



PRESS RELEASE

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YOUNG GUITARIST RAISES \$10,000 FOR IRAQI CHILDREN THROUGH HIS MUSIC

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of guitar

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Santa Clara, CA - May 19, 2008 Since hearing about an organization that helps Iraqi children receive wheelchairs, Ben has been performing in front of a local bakery in his neighborhood as well as at a number of other venues in order to raise money for "Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids". This organization provides much need wheelchairs to children afflicted by the war. Through his on-going act of compassion and determination he has met his original goal of \$10,000!

Ben's mother, Helen, sent us these insightful thoughts, "It's very difficult for children to understand war but easy for them to know how sad life would be if you couldn't walk or run or kick a ball around. I like the fact that this charity gives a tangible gift to a child in need."

Ben, is a 10 year old student of the Longay Conservatory of Guitar (LCG) in Santa Clara, CA. This July the school is hosting an International Suzuki Guitar Festival at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Inspired by Ben's accomplishment the festival organizers have committed to donate a percentage of the proceeds from the festival's **Showcase Concert**, an event featuring talented young musicians, to his cause. The concert will enable the performers, as well as the audience, the chance to make a contribution.

The event will be on **Friday, July 11 at 6:00 pm.** at the **Santa Clara Convention Center.** Tickets for the event are \$20.00 general admission and \$15.00 for students, seniors, and festival participants. Group rates are also available, please inquire.

LCG's experience demonstrates that all children may achieve very high levels of musical ability in an enriched and motivating environment and that music and the arts cultivate a happier, more capable individual.

Tickets can be purchased on-line at <http://www.longay.com/festival/concerts.html> or by contacting Kim Buller E: festival@longay.com T: 408.343.0933.

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