Now...

Students at Marie Curie MS in Queens happily holding instruments donated by MHOF. “Even though it has been ten years, ALL of the instruments we received from MHOF are in service. I really appreciate everything you have done for us. The band program has grown exponentially in the past decade and I hope that we will continue to make you proud!” Jennifer Schecter, Music teacher

...and then

“Through the program I have learned what it means to have confidence in myself, responsibility as an individual and as a group, respect despite differences, as well as the importance of the arts in making life meaningful. I truly learned more than just how to play an instrument, or reading music off a page. I was taught how to be a leader, and before that, how to truly listen; how to help others and encourage one another, and how impossible challenges can be overcome through hard work and by working together.” Bradley Situ, French Horn, Pharmacist, former Marie Curie band student 2010.

When program director Tricia Williams visited Sunrise Mountain High School in Las Vegas last spring, music teacher John Vargas was hesitant to say hello – he was afraid he would cry. In 1998, as a music student at Woodrow Wilson High School in Los Angeles, he was an avid trumpet player, part of marching and jazz bands, school orchestra and mariachi group, and was selected for the LAUSD All-City Marching Band in the 1999 Tournament of Roses Parade. He got to play a new trumpet donated by MHOF, which encouraged his dream to one day play professionally. Well, he fulfilled his dream as a music teacher, gratefully giving back to others who have their own dreams. John did say hello, and he did cry – and thanked us again for being there for him.

Isreal, a 9th grade violinist at Booker T. Washington HS in Houston finds quiet time to practice. The school received 41 new instruments.

Proud band members from Woodrow Wilson HS in Los Angeles. The school’s stellar music program received 16 new instruments, 16 refurbished guitars, and 77 assorted new mouthpieces!
Foshay Learning Center student Natalia Carrillo: “When you invest every piece of your soul in playing, you realize that you’re not just blowing air, that you are creating, and it’s fundamental to have love for your instrument and practice to achieve what you want. I like the difficulties and like to challenge myself to see how well I can play. When it comes to music, I have very high expectations for myself.”

Thanks to AEG Presents Rocky Mountains, teacher Kimberley Kinkaid at Mann Middle School in Colorado Springs CO excitedly reported: “The Jazz Band received Straight Superiors and the Ken Hammon Award for Outstanding Middle School Jazz Band at Pikes Peak Festival. One of my students (Destiny) also received the award for the best MS solo. My 7th and 8th grade band received straight superior ratings on stage at the Colorado High Schools Activities Association Large Group Festival. Thank you for your amazing support. It was been a wonderful year for our growing program.”

Did you know that precious minutes of class time are spent washing and disinfecting trombone, trumpet, and tuba mouthpieces that are shared between students? It’s true that in most schools, kids share instruments – even mouthpieces. When MHOF donates mouthpieces to a school, hours each year of playing and learning time are gained and everyone wins. The cost: $35! So little to make sure kids are getting time to play!
“I think the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation is the perfect charity for me to support for my Bar Mitzvah project. This year, I plan to bucket drum at streets around my home town in Maryland and raise money for your charity. I also want to ask my band to hold a charity gig in my backyard this summer. My goal is to raise at least $500. I watched Mr. Holland's Opus for the first time last night and I really enjoyed the movie. My favorite part is the marching band parade scene (right before they realize that Mr. Holland's son, Cole, is deaf). This movie shows that music is inspirational. Your charity brings this inspiration to kids who can't afford it.” Dori Kefer, Bethesda MD

Our best friends at StubHub gave their employees a treat – an exclusive concert at the Fillmore in San Francisco with the band Train, and their special guests, the Phillip and Sala Burton High School Jazz Band, who opened for the main attraction. MHOF donated 25 instruments to their excellent program, thanks to StubHub. Meanwhile in Nashville, country artist Chris Lane surprised kids and music teacher William Brooks at Hunters Lane High School with a surprise performance after revealing a stage full of new instruments for their program. StubHub’s commitment to access to music education for all students inspires us every day – thank you.

“We received our final shipment of instruments about a week ago and I have been assigning them to very excited students over the past several school days! I had all of the students open their instruments at the same time and there was an audible gasp of wonder and joy when they saw what was inside! Thank you so much for the opportunity to share this experience with my students this year and for many years to come!” Amy Ziegenhorn, Band Director, Copper King Elementary, Phoenix AZ

Band students at Hollenbeck MS in Boyle Heights proudly pose for a group shot with their new instruments. Just minutes before they were tearing open boxes to discover a bounty of brass, percussion, winds, and strings – 45 beautiful instruments in all. Arturo immediately claimed this sousaphone and wouldn't take it off until he had to go home for the day.

Photos courtesy of StubHub.
PLAY IT AGAIN

“My hope is that the recipient will have as many, or even more hours of joy than I had with my instrument in their hands. My life as a student was so enriched by my band experience, then as an adult, I enjoyed 20 plus years in a community band playing to thousands. I kept my flute for many years after I stopped playing hoping that one of my grandchildren would be interested, but that was not to be… But the good news is that two of my grandchildren are playing the oboe and piano! So the love of music continues. Thank you for your efforts to make these instruments available to the next generation.” Florence Wiley, flute donor

‘Tis The Season!

One of these happy cards can convey a love for music and your support of music education. Both are available on our website, and your friends will appreciate that you are keeping music alive for more kids! Order online at www.mhopus.org.

A cash contribution today will change a life forever. Please give the gift of music by donating online or using the enclosed envelope. On behalf of so many, thank you SO much!