Songs of Hope: The Voices of The Next Door
Alessandra Alegre, Samantha Potts, Kelly Lenahan & Skyler Schmanski
Faculty Advisor Identification: Joy Jordan-Lake, Ph.D.

An anonymous author once wrote, “Music speaks what cannot be expressed, soothes the mind and gives it a rest, heals the heart and makes it whole, flows from heaven to the soul.” Music is a powerful medium that has the ability to reach into lives in a way that words cannot. When choosing their senior LEAD project, Alessandra Alegre, Kelly Lenahan, Skyler Schmanski, and Sammi Potts decided to harness that mighty force in a way that used their collective skillset to make an impact on the community.

The Next Door is an organization dedicated to providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support to women in crisis. From drug addiction to mental illness, trauma to incarceration, The Next Door provides the best rehabilitation services to women in Tennessee. This non-profit organization is Christ-centered and focuses on compassionate, state-of-the-art care. Since its creation in 2002, The Next Door has served hundreds of women and experienced rapid growth.

By partnering with The Next Door, the students were able to enrich their community and spread the word about their services while giving a voice to the women of The Next Door. By assisting the residents with selecting, performing, and recording an album of hymns, the team created an outlet for the women involved to experience the powerful healing that music affords while creating a physical product to support and promote their organization and its work.
1:20-1:40 p.m.

**Serving Up Stories: A Cookbook for The Cookery**
Jeanette Morelan, Sarah Ellis, Andrew Hunt & Jake Saghi
Faculty Advisor identification: Joy Jordan-Lake, Ph.D.

What would you do if you found yourself alone in a brand new city with nothing more than the clothes on your back and a mission to do God’s work? Brett Swayne knows this feeling all too well, and it is what led him to work with Nashville’s homeless population and eventually to found The Cookery, a local nonprofit ministry that uses food as a means to help formerly homeless individuals develop skills for the workplace. The restaurant enrolls men in a seven-month training program and eventually brings them on culinary staff to help prepare them to gain lasting employment. The Cookery’s purpose is to create a more hopeful world for those struggling with economic hardships.

Senior Honors students Jeanette Morelan, Sarah Ellis, Andrew Hunt, and Jake Saghi were captivated by the stories of hope they encountered within The Cookery’s walls, and they chose to create an original cookbook highlighting the ministry’s history and mission through the eyes of individual participants. They interviewed current program members and alumni and gathered a list of favorite recipes and cooking tips. The result is a book that beautifully captures the organization’s dynamic, thriving ministry and the lives of each person who has been touched by it. This finished product will raise awareness for The Cookery and honor its distinct purpose and value in the Nashville community.

1:50-2:10 p.m.

**Stories and Songs with The Beat of Life**
Hannah Floyd, Drew Miller & Janie Townsend
Faculty Advisor Identification: Joy Jordan-Lake, Ph.D.

While Nashville brims with budding musical talent and seasoned veterans who have tamed every trick in the music industry, few music therapy organizations have roots in the city and even fewer have the attention of volunteers who can become involved in their work. The rarity of a music therapy group in Nashville caught the attention and fervor of music-lovers Hannah Floyd, Drew Miller and Janie Townsend as they sought an organization to serve for their senior LEAD project.

The Beat of Life is a non-profit organization inviting songwriters and artists into the mission of using music to help hurting individuals grapple with the weight and beauty of their stories.
Currently run by six employees and based in Nashville, The Beat of Life’s impact is growing almost faster than the organization itself as it manages themed writing workshops, showcases and recording sessions for its volunteers and participants. Needs for funding, volunteers and community awareness are desperate as the organization’s potential outweighs its current resources.

By planning and executing an event, the team created an environment cherishing and exalting the honesty available in music. The half-concert, half-writer’s round style performance connected an unknowing pool of service-oriented and creative Belmont students with an organization thirsty for servant hearts and unwieldy talent. Not only has a mutually beneficial relationship between The Beat of Life and Belmont University been formed, but the formation occurred in an evening showcasing both the songs and stories of Belmont students and the volunteer writers of The Beat of Life.

2:10-2:30 p.m.
**Funding a 5K for Hope & Community**
Hannah Moore, Libby Sanders & Caleb Theriot
Faculty Advisor Identification: Joy Jordan-Lake, Ph.D.

The Cross Point Dream Center is a non-profit facility that focuses on building community in an underprivileged area of West Nashville. The team at the Dream Center has a vision to reduce crime and promote wellness by cultivating a sense of belonging and community. On May 14, 2016, the second annual 5K run/walk fundraiser will take place. The only requirement to participate is to bring a can of food and a positive attitude. The LEAD team’s focus was to obtain sponsorships for lunches, prizes, a health fair, and more! Because of various local sponsorships, 500 members of the Nashville community will be able to celebrate health and fitness and form positive relationships free of charge.