

Ways To Band Together

Guest Musician

Guest musicians are actively performing in our community and have a desire to give back to others. They come as a guest performer to our Jam Session program.

Aspiring musicians with special needs have as much to learn from talented and compassionate professionals as they have to teach them. Through the shared passion for music, mutual benefits result: a sense of purpose, healthy self-esteem, rich vocational life experiences and friendships.

Jam Session Mentor

Mentors are high school students, college students and professionals in the community who have a desire to give back to others through being matched up with jam session participants as a buddy for 6 to 8 weeks.

Volunteer Now!

For more information on how you can Band Together with us complete a volunteer application today.
bit.ly/BTvolunteerapplication

Community Partners



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BANDING TOGETHER

GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS
DEVELOP MENTORSHIPS
PROVIDE INSTRUMENTS

Founded in 2009, Banding Together is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission to provide music opportunities that change the lives of youth with autism and other special needs.





JAM SESSIONS

The Jam Session program is a free one-hour music therapy group that pairs teens and young adults with special needs with a mentor to promote socialization, communication and expression. This program currently serves 150 teens and adults with special needs per semester across 4 San Diego locations (Carlsbad, Point Loma, El Cajon and Chula Vista) and a site in Miami, Florida. Two semesters are held each year fall (6-weeks) and spring (8-weeks). Each Jam Session features a guest musician (a musician who is actively performing in the local music scene) who wants to give back to youth and young adults with special needs.



SOUNDCHECK JAM

In partnership with Surfdog Records, SoundCheck Jam was created to share the thrill of making music on stage with our students. Notable artist give teens and young adults the chance to get on stage to shine during their sound check. Past artist have included Dan Hicks & The Hot Licks, The English Beat, Elvin Bishop, Michael Franti, Ziggy Marley and Shaun White (Olympic gold medalist and snowboarder/skateboarder).



SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for music therapy, adapted music lessons and camp group experiences make it possible for eligible youth with special needs such as autism and Down syndrome to develop in dramatic ways. Individuals with a wide range of neurological, physical and behavioral needs can apply based on financial need.

Music is a powerfully motivating tool for learning essential skills to become a confident member of the community. Families with special needs children often need financial assistance due to lack of insurance coverage and the sheer number of services required.

IMPACT

Since 2009, Banding Together has:

- Awarded 170 scholarships totaling \$92,486
- Served 600 individuals with special needs in San Diego County
- Trained over 300 volunteers
- Hosted over 200 Jam Sessions in 4 San Diego locations
- Worked with over 200 volunteer musicians

