

## Donated Instruments Uplift Students and Teachers

In schools with limited budgets for instruments, educators often take on the responsibility of ensuring their students receive a high-quality music education. This struggle is familiar to Musicopia instrument donors Fred and Jamie Moyer. When Fred was a music teacher in a school district with prevalent financial difficulties, he took it upon himself to find instruments by asking people he knew if they would be willing to donate an instrument they no longer played. Musicopia's [Gift of Music instrument donation program](#) takes that burden away from teachers by collecting, repairing, and redistributing musical instruments to schools whose students need them most.

Now retired, Fred and Jamie Moyer are still deeply committed to helping students have access to music. When deciding to pass on their collection of instruments, Jamie did extensive research to find an organization she trusted and was confident that Musicopia's Gift of Music program was the most impactful option. This instrument donation program gets instruments into the hands of students through the relationships it builds with teachers and administrators at local schools. Thanks to this program, countless local schools, including [Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School](#) and Our Lady of Angels Regional Catholic School, have been able to build, rebuild, and expand their music programs.

Our Lady of Angels Regional Catholic School faced the devastating loss of all their instruments in a fire in July of 2018. With limited funds to replace the instruments, the school's music teacher, Marylee Logan Fairfield, turned to Musicopia for assistance. The donated instruments not only helped the school rebuild after the fire but also provided opportunities for the music department to grow. She credited Musicopia for making her students' dreams come true, as well as hers. "Musicopia's instruments added enthusiasm to the department in addition to resources," she said. "Now we have new music groups that are in their fledgling stages and know that Musicopia will help us find our wings." Because of Musicopia's Gift of Music Program, dedicated teachers like Marylee can focus on their work as educators without having to bear the weight of filling critical gaps. It is Musicopia's honor to help support our educators in this way.

Fred and Jamie are excited to know that their donated instruments will help students at schools like Our Lady of Angels. The couple passed on a diverse array of instruments, each with its own unique story. Some instruments came from Jamie's late father, and others were given back to Fred by the parents of his now-adult former students. Jamie also contributed her oboe and clarinet, which she planned to pick up again in retirement but never followed through. "I feel better knowing that some young person is getting access. It just makes my heart feel good," Jamie shared. As sentimental as her instruments are, she realized she only needed the

memories of her oboe and clarinet and that they could better serve someone else in making new memories.

Only with the help of generous supporters like the Moyers could it have been possible for the Gift of Music program to place over 1.7 million dollars worth of instruments to date. Despite the impact Musicopia has already made, this program's work is far from over due to the demand for instruments. Speaking from experience, Fred Moyer shared, "I can assure anyone who is considering donating an instrument that there are students out there who would really appreciate an instrument and can't get one." If you have an instrument that is not getting the love it once did, consider passing it on to a student in need! For more information, please visit <https://www.musicopia.net/instrument-donation-program>.