

MUSIC *of the* HEART

April 10, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Katie Harrill, and I am the Creative Arts program founder and supervisor at Wesley Family Services. I have over 25 years of dedicated experience as a board-certified music therapist (MT-BC), providing music therapy to individuals with disabilities. I am writing today on behalf of the Creative Arts program to encourage you to donate to this transformative program and join us for the upcoming 14th annual Music of the Heart recital. This incredible event is scheduled for June 2, 2024, at the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University.

The impact of the Creative Arts program and the Music of the Heart Recital on clients, their loved ones, and our collective community is unmistakable. I have had clients who could not speak when I started working with them stand proudly on stage and sing.

Awareness and acceptance of various disabilities have significantly increased over the last few decades, and now almost everyone either personally knows or knows of someone who is living with a disability: a sibling, neighbor, grandchild, coworker, or friend. Wesley's Creative Arts program helps individuals develop everyday skills, manage various emotional states, and experience creativity and self-expression, which will help set a strong foundation for the rest of their lives. That will make our community – the greater Pittsburgh area – a more vital, thriving place.

The Creative Arts program's mission is essential for clients, their families, and our society, and we would gratefully welcome any extra support. Your generous contribution will help cover the recital's costs, and any additional funds collected beyond the recital cost will go toward Creative Arts scholarships, which provide financial assistance to families who cannot afford this effective, evidence-based therapy.

You can support us by making a monetary donation or donating a raffle item for the recital day. I would greatly appreciate any donation, regardless of its size. As a token of our gratitude, we will mention your name or business in our event program and social media platforms. Donations of \$100 and over will be acknowledged with an ad in our event program and acknowledgment on social media.

Thank you for your support. If you have questions about the recital and the Creative Arts program or want to donate, please get in touch with me at (412) 706-2596 or refer to the attached form. We would be delighted to have you as our guest at this year's recital.

Sincerely,

Katie Harrill, MT-BC

Wesley Family Services, Creative Arts Program Supervisor

Cell: 412-706-2596 * Email: katie.harrill@wfspa.org

Thanks to the charitable donations from last year's recital, we awarded scholarships to over 30 individuals, providing more than 150 hours of music therapy.



14th Annual

MUSIC *of the* HEART

SUNDAY

JUNE
2

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



MUSIC *of the* HEART

14th 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 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

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: _____

BRIDGEVILLE SPOTLIGHTS



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Our family can't say enough great things about the creative arts/music therapy program at Wesley Family Services. This is the most extended amount of time my 5 ½-year-old daughter with autism, ADHD, and anxiety has ever stuck with an activity. She LOVES going and seeing her therapists and friends. She spent her first 4 years in foster care before being adopted, and music regulates her and her big emotions. She has participated in both individual and group therapy. The therapists know what to do when she is having a rough day and needs extra support and love. They teach her the coping skills to calm herself down and regulate herself that she has taken into the world with her when she needs them. We are fortunate to be able to pay for her sessions, but as part of many groups of moms, I know there are a lot of families and kiddos who would benefit from this therapy and can't afford it. It's also nice as a parent to know she can be in a session for 30 minutes, and I don't have to worry about her because I know what she is doing is regulating her, and she is happy while she is there!



Garrett is a 24-year-old with autism. He has been attending Wesley Family Services since he was six. He has loved music all his life he sang before he could talk. Garrett enjoys a wide variety of musical tastes. His favorites include The Beatles, Jimmy Buffett, Billy Joel, and classical music. Garrett learned to play the piano by ear. Before he could read the music. The therapists at WFS helped him blossom by teaching him how to play piano, read music, and sing. His love for music took off to another level. The therapists helped with his behavior as well. We watched his confidence and excitement for music grow. He looks forward to playing the piano every week and playing in a rock band every other week. WFS has helped Garrett blossom musically beyond our imagination. They inspired him to discover the incredible gift he possesses for music!



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MONROEVILLE SPOTLIGHTS

Arthur's journey through music therapy sessions has been nothing short of extraordinary! Witnessing his growth and development has been truly inspiring. From confidently choosing his favorite instruments to lighting up with joy while drumming, every session is filled with excitement. His progress in attention and concentration while exploring various melodies on the piano and keyboard is remarkable. Recently, Arthur has embraced new instruments enthusiastically and eagerly participates in dynamic movement experiences each week. As he continues his musical journey, the future holds endless possibilities for Arthur to flourish even further!



Adding to the family's musical adventure, Arthur's younger siblings, Madeleine and Joseph, have embarked on their own thrilling journey with music and movement dance therapy classes. Their energy and enthusiasm are infectious, making every class a joyous celebration of rhythm and movement!

Since December 2022, Robyn has enthusiastically participated in the Music Therapy program offered by Wesley Family Services Creative Arts Program. She eagerly looks forward to her Thursday evenings immersed in music therapy at the Monroeville location. Music has always held a special place in Robyn's heart. She takes immense pleasure in listening to a wide range of music and singing. Her love for music is evident in her enthusiasm and the joy she exudes when engaged in these activities.



WFS's Music Therapy program has given Robyn an opportunity to experiment with various instruments, enhancing her understanding of music and its different elements. The Music Therapy program has also provided Robyn a platform to express her creativity. It has encouraged her to show others her love and passion for music, boosting her confidence and nurturing her talent. In addition to her involvement in the Music Therapy program, Robyn actively participates in her school talent show. She usually selects a favorite song to perform. Robyn also participates in 'Music of the Heart,' where she cherishes the opportunity to perform for others.



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WEXFORD SPOTLIGHTS



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Miranda is a remarkable individual whose journey through numerous medical challenges has been courageous. Miranda was diagnosed early with a rare chromosome disorder, a partial trisomy of the 3P chromosome. She later was diagnosed with autism. Born with torticollis, Miranda faced the additional hurdles of plagiocephaly, requiring her to wear a helmet from six months old until her first birthday. Furthermore, she bravely underwent surgery to address a right-sided aortic arch, followed by ongoing struggles with a narrow airway, necessitating multiple balloon dilations to improve her breathing. Despite these formidable obstacles, Miranda's resilience shines through, and music therapy is a way for her to find her voice. Miranda has discovered a profound source of



solace and empowerment through music therapy. Despite being non-verbal and autistic, she has found her voice within the melodies, rhythms, and harmonies that permeate her sessions. Through the transformative power of music therapy, Miranda has not only embraced a means of expression but has also unearthed a pathway to connection and communication that transcends her diagnoses. Her journey serves as a testament to the remarkable impact of music as a therapeutic medium, illuminating the path toward self-discovery, growth, and boundless possibilities.

Charlie was diagnosed with autism at 19 months. He is now 24. He started with Wesley in a group when he was 10. Since that time, he has participated in both group and one-on-one music therapy with the Creative Arts Program. Charlie likes to sing and has some favorite songs, Here Comes the Sun, How Sweet It Is To Be Loved by You, and Brown Eyed Girl, to name a few. He enjoys playing drums to songs he likes. He spends time playing songs from various genres of music. He likes singing songs into the microphone. Recently, he has been learning the guitar using Chord Buddy so that he can play chords along to the songs he likes. Charlie and his therapist have been playing some musical games.



He has been working on new and more challenging songs on the piano and adding in singing while he plays. His therapist encourages picking new songs each week to add to his favorite songs. Changing things up helps with his ability to be flexible. Charlie has always valued his time at Wesley. We are beyond grateful for two exceptionally caring, devoted, and musical women who have given more significant meaning and enjoyment to his life. It is wonderful that he has been able to take part both as a child growing up and now as a man in his 20s. This continuity matters and has enriched his life beyond measure.



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MUSIC *of the* HEART HIGHLIGHTS from 2023

