

Harmonikids Annual Year-In-Review Newsletter.



GREETINGS FROM HARMONIKIDS!

Every year at this time I take time to reflect upon and share Harmonikids annual accomplishments in the past year. Even in light of considerable achievements in past years, 2014 was a particularly productive year. Harmonikids sessions and humanitarian outreach effectively aided and delighted youth with widely diverse special challenges all over the country - including those with Down Syndrome, hospitalized, child refugees, severely disabled, in substance rehabilitation, at risk, in detention facilities, suffering from respiratory ailments, and behavioral disorders.

Special thanks to Hohner Harmonicas for their wonderfully generous continued sponsorship of eight sessions. Here's some highlights from several of the participating facilities in their own words and photos. Please click on the links for the full reports and visit www.harmonikids.org for more information about our annual achievements:

April 3: Phoenix Childrens Hospital in Phoenix, AZ



"...My favorite part was seeing how happy and proud of themselves the patients were after mastering (songs on) the harmonica. There were definitely A LOT of smiles... it was a wonderful experience. "

~ Julie Schwarz, MA, CCLS

Program Coordinator, Phoenix Children's Hospital

Read full report: <http://us.playhohner.com/news/harmonikids-hohner-sponsored-session-at-phoenix-childrens-hospital/>

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April 19: Burmese Child Refugees in Houston, TX



"Without a doubt, your Harmonica session with Burmese refugee kids was a big hit and truly ignited the interest in music among many. I was impressed with your ease in working with the kids under circumstances that may not be optimal. On behalf of our board, staff, volunteers and those we serve, a deep bow of thanks for your generosity in spirit and in deeds."

~ Kim Zeto, Director, Asian American Family Services, Houston, TX

Read full report: <http://us.playhohner.com/news/gary-allegrettos-hohner-sponsored-harmonikids-houston-texas/>

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May 10: "A Bridge to Understanding" - A Special Event for "Disability Awareness Day" in Shenandoah, IA



"Some of the participants didn't want to leave you when the session was over... amazing how such a strong bond can be formed in such a short period of time! What you're doing is very powerful and the old 1870 Wabash Depot has been glowing ever since!"

~ Dean Atkins, Director of Bridge to Understanding

http://www.kmaland.com/news/a-bridge-to-understanding/article_614b5d90-d889-11e3-8bff-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=story

June 2: NCCVT School for the Severely Disabled,
Wilmington, DE



"Again this year we witnessed a miracle with one of our students who has Cerebral Palsy and a severe cognitive disability.... This student picks it up instantly without looking. He is holding it in his hand and begins to blow the correct notes. I am almost in tears as I watch him take the lead from the others who are desperately trying to catch up with him. I was thrilled.... I will never forget this day! Thank you so much."

~ Deborah L. Scott, NCCVT Program Coordinator

Read full report: <http://us.playhohner.com/news/hohner-sponsors-school-for-the-severely-disabled/>

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June 21: Sunflower Landing Teen Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Center, Dublin, MS

"Nothing is impossible and the smallest things, such as music, can bring us up and allow us to live life more to the fullest". ~ Nicole, Youth participant

"Most of these kids have been hurt and let down by the people who are supposed to love them the most, and any experience that shows them that people do really care and that they are worthy of a life that consists of them pursuing their dreams helps to build them back up!"

Read full report: <http://us.playhohner.com/news/hohner-sponsored-harmonikids-session-on-the-mississippi-delta/>

July 16: Mountain School Facility for Troubled and At Risk Youth in Elkins, WV



"There were several of the boys, who I never believed would be interested in the harmonica, now very proud of what they have accomplished in that short amount of time."

~ Facility Director Georgeann Davis

"Positive and encouraging on all fronts."

~ Augusta Director Beth King

Read full report: <http://us.playhohner.com/news/gary-allegretto-brings-his-harmonikids-program-to-mountain-school-detention-facility/>

August 1-3: Ferris Correctional Facility for Youth and Riverfront Blues Festival in Wilmington, DE



"...This was such an enlightening experience for our youths."

~ Lester Whidbee, Treatment Specialist Supervisor

Read full report: <http://us.playhohner.com/news/gary-allegrettos-hohner-sponsored-harmonikids-session-to-aid-troubled-youth-at-a-detention-center/>

October 3: DeNier Correctional Facility for Youth in Durango, CO



"As you observed at the end of the program, one of our students became emotional. I can't really divulge his story, or why he is here, but suffice it to say, that was a real turning point for him...

You really do make a difference in the lives of youth."

~ Lisa Wilk, Education Director, Robert E. DeNier Youth Services Center

Read full report: <http://us.playhohner.com/news/harmonicas-in-a-southern-colorado-correctional-facility>

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October 8: World's Leading Hospital Facility for Children with Respiratory Issues in Denver, CO



"Thank you so much for coming! You have really inspired me to be able to play anything even though I have medicals! That night I went home and played my harmonica til dark."

"You really inspired me to do what I want to do and I don't have to worry about it...or what they/other people think of me,"

~ Child participants with respiratory issues

Read full report: <http://us.playhohner.com/news/harmonikids-session-for-children-with-respiratory-issues/>

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November 7: Harmonikids Session for Disadvantaged Kids at the World's Oldest Jazz Hall in Mandeville, LA



"The kids brighten up when they play. They get to express themselves and they have more confidence in themselves."

~ Lynne Renihan, Crisis case manager

Read Full Report:

<http://us.playhohner.com/news/st-tammany-youths-learn-to-play-the-blues/>

Read Newspaper Article Coverage in "The New Orleans

Advocate": <http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/community/sttammany/10827633-171/st-tammany-youths-learn-to>

Hohner's Harmonikids Model Harmonica



Harmonikids is extremely proud to have it's own Hohner harmonica model.

Available for purchase at: <http://www.hohnershop.com/harmonikids-harmonica/>

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HARMONIKIDS 2014 EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS: To see details of all of the many wonderful accomplishments this year please see: www.harmonikids.org

HOHNER ALLIANCE: In 2014 Hohner continued its alliance with Harmonikids by generously providing harmonicas and sponsoring 8 sessions and events. Clay Edwards, CEO of Hohner, Inc. stated, "Harmonikids is a first class organization with its heart in the right place and Gary Allegretto couldn't be better in relating to the children". Harmonikids is very proud to be a part of the Hohner family.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS! Very special thanks to all of Harmonikids supporters in every regard. Through your many generous individual donations, corporate donations (Bentley Systems), events (The Riverfront Blues Festival in Wilmington, DE), alliances and partnerships (Hohner, The Folk Alliance), media coverage, web support and design (Barb Belli), and assistance from many others - you have helped make these remarkable accomplishments possible. Please also see <http://www.harmonikids.org/sponsors.htm> for a list and links to some of our sponsors.

This is just some of the terrific work and positive impact that Harmonikids had in the past year. Please pass this along to someone who may be interested in reading about and supporting Harmonikids. Your support and assistance makes it all possible. You can also help by donating money or mileage, bringing a Harmonikids or a "Blues in the Schools" session to a facility near you, or by providing Harmonikids workshops at your local festival or event.

Kind regards for the New Year and always,



Gary Allegretto
Founding Director, Harmonikids
Established 1985

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LOOKING FOR A TAX DEDUCTION?

YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS HELP HARMONIKIDS CONTINUE ITS
IMPORTANT WORK:

* **A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION.** NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL. PLEASE USE
OUR CONVENIENT NEW PAYPAL FEATURE RIGHT NOW BY VISITING THE
HOME-PAGE AT:
www.harmonikids.org

OR MAIL A DONATION TO: Harmonikids, 2144 Beech Knoll Road, Los Angeles, CA
90046

*Please note: Harmonikids donations are tax deductible. For tax purposes please use EIN
33-1099865*

* **PURCHASE A HOHNER HARMONIKIDS HARMONICA:**
<http://www.hohnershop.com/harmonikids-harmonica/>

* **DONATE AIRLINE MILEAGE.** HARMONIKIDS NEEDS AIRLINE MILEAGE TO REACH
KIDS. IF YOU (OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW) HAS MORE THAN YOU CAN USE PLEASE
CONTACT US.

* **SPONSOR A HARMONIKIDS (OR BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS) WORKSHOP** AT YOUR
LOCAL SCHOOL, FESTIVAL OR EVENT IN 2015.

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WISHING YOU A JOYFUL 2015 FROM HARMONIKIDS!



The healing joy of music - just under a child's nose.

www.harmonikids.org

A 501(c)3 tax-deductible charitable org

**“I am heartily supportive of Harmonikids...
we have seen the power of music in transforming young lives.
Gary Allegretto and his work are most worthy of support.”**

~Dan Aykroyd

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**More information about founding director Gary Allegretto's music and work is
available at:**

<http://www.garyallegretto.com>

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