



Piano Pals

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About the organization

Music teacher, Charlotte Tacy Holliday, began The Tacy Foundation in response to a tragedy. When her best friend faced cancer in 2007, she brought her students together to create a music CD for breast cancer patients at John Hopkins University Hospital. From that experience, she went on to create a foundation that would respond to human suffering with the gift of harmony, following the foundation's model of, "inspiring hope note by note."



What did we do

We gave the opportunity to children of low wage paid parents from grades K-5 to express their musicality and joy for the piano by individuals working with each student to strengthen their core fundamentals of piano and music.



How did it impact the community

Once a year the students are able to spread the gift of music to their family and friends through a performance. They first learn piano fundamentals during lessons given by musician volunteers who are able to bring the overlooked gift of music into each household and the community.



How does it connect to our essential question

Piano Pals relates to the essential question of “How do we find places where we belong, and how do we cultivate that feeling?”. Piano Pals is a wonderful organization that gives an opportunity to underprivileged children to connect with knowledgeable volunteer musicians to find the joy and happiness that comes along with playing the piano. The volunteers who love music and have been privileged to learn how are able to pass it to others as well as the willing recipients of these skills feel a sense of belonging from the interaction.



Reflection

I learned that sharing the gift of music can impact someone's life. It can also teach patience when working with young children. The students who take these lessons are now able to bring the overlooked gift of music into their household and their community. While volunteering at Piano Pals, I learned to appreciate the opportunities that my parents have given me. My students were grateful for my time and learned quickly. I appreciated their enthusiasm for learning the piano.

