



FACT SHEET

Harrison County Young Musicians Fund



About the Fund

Mike Hess is a family practice physician in Bridgeport. He's also a musician who understands the importance of keeping music programs alive in the area's schools.

About a year ago, he started the Child Instrument Recycle Program (Chirp) to make used musical instruments available to promising music students who can't afford to buy new or used instruments on their own.

"Chirp brings together the desire of young students who want to learn to play an instrument with used, donated instruments," Hess said. "We're trying to keep people buying into music at a time when a lot of programs are being cut for lack of funding. Our long-term purpose is to help children benefit from music education that can stay with them for the rest of their lives."



So far, Chirp has collected about 40 instruments of all kinds, ranging from flutes, clarinets, trumpets and trombones to a snare drum and a xylophone. "We collect the donations, send them to Bandland Music in Clarksburg to get them fixed if they need repairs and then notify band directors in Harrison County schools about what instruments we have," Hess said. "If they have students who want to play music but can't afford an instrument, we'll give one to them so they can learn."

Hess also accepts monetary donations to the Harrison County Young Musicians endowment fund he started in 2011 through Your Community Foundation (YCF). Once the endowment is fully funded, YCF will invest the money and all future donations to increase its value, and distribute the annual net income from those investments to Chirp to help cover instrument repairs and other costs associated with the program.

All donations of instruments or money are tax-deductible.

How Can I Donate?

All donations to the Young Musicians Fund and other funds managed by YCF are invested to increase their value, with net income from these investments paid out annually to meet the requirements and donor objectives of the various funds. While the net income is dispersed, the original endowments and any subsequent contributions to them remain intact and continue to grow from year to year.

Individuals, organizations and businesses are encouraged to contribute any amount of money to one or more of the many endowments managed by YCF. Additional donations will help the endowments to grow over the years and will increase the net income used to provide yearly grants.

To make a donation, or to get more information, contact Your Community Foundation, P.O. Box 409, Morgantown, WV 26507. Call us at (304) 296-3433 or visit our web site at www.ycfwv.org.