



MUSICmatters

Quarterly News from Music for Minors

Executive Director's Message: The Next Generation!

Our Mission:

To nurture in children
a lifelong love
of music by
providing quality
music education
programs in schools
with our trained
volunteer and
professional
educators.

Music for Minors has such amazing impact on so many. But how many more could benefit from our essential programs? We think thousands... which is why, over the next three to five years, MFM is taking steps to significantly expand our community reach.

To support this exciting venture, honor our 35-year legacy, and celebrate MFM's successful mission, we are launching our Annual Campaign: Laying the Foundation for the Next Generation: a crescendo of music lovers through expanded community.

This year will focus on events and initiatives to foster growth in the number of students served, increase educational and enrichment programs, and further our partnerships with families, communities, performance organizations, and you, our valued donors. Here is a glimpse of the expansion that is already unfolding:

- Redwood City School District — additional weeks of instruction, plus a new partnership with West Bay Opera's Opera in the Schools Program in which all schools will learn about, participate in, and enjoy Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*.
- San Carlos School District — new after-school choral program.
- Santa Clara County — new partnership with the Ives String Quartet, offering select schools an informative and entertaining assembly by this acclaimed professional ensemble.



Sonja and her two children, Lena and Karsten.

We need your help to tell the MFM story!

Please email us at ceci@mfm.org with a paragraph describing your past and/or present involvement with MFM and how music features in your life today.

To bring you closer to the heart of our work, we will be adding color and texture to the MFM story by sharing accounts of individuals whose lives have been changed through their involvement with our organization. Profiles of current and alumni kids who illustrate the results of dedicated work toward our mission, "nurturing in children a lifelong love of music," will be featured, along with words from our treasured docents. We invite

you to participate in upcoming events (see "Save the Dates" on page 2), and contribute your voice and experience to our narrative.

Giving to Music for Minors is an important donation to consider, one that will truly have lifelong impact. Your cherished support will increase MFM's ability to serve thousands more, especially those most in need. We look forward to your partnership in making Music for Minors — More for More!

— Sonja Palmer

Teacher Comments

At the end of each school year, classroom teachers are asked to evaluate the program. Here is a taste of what they had to say:

“The children have learned new songs in both English and Spanish. They have also become aware of rhythm and movement, while having their first chance at playing instruments. And so importantly, their listening skills have improved a lot!”

— *Taft, Redwood City*

“My class and I are so fortunate to have the MFM program! Our volunteer is enthusiastic, organized, and reliable. I have been happy with music through the years. It’s a great program. Thank you!”

— *Canoas, San Jose*

“The class was able to have fun music and movement activities consistently every week, as well as the opportunity to learn musical elements that support our curriculum. They also had the valuable experience of performing before an audience.”

— *Marshall Lane, Saratoga*

“I’d love the program to begin even earlier in the school year, as music has a way of building community and bringing children together.”

— *White Oaks, San Carlos*



Volunteer Spotlight: Michele Haussler



Three years ago, the kindergartners and first graders at Redwood City’s Adelante Spanish Immersion School had no music. Then along came Michele Haussler. This summer we

are spotlighting Michele, who has had an impact beyond anything she ever imagined. After a teacher suggested she look into MFM, Michele launched a process that has culminated in an ongoing music program for hundreds of children. Although she did not fully understand its importance at that time, Michele has truly become an impassioned music teacher, fundraiser, and activist.

When Michele first learned about MFM, she was the busy mother of two young children, simultaneously nurturing the growth of her own business. She did not have time to attend an information meeting, much less participate in training. Meanwhile she did approach the principal and came away discouraged about how a music program could be funded. As she continued to reflect, she happened to learn about special funding available through the Redwood City Education Foundation, and then successfully obtained a grant. Having overcome that obstacle, Michele faced the next one... where to find the music teachers?

Michele, who professes to have no prior musical training, was able to take the MFM training in 2009. She then jumped in with a whopping teaching load of five classes. Jean Tyan, MFM

Programs Director, placed several other volunteers at Adelante to enable full coverage for the kindergarten and first grades. And they love it!

Michele never anticipated the gratitude she would receive... from the children (often in the form of hugs) and from their parents. What she has given, she says, has come back to her three-fold. A favorite moment came when she was teaching the conga to a kindergarten class. The children had carefully practiced the steps and were ready for the music. After one round of spirited dancing, a student flashed her an enormous grin and said, “I love this! I can feel the music in my body!” As a person who has always been energized by music, it is fulfilling for Michele to play such a role in children’s self-discovery. She is also gratified when she can help kids step beyond their boundaries. Michele has enjoyed seeing students who were initially too shy to sing in front of others be able to step up and perform before large audiences by the year-end concert.

The year-end performance is the only way that many parents find out music is part of their children’s school experience. Michele makes use of this performance to pass a donation box and has found that parents give generously. “Everybody gives something,” Michele says. “Parents understand that if they don’t have music, their kids are losing out.” Nobody wants to see that happen. And what a difference one person can make! We salute Michele as she prepares to begin her 3rd year of volunteering, and join the chorus of heartfelt gratitude for the rich gift of music she brings to Adelante.



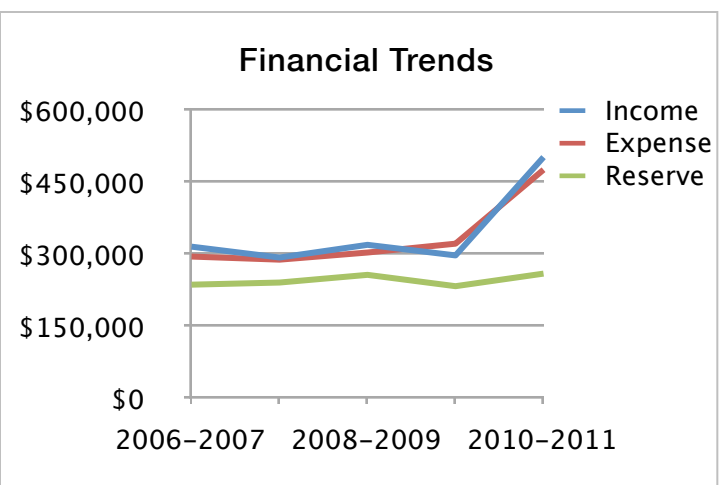
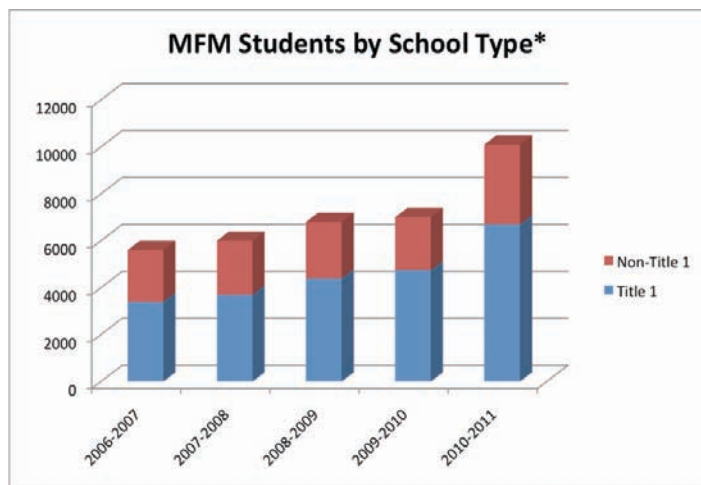
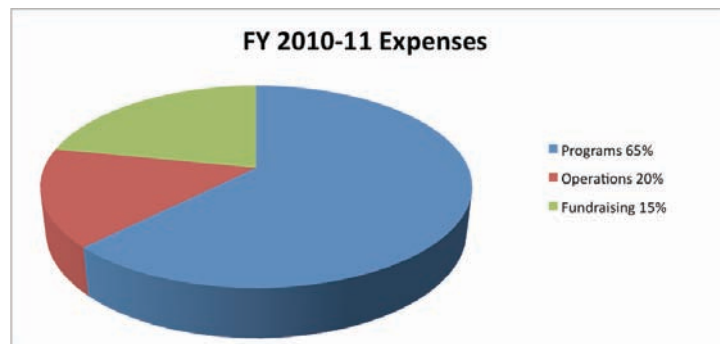
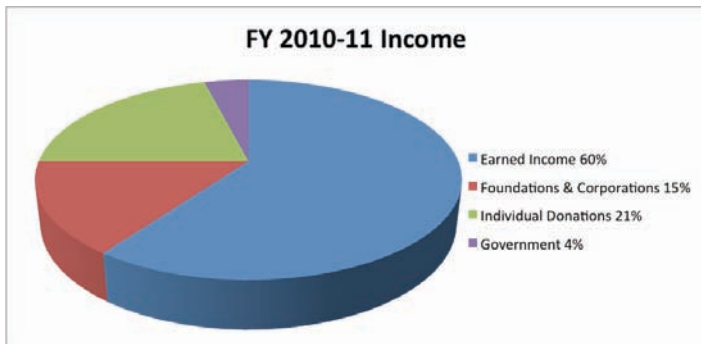
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Newsletter layout by Lissy Abraham

2010-2011 At a Glance

- 10,000 kindergarten–5th grade students reached with year-long music education
- Fast approaching 400 classrooms served each week
- Expansive geographic coverage: San Mateo and Santa Clara counties
- District-wide coverage in both Redwood City and San Carlos
- 80+ active Volunteer Music Teachers
- 12 Paid Music Instructors
- 30 new Volunteer Music Teachers trained
- 55+ hours of training and continuing education provided
- 10,000+ volunteer hours contributed
- Top-rated arts nonprofit on greatnonprofits.org
- 43% growth with solid financials



*Title 1 schools are so designated by the percent of students receiving free and reduced lunch. This chart illustrates the escalating need for fundraising to subsidize these programs.

Save the Dates

- **Oct 9:** Overture to Music for Minors
- **December TBA:** Appreciation Event
- **February 11, 2012:** Mardi Gras Mystique

Student Comments

Messages for MFM volunteers from the classroom:

“Thank you for telling me that I could do music!” —*Mason*

“Thank you for helping my classmates and I now play the recorders. I know it was kind of hard but you didn't give up on us. I would also like to thank you for teaching us songs that were from the olden days. If it wasn't for you I wouldn't be interested in music. Thanks to you I know what I want to play when I am in 6th grade [band].” —*Lily*

“You are the best music teacher ever. You are always fair and sorry for talking a lot. You tell us the history about songs and a lot about music and everything. I had a great year!”

—*Christopher*

Thank You to Our 2010 - 2011 Donors

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Arts Council Silicon Valley, Bill Graham Supporting Foundation, Foothill College Performing Arts Alliance, Los Altos Community Foundation (Community Grants Program, Pillar Grant,) Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fund, Optimist Club Redwood City, Shutterfly Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation

Organizations & Corporations:

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Please note: Names and organizations listed reflect donations between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. Great care has been taken to ensure the proper recognition of our donors. If you notice an error or omission, we apologize and hope you will bring it to our attention.