

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seniors at Camphill Special School Present Shepherd's Play

Chester County, PA, January 3, 2007 – The 12th grade class of Camphill Special School recently staged four performances of the Oberufer Shepherds' Play. The performances were the results of three months of practice and rehearsal. Each member of the class put their whole heart into the play offering it to family and friends as a special gift at Christmas time.

The Oberufer Shepherds' Play is one part of a cycle of medieval mystery dramas which have long been a tradition at Camphill communities and Waldorf schools around the world. The plays were discovered in an isolated village on a peninsula in the Danube River late in the 19th century. The townspeople had kept the traditions of these plays since the late 18th century, but the old ways were threatened by the modern world. Fortunately the plays were transcribed and a new tradition began.

Every year during, The Shepherds' Play is performed for the Camphill Special School community - especially for the children, who anticipate the shepherds' songs and antics. In the past, it usually has been a cast of adults who presented the play. This year, our 12th grade class enthusiastically undertook the production. Just as the medieval ways dictated, at Michaelmas time last fall, the students made promises to each other to be worthy of

their roles.

12th graders prepared so well that they were able to take the show “on the road,” performing for Camphill Soltane. The class also staged three performances for families and friends. All the performances were fabulous and the audiences thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Camphill Special School serves students aged 4 to 21 with diagnoses of autism, mental retardation, Down syndrome, or cerebral palsy. The School is an Approved Private School and an accredited member of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America.

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Photo attached. Caption should read: Camphill Special School Senior, Naomi, played the Angel Gabriel in The Shepherds’ Play.