

HITTING A HIGH NOTE BANDING TOGETHER

Providing music opportunities to youth with special needs.



Happy Holidays!

and a rockin' New Year!

Dear friends & family,

This has been a record-breaking year for Banding Together! We celebrated our 250th Jam Session, welcomed Grammy award-winner Jason Mraz as the headliner of our Greatest Hits benefit concert and reached the \$100,000 mark in music therapy scholarships awarded to families in need. And all in our 10th year!

Sadly, there are still so many more families and children with special needs that could benefit from the life-changing power of music! With the difficulty of receiving insurance reimbursement, many families are still unable to afford music therapy services and we have seen an increase in both scholarship and Jam Session applications.

So we set a big goal for the rest of 2019! ***We want to raise \$20,000 for 20 families to receive scholarships for music therapy in 2020.***

2009-2019 BY THE NUMBERS

JAM SESSIONS:

- 873 PARTICIPANTS IN 5 LOCATIONS (INCLUDING MIAMI, FLORIDA!)
- 443 VOLUNTEER MENTORS TRAINED
- 281 TOTAL JAM SESSIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- \$109,000 AWARDED
- 204 FAMILIES BENEFITED

GREATEST HITS 2019:

- \$59,889 RAISED
- 493 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE
- 42 VOLUNTEERS
- 9 SPONSORS



Raising Rock Stars

In 2020 and beyond!

Music Therapy helps a child realize their full potential and turn into true Rock Stars! [Check out Shilo's story.](#)

Every donation helps, no matter how big or small! Together we can continue to Raise Rock Stars!

- \$25 pays for 1 individual to attend 1 Jam Session
- \$50 pays for 1 music therapy session or adapted lesson
- \$100 will pay for 1 child to attend 1-day of Camp Jam
- \$200 for 1 session of Jam Session program participation
- \$325 sponsors the cost for 1 child to attend Summer Camp Jam for a week
- \$600 for 3 months of individual music therapy
- \$1,200 for a 6-month music therapy or adapted lesson scholarship
- \$3,000 funds 1 Jam Session program location for 8 weeks or provides 3 families to receive a 6 month scholarship

The holiday season is the perfect time to give back to others in need. Gift music therapy to a child with autism? Or music lessons to a teenager with special needs whose family is struggling to make ends meet?

Making a donation is simple:

- Mail in payment
- Go online and donate at bit.ly/raisingrockstars

May your home be filled with **love** and **music** this holiday season!

With Deepest Gratitude,
Angela Meier - Founder



LOOKING AHEAD

As we launch into a new decade on the calendar, we also launch into a new decade at Banding Together! We will be celebrating our 10 year **Diamond anniversary** in 2020 and plan to “shine” with many exciting things...

- A beautiful new website launching in January
- Our All-Star Band performing in [SHINE - A musical journey with Jason Mraz](#) at Spreckels Theatre on February 15 & 16
- Greatest Hits 2020 - Diamond Edition in May

Vincent's Story

Music Therapy gave him a voice...

Vincent is 17 years old. He has communication and behavioral challenges that stem from his diagnosis of Down Syndrome. Vincent's mom, Sue, shared with us that experts said that he wouldn't ever be able to talk, read or write. Six years ago, before he started with Banding Together programs, he couldn't sit still and pay attention and frequently had negative outbursts in group situations. In fact, Vincent was experiencing a lot of change, jumping schools and not making progress on his goals at school. Life was extremely challenging and Vincent was struggling both socially and emotionally. As a single parent, Sue was unable to work, living on social security, struggling to make ends meet and unable to pay for extra services to help Vincent. Both Vincent and his mom were defeated and struggling to figure out what to do next.

At that same time, Sue heard about the Banding Together programs and applied for a music therapy scholarship. She was thrilled when he was awarded several individual scholarships. Through music therapy Vincent began to develop coping skills to manage his behaviors. For the first time, he started using his voice to express himself and his feelings. He also began learning the piano and even participated in two recitals. His confidence began to rise as his view of himself and his world began to transform.

After about a year and half of individual sessions, Vincent joined the Jam Session program and has started making a significant transformation. He has begun interacting positively with others. With encouragement from his mentors, Vincent has learned to share and take turns with others. His mom shared that recently Vincent was out with her in the community and caught himself doing something he wasn't supposed to be doing and started singing the "Self Control" song. His mom asked him where he had learned the song and he said, "Jam Sessions." She said that, "He is gaining the vocabulary to not only express himself but to figure out what he needs to be doing differently out in the world." Most significantly, at our last Jam Session, Vincent not only stood in front of the group at the microphone and sang but he appropriately shared with others and has become a valuable leader and role model for others in the group. According to Sue, "The biggest change in Vincent has been that he no longer views himself as a person with special needs with nothing to contribute to world. He now sees himself as a musician, and a singer and with a valuable voice to share his story with others."

