



Impact Report

2023



AMPED KIDS FOUNDATION

FROM THE FOUNDER

Friends,

Amped Kids Foundation celebrated its 5th anniversary of serving foster and adopted youth in 2023, expanding our reach to include at-risk youth affected by trauma or at risk of entering care. We fostered new collaborations with The Salvation Army, providing music programs for 30 youth, including a new music room at the Gainesville Salvation Army location.

Together, we have made a positive impact on many lives, with 63 music students enrolled in 2023, receiving a total of 497 music lessons and benefiting from 197 provided musical instruments.

With great enthusiasm and a dedicated team, we launched a new Nashville Chapter. Thanks to our collaboration with Free Guitars 4 Kids, Gibson Guitars provided 13 guitars. We awarded one band scholarship, and welcomed 9 new students into our music lesson program. It was an excellent beginning for this new chapter.

I often speak of the power of planting a seed – a tiny seed that can grow into a majestic tree. Similarly, every investment in a child plants seeds for the future. With the support of our partners and collaborators, we have planted and nurtured these seeds, and we are now witnessing their growth. Thank you for embracing our vision and investing in the children we serve.

April Rooks

OUR PURPOSE

Amped Kids Foundation's vision is to assist foster and adopted youth in healing from traumatic experiences by offering music programs. These programs are scientifically proven to reduce stress, anxiety, depression, and to rewire neural pathways in the brain, thereby creating avenues for enhanced mental health and wellness. Music also fosters a safe space for connection, and as we welcome youth into our "One Big Music Family," they discover lifelong support and mentorship that provides the consistency needed for those who have endured trauma.

**“Amped Kids Foundation believes in the power of music to provide healing and an avenue for improved mental health and wellness.”
Founder, April Rooks**

Our 2023

"As the ACE study has shown, child abuse and neglect is the single most preventable cause of mental illness, the single most common cause of drug and alcohol abuse, and a significant contributor to leading causes of death such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and suicide."

-Bessel Van Der Kolk

1

Mental health and overall wellness

Amped Kids consistently provided music lessons, music instruments, band scholarship and group music sessions making a positive impact in the following areas:

- Mental Health
- Overall physical and emotional wellness
- Connection and community

2

Providing safety and support through community & connection

The anxiety and depression many youth face whether in foster care or after being adopted is a reality. We know that in order for healing to occur after trauma, a child must feel safe. Amped Kids is laying the ground work for great relationships through private music instruction. Our partner instructors provide top-notch music instruction while also providing one-to-one mentorship.

3

Music Education Awareness

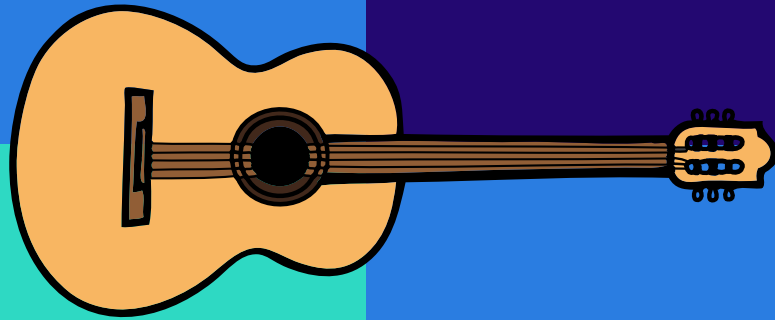
Amped Kids Foundation participated in the AFPAG conference helping to educate foster and adopted families about the importance of music education for mental and emotional health facilitating healing. A new partnership with Amerigroup presented opportunities to share with providers and foster as well as adopted parents why music matters in the healing process of a child.

197

MUSIC INSTRUMENTS

497

MUSIC LESSONS



\$2,000

Continuing Education
Funds Awarded

265

CHILDREN SERVED



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful for the dedication of our donors and supporters who have helped us advance our mission and vision.

TOTAL FUNDRAISING \$107,488.34

TOTAL EXPENSES \$99,372.99

TOP DONORS

United Way of Hall County Grant \$13,000

North Georgia LED \$11,110

Danley Sound Labs \$3,100

Smithco \$6,500

Georgia Music Foundation \$3,200

The Bridge Church \$2,400

Jarrard Burch Foundation \$3,000

CONTINUED SUPPORT

Syfan Logistics

The Ark at Lake Lanier

Pennington Fence

Richlife Advisors

Tharpe and Judy Ward

In 2023, our One Big Music Family truly came through, providing new connections, forging new collaborations, and securing additional funding that enabled us to serve on a larger scale.

Our partnership with Amerigroup has broadened our outreach, enabling us to serve more youth and raise awareness of our programs across their network. A new partnership with Free Guitar 4 Kids resulted in the donation of 11 Gibson guitars to youth in Nashville. Additionally, The Bluebird Cafe and songwriter Mark Irwin organized a fantastic fundraising show.

The Venue At Friendship Springs venue partnered with us to host an incredible 2023 Annual Talent Show, which was presented by Danley Sound Labs, one of our steadfast supporters.

The impact of your generosity extends far and wide, from providing music lessons to foster youth at The Open Door Group Home in Rome, GA, to supplying 58 musical instruments for the Hall Is Home Event. We are profoundly thankful for the transformative power of music and for everyone's gracious contributions.

One Big Music Family



Every Child Has A Story

Matthew started his journey with Amped Kids with a recording studio tour at the private home studio of John Driskell Hopkins from the Zac Brown Band in 2019 and subsequently started guitar lessons. He was a diligent student, but he took a break from lessons in 2020. Nevertheless, Matthew continued to play the guitar and, upon attending a songwriting workshop two years later, had developed into a highly skilled guitarist.

Matthew resumed guitar lessons and connected with Let There Be Rock, as he has been drawn to a rock style of music. At an Amped Kids event last year, Matthew's brother revealed that Matthew rises at 5:30 am each day before school to practice his guitar.

Matthew's journey has been challenging, marked by struggles with the effects of trauma. However, he has shown significant improvements in self-confidence and social development. Music has been therapeutic for Matthew, empowering him as a means of self-expression.



We extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support, which transforms lives through our music programs.

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