

# MUSIC *of the* HEART

April 10, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Katie Harrill and I am writing to you on behalf of the children, adults, and families who participate in the Wesley Family Services Creative Arts Program. For over 20 years, I have served as both a music therapist and Creative Arts Program Supervisor at Wesley Family Services. Our annual Music of the Heart Recital celebrates the abilities and talents of individuals with and without a diagnosis of Autism and/or other medical and developmental disabilities through music and other creative art modalities. We are extremely excited to once again host this annual recital on June 11, 2023. Unfortunately due to the COVID Pandemic, we have had to miss the last three years. The 13th Annual Music of the Heart Recital will be held at Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music. We are hoping you will join in our excitement and help support the return and this year's recital which once again be a joy-filled experience for those who perform and for our audience members.

If you have ever attended or performed in any type of recital, then you've seen or felt how rewarding it is for the performer and their loved ones. This recital is even more special to the families who participate as some thought their loved one would never be able to do something as simple as talking.

Our Creative Arts program has redefined the traditional therapeutic setting. Through the combination of dance/movement, drama, music, art, and poetry, the expressive arts support the potential for positive developmental growth. Reaching beyond the barriers of social, communicative, and cognitive limitations, music therapy offers individuals with disabilities a means to develop skills that can be used in everyday life. Through music therapy, individuals can identify and manage various emotional states and can pursue opportunities for creativity and self-expression.

***Your gift will help to cover the cost of the recital. Any additional proceeds will be reserved for a special Creative Arts Scholarship program to help cover out-of-pocket costs for families who otherwise may not be able to benefit from this unique and effective therapy. As a result of donations from previous recitals, last year more than 30 individuals were awarded scholarships. That is over 150 hours of therapy!***

***You can donate in one of two ways: make a monetary donation or donate a raffle item to be used on the day of the recital. All donations are appreciated! Donations over \$100 in value will receive a business card-sized ad in our publicity material and event program. To show our gratitude we will list your name or business in the event program for any level of donation.***

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If you have any questions regarding the recital, or our programs, or would like to donate, please contact me at (412) 706-2596, or see the form attached. We hope to hear from you and invite you to attend this year's recital as our guest!

Sincerely,

Katie Harrill, MT-BC

Wesley Family Services, Creative Arts Program Supervisor

Cell: 412-706-2596



13th Annual

# MUSIC *of the* HEART

SUNDAY

JUNE  
11

AT 1 PM



wesley family services  
creative arts program

## YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Make a monetary donation, or donate a raffle item to be used on the big day.  
All donations are appreciated!

**DIAMOND Harp - \$500**

**PLATINUM Electric Guitar - \$300**

**GOLD Trumpet - \$200**

**SILVER Flute - \$100**

**BRONZE Cymbals - \$50**

**COPPER Bell - \$25**

Donations over \$100 in value will receive a business card-sized ad in our publicity material and event program and have their logos listed on the webpage. To show our gratitude for donations we will list your name or business in the event program for any level of donation.



Visit Us Online To Donate Today  
[www.wfspa.org/Donate-Recital](http://www.wfspa.org/Donate-Recital)



# MUSIC *of the* HEART

13th Annual

## DONATION FORM

NAME OF DONOR/COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW NAME/COMPANY SHOULD APPEAR IN PUBLICITY MATERIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like this gift to remain anonymous

### MONETARY DONATION AMOUNT:

\$250     \$100     \$50     \$25     OTHER: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION TO BE USED FOR RAFFLE BASKETS: \_\_\_\_\_

VALUE OF DONATED ITEMS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*For donations valuing \$100+, please email [katie.harrill@wfspa.org](mailto:katie.harrill@wfspa.org) a business card sized ad.*

## MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "WESLEY FAMILY SERVICES FOUNDATION"

### PLEASE MAIL TO:

Wesley Family Services  
Attn: Casey Nowicki  
615 Alpha Dr., Suite #250  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

OR



### ONLINE DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT:

[www.wfspa.org\Donate-Recital](http://www.wfspa.org\Donate-Recital)

*Thank you for your support!*

*Your donation helps to transform and empower lives!*

Our Tax ID number is 25-1686715.

Wesley Family Services is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization and is registered with the IRS

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

FORM OF PAYMENT: CASH \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK# \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

# STORIES OF SUCCESS

## BRIDGEVILLE:

Ethan is 9 years old. Ethan's love of music began at birth- Ethan was transferred to Children's hospital at 2 days old for his first open heart surgery. He spent most of his first two and half years of life in the hospital for medical issues. During this time, he would have music therapy daily-this would bring him joy and comfort. He has had a long journey so far with ongoing medical conditions and ADHD/Autism. The creative Arts Program is life changing and the instructors are an inspiration to both Ethan and his parents. This program has given Ethan a chance to connect with other kids, making friends- and providing social skills while giving him a space to creative. He acquires coping skills, learns to process his emotions, and communicate through music. This program has been transforming for Ethan. He is discovering to listen to music, play an instrument or sing to be able to communicate how he feels and calm his frustration. We are so grateful to have Ethan attend the creative arts program and have the encouraging staff that are making an impact in Ethan's life.



It has been 21 years since Sammi Jo first started seeing a music therapist at WFS at the age of 4. She was diagnosed with autism and intellectual disabilities when she was just a toddler. We came to music therapy pretty much nonverbal with a lot of behaviors. We knew she responded to music and her music therapist took that strength and ran with it. Over the years music therapy has helped Sammi to verbally communicate all of her needs and wants and even sometimes more. Her behaviors are just a tiny fraction of what they were, she just loves music and has an unbelievable memory. She knows all music from Elvis to Dua Lipa. She is constantly singing. She loves music therapy and never misses a session. The staff are still working on her communication and we still see improvements all the time. Wesley's creative Arts program has been invaluable to us and Sammi. The whole team, especially their knowledge, skill and caring has made Sammi's life so much better and fun





# STORIES OF SUCCESS

## MONROEVILLE:

My name is Chloe and I am 20 years old. I am blind but I have really good hearing and that helps me when playing music. I have always loved to sing and listen to music. I used to sing when I lived in California and I was excited to come to Wesley in PA to be able to sing again. I go to the Western PA school for the Blind and I like to play the piano. When I go to the Wesley Family Services for music, they put braille stickers on the piano which helps me to know where to put my fingers. I feel really great when I'm playing the piano. My favorite songs to play on the piano are "Wagon Wheel" and "Ring of Fire". I look forward to coming every Saturday to music class so that I can practice the piano more and get better and better. I also get to be in a Rock Band



where we sing and play songs together. I've met new friends in rock band and sometimes they introduce me to new songs that they like that I've never heard before. I sing with the microphone and sometimes play the drum set in rock band. Lately I've been really excited to also play the piano in rock band now that I'm learning how to play with the braille stickers. The staff have been very helpful teaching me how to play the right notes so that I can play the piano in rock band. Rock band is good, fun and great for everyone who likes people and music.

Louden was diagnosed with autism and epilepsy when he was two. His siblings are not on the spectrum, and it is often difficult to find programs or activities that provide behavioral support as well as allow all three of my children to participate together. The Creative Arts Program at Wesley gives Loudon the opportunity to enjoy an organized group activity while also receiving that needed support and understanding. Another added benefit is that his siblings can join in on the fun while also observing coping techniques that are not only beneficial to Loudon, but to them as well. They absolutely love their weekly music sessions. They are one of the highlights of their week! They have a great time with activities such as trying new instruments, playing games, and writing lyrics to songs while unknowingly improving their listening skills. Our music therapist is patient and kind and the kids are always so excited to see what activities she has planned for them. The Creative Arts Program has been so beneficial to our family, and I am thankful to all of the therapists at Wesley for providing an inclusive and educational service.



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# STORIES OF SUCCESS

## WEXFORD:

Trinity was diagnosed with Autism, ADHD and Anxiety. We had gotten thru Kindergarten with a lot of help thru in-home services and therapies. In the summer we were unable to find activities for her to attend and she was getting restless and this caused her to feel very alone. Finally when I contacted Wesley Family Services they offered a Creative Arts Music Therapy that we would be able to attend. After one session in music therapy, Trinity had a new spark in her eye and her excitement came back. Music has always been relaxing for her and she was excited to try all the different instruments. We have continued to go weekly and Trinity will count down the days until she is able to return to play music with her friends. We decided to continue with music therapy in a small group to help Trinity with her social skills as well and the progress is just amazing. She now loves to share with her friends at school. Even with bad days, music therapy helps her to let go of the anxiety and start fresh again. Thru music therapy, Trinity has been able to overcome many challenges she faces day to day. We are forever grateful to her therapists and music therapy for giving Trinity an outlet to grow and feel true acceptance that she now carries with her everyday.



Daniel is a handsome young adult of Korean descent. I adopted him when he was seven weeks old. His birth mother played concert piano and Daniel was born with a love of music. He attends the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. He has Down Syndrome and a slight hearing loss and he is apraxic. Daniel communicates with sign language, some verbal and also his iPad. He wanted to learn the piano. I wasn't sure where to find help but I reached out to Wesley and was connected with their creative arts staff. They were amazing! Daniel brought his keyboard and before long he was playing. His music therapist opened a window for Daniel and he has become more social. He enjoys looking for music (usually Christmas songs) and asking his music therapist for help in playing. During COVID we did several creative art lessons online and Daniel enjoyed his experience. Today, Daniel enjoys working with two other young adults in a music group. He loves the fact that he has friends but now he is including a guitar and listening and playing the music his friends enjoy. Wesley and the music therapists have given my son the opportunity to express himself with music. He is more confident and willing to use his voice and try some new sounds. Daniel's music is his space and he absolutely loves every minute!







# MUSIC OF THE HEART 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

