Sitting in a large circle, the students of *Introduction to Nonprofits and Philanthropy* leaned inward towards each other with their eyes focused on one student as he described the local nonprofit he had just visited. At one point, the student jumped into the middle of the circle and bent down on one knee as he described what $3,000 could do for the children served by the organization and pleaded with the class to select the nonprofit for funding. Finally, another student sighed and interjected that every organization appeared to have a compelling need for their support. As the second student asked him to return to his seat so the next group could discuss its site visit, the entire class laughed nervously as the first student reluctantly concluded his presentation and returned to the circle. The instructor smiled with some relief as the students dove into a discussion of the next site visit.

This scene is a glimpse of the intense and often emotional process experienced by 29 Sylvania students last spring as they guided a $10,000 giving fund through the PCC Students4Giving philanthropy project. This was the second year of the Students4Giving project, but the first year of the new host course, *BA 208: Introduction to Nonprofits and Philanthropy*, which as a social science general education elective drew students from a wide variety of interests, including engineering, psychology, and business. During the term, the students learned about the nonprofit community through an informative line-up of speakers from local organizations, including the United Way, Idealist, Mercy Corps and Meyer Memorial Trust. The students selected domestic violence as the funding focus for the term and invited local organizations serving this issue to apply for grants. After site visits to the organizations, detailed individual analysis, and many lengthy group discussions, the students faced the inevitably difficult task of selecting the final grant recipients from the 13 applications. At the end of the term, the students coordinated an awards celebration for the three selected organizations: Domestic Violence Surrogate Dialogue, Sexual Assault Resource Center, and CASA for Children.

Julie Thompson, one of the students who participated in the program noted:

> Future philanthropists are on our campus now, and more are coming... BA 208 illustrates for them that affecting change is realistic and possible, and within the reach of all who seek the skills. It is a great place to start... I practice tolerance more since taking this class. I am more observant. When I think about an NGO, I wonder who started it and why, who sits on the board, what does their 990 look like and how are they problem solving. It is a new perspective, critical thinking, yet an expanded appreciation and respect for the individuals that make change happen. It will be a pleasure to encourage any student that will listen that taking this class is a must while at PCC.

PCC Students4Giving was started in 2007 with a grant from Campus Compact and the Fidelity Charitable Gift fund. The project is sustained through student fundraising efforts including an online auction and textbook drive which rose over $10,000 last year. As a service learning project, student volunteers in two fall *BA 212: Principles of Accounting II* courses are now actively seeking auction items and textbooks. Any 2008 or newer textbook will qualify donors for entry into a raffle for an *Acer Aspire One Netbook*. For the one week online auction starting on November 13th Students4Giving is actively looking for fun items from PCC students, faculty and staff, including artwork, crafts, jewelry, professional services, vacation packages, entertainment tickets and restaurant gift certificates. Right now only one grant cycle is conducted a year in the spring, but if fundraising capacity can be increased more sections could be added in other terms. Please contact Students4Giving lead instructor Cynthia Killingsworth with your creative ideas or donations at Cynthia.killingsworth@pcc.edu or (503) 977-8070.