts of the Community outstanding youth volunteer award.

"Volunteering is important obviously," Weber said, comparing the simplicity of the statement to answering with "world peace" in a beauty pageant. "The gain is so much more rewarding ... it gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation, and quantize it through helping others."

For the past four years, Weber has been among the talented students adding his sound to musical fundraisers such as the Global Gala to raise funds for less fortunate students in Peru and Belize. The Grade 12 student has worked and performed the five-hour concert at Stelly's to raise funds for Haiti, and is a regular in the coffee concerts at Stelly's that raise funds for a variety of organizations including the local food bank, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Association and the BC Cancer Foundation.

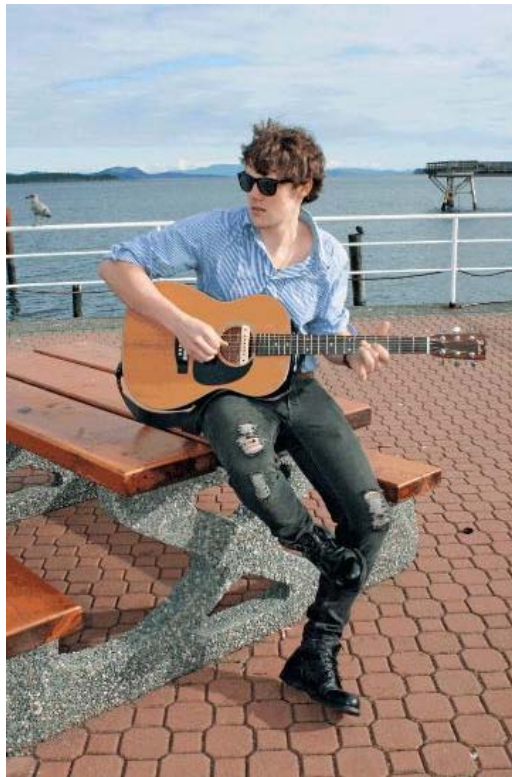
"He always strives for his personal best and is extremely polite, well organized and conscientious. He is an exemplary role model for his peers," said nominator Jan Heinrichs, music director at Stelly's school. "It is without a doubt that he will continue to give back to his community as a singer/songwriter ... He truly does have a heart of gold."

This winter, Weber tackled a larger challenge, taking on the Community Christmas Concert at the Mary Winspear Centre.

"I wanted to volunteer, and it was an opportunity to perform at the Mary Winspear and help out in the community," Weber said. "We really committed a lot of time bringing in the best talent."

The talent shone through and that concert raised just shy of \$5,000.

"The publicity is the best part," said food bank administrator Bev Elder. "Any time our name is out there, people are all over it. Our donations go up whenever our name is in the paper."



Seaside or concert setting, Sam Weber knows music makes lives better.

Christine van Reeuyk/News staff
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Weber is also featured on a Feed the Soul CD that also puts partial proceeds toward the local food bank.

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"It's the youth that realize about poverty these days," Elder added. "It's kids like Sam. He just gave like there was no tomorrow. Time is valuable, we think every hour somebody donates to us is just as good as money."

Donating time is valuable to the giver as well, according to Weber.

"Volunteering teaches us that to give is to receive," he said. "And [that] there are more important things in life than just our own well-being."

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