



*Band of Angels*  
***Year in***  
***Review***

**2024**





# *Band of Angels*

connects kids with music to make their lives better.



## *Who We Serve*

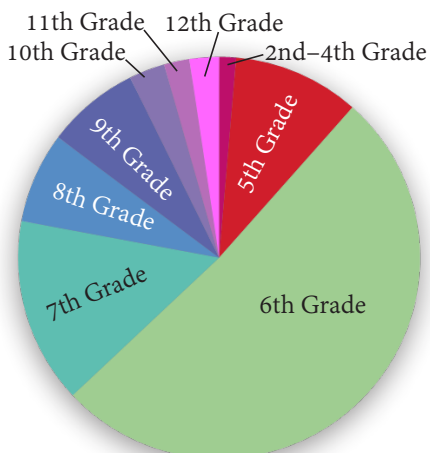
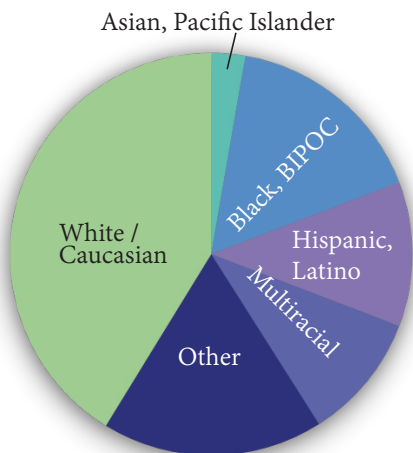
We serve children ages 3–20 whose families need support funding the costs of music instruction.



# Our Core Beliefs

*Belonging is at the heart of our work, guiding us to create an inclusive community where students, families, volunteers, staff, and supporters with diverse perspectives and lived experiences feel welcomed, valued, and empowered to pursue their dreams.*

## INSTRUMENT RECIPIENTS



# Our Impact

## 2010-2024

*Our Supporters (That's You!) Are Connecting Kids With Music*

**4,000**

Instrument Awards

**5**

Students in Lessons Program  
(Pilot Program)

**670**

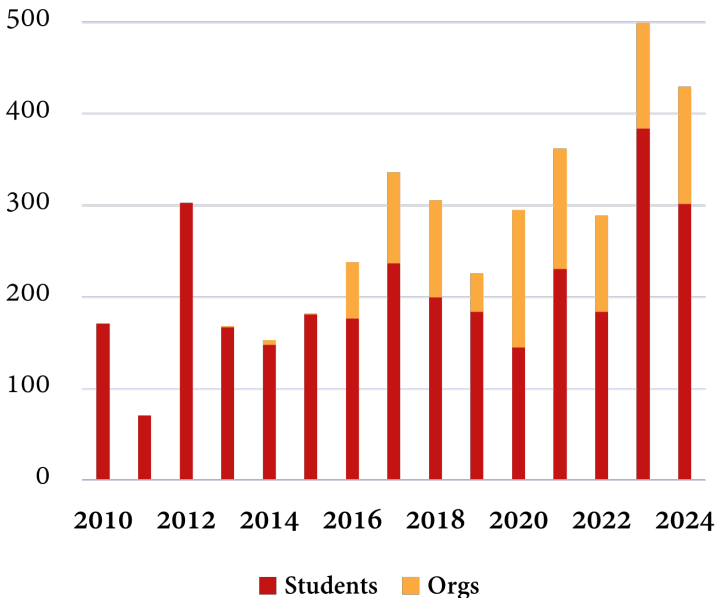
Music Camp Scholarships

**\$3.9 million**

Community Impact

### INSTRUMENT AWARDS

2010 - 2024



# Nadia

## TRUMPET

### JUNIOR AT WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

My name is Nadia, and I'm 17 years old. I started playing trumpet in 5th grade, and I've loved it ever since. I've moved around a bit to different school districts, but one thing that's stayed the same is my passion for band and music. Last year was my first time playing at the gala, and it was a great experience. I'm honored to be able to play again this year with everyone. Besides music, I also love reading, knitting, and playing with my dogs, Bobo and Karma. I've recently picked up baking, and I've really been enjoying it so far!



Meet Nadia

# Our Programs

## BEGINNER INSTRUMENTS

### *Meet Ma'Khi*

Ma'Khi is a 6th grade middle school student who loves music and is gifted with natural musical curiosity. Ever since he first saw a saxophone, he has been fascinated with it. It speaks to him and he's long known it is his instrument. At the beginning of the school year, Band of Angels received an instrument application from Ma'Khi for an alto saxophone, and through our generous donors, who donated both the instrument and the funds necessary to get it in tip-top shape, we were able to give him his very own alto sax! Ma'Khi is now able to participate in his school music program. He loves the musical challenges he's overcoming and his skills and abilities are taking off big time! Perhaps most important is the confidence and sense of belonging he has by being part of the music program and the friends he has there. The sky's the limit, Ma'Khi!!



# Amalia

## VIOLA

**JUNIOR AT PARK HILL SOUTH**

I play the viola in the symphonic orchestra and am learning the violin in the campus orchestra. I love being part of the orchestra; it feels like family. I also love art and wildlife and hope to study education in college. Band of Angels has been so important to me. They've sent me to orchestra camp at KU multiple times, and I've learned so much there. They also gifted me a beautiful viola that helps me become a better musician. I am so grateful to this organization.



Meet Amalia

# Our Programs

## STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS



### Meet Abigale

Band of Angels proudly awarded a Step-Up violin to Abigale, an 8th grader whose dedication to music since 5th grade is truly inspiring. Despite using a school instrument she couldn't take home during breaks, she worked tirelessly to excel. Her new violin will support her growth and take her into the next phase of her musical journey, even into college!

We could go on about how much we love Abigale, but her own words capture her spirit best:

"I have always loved orchestra and always end up getting lost in the music. I don't ever plan to stop playing. I've loved every single one of my orchestra teachers and I love strings. I feel like I've found myself with the violin, and it feels like a piece of me now. If I had never joined orchestra, I don't think I'd have made all of the friends I have now. It's brought me so much happiness and comfort in every note and I've been able to bond with my fellow violinists. Orchestra is something I love more than anything in the world and I would never give it up, no matter what anybody says!"

Abigale, Band of Angels loves you!



Meet Abigale

# Charley

## **FLUTE, TENOR SAX, PICCOLO**

**JUNIOR AT MCLOUTH  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Charley is a junior at McLouth High School. She is involved in many clubs and organizations such as band, FFA, 4-H, Student Council, Youth Symphony of Kansas City, and serves as an FFA officer as well as a band leadership member. Charley has been a 4-time district honors band member, and sat 1st chair piccolo in 2024. Outside of music, she enjoys playing softball competitively and for her school team, and also enjoys showing livestock.



Meet Charley

# Our Programs

## CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Band of Angels is proud to present students with summer music camp scholarships to further their music education. In 2024, 124 students received scholarships to 20 different programs across the country including KU Midwestern Music Camp, Heartland Chamber Music Program, Interlochen Music/Arts Academy, UCM Summer Music Camp, Berklee School of Music Academy, KSU Summer Music Camp, and Texas Southern Band Camp.

### Why Summer Music Camps?

Music camps and summer programs hold a unique significance for student musicians, offering an immersive setting that provides a platform for students to delve into their passion for music. These experiences also foster a sense of community and collaboration with like-minded peers. The intensive nature of these programs enables students to significantly broaden their musical horizons. Beyond skill development, the camaraderie formed in these settings often results in lasting friendships and valuable networking opportunities, creating a supportive network that extends beyond the duration of the camp.

Just as importantly, these programs offer students exposure to seasoned instructors and professionals, allowing them to receive personalized guidance and feedback. The hands-on learning experience, combined with constructive critiques, helps students refine their musical abilities and gain confidence in their craft. The immersion in a music-centric environment not only accelerates skill acquisition but also nurtures a passion for music making. Ultimately, music camps and summer programs are often transformative experiences, shaping not only the technical prowess of student musicians but also fostering a lifelong love and appreciation for the power of music.

*Paul W. Popiel, DMA, Dean and Director of Bands, University of Kansas School of Music*

Making summer music camps accessible to all, regardless of financial means, serves as both an embodiment of equity and social justice and a catalyst for nurturing talent, celebrating diversity, and enriching our communities and culture. Such inclusivity guarantees that the advantages of music education and enrichment extend to individuals regardless of their economic circumstances, ultimately contributing to a more encompassing and dynamic musical environment. The promotion of music education and camp participation can yield enduring economic and cultural advantages for society as well, catalyzing the development of a more vibrant arts and cultural sector that, in turn, attracts tourism, bolsters local enterprises, and elevates the overall quality of life within a community. Music can and does change lives.

*Kathy Cook, Executive Director, Heartland Chamber Music Program*



# Emery

## VIOLA

### **SOPHOMORE AT OLATHE EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

Some of my favorite activities include orchestra, football, and baseball. I have a deep passion for music and have taught myself to play the guitar, piano, cello, and violin. I am also active in my community and participate in T.E.A.M., a group of minority adults mentoring youth like me. My goal is to attend college to become a police officer while continuing to develop my skills in conducting, composing, and music. One day, I hope to direct a symphony performing a piece I composed.



Meet Emery

# Our Programs

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



### DONTE WILLIAMS

Donte is a first-year student at Grambling State University. He plays trumpet as his primary instrument, but also plays baritone and tuba. He is all about being in the Marching Band! As a high school student, Donte was one of the top players in band as a drum major and a leader. Now at Grambling, he is a proud member of the famed Tiger Marching Band and plans to play throughout his college career with music as his minor studies. After school Donte has big plans! He intends to be a personal chef and has already completed a culinary degree. He wants to inspire others with his cooking, start a restaurant and integrate music with food. How great is that?!

### KATHLEEN SMITH

Kathleen is a talented and accomplished violinist majoring in music at Benedictine College. She's the concertmaster of the orchestra, first violinist of a piano trio and a baroque ensemble, and has performed with the Kansas City Symphony. The costs of college are high, and Band of Angels was proud and honored to award her a college scholarship so that she can concentrate on her art, her studies, and her future. Contributions from our wonderful and generous donors makes this possible! After graduating from Benedictine, Kathleen plans to continue her studies in a master's program for violin performance. We can't wait to see you on all the grand stages of the world, Kathleen!



### BRYSON GATES

Bryson is a first-year student in the music program at William Jewell College. He is a violinist and vocalist and plans to study orchestra, choir, and chamber music. He also wants to build on his experience as a composer to share his music with the world. Band of Angels is proud to be assisting Bryson with his college costs by awarding him a scholarship. In his own words: "I want to be able to share with the community that anyone can achieve their dreams as long as you put the work in and always continue to believe." And we believe in you, Bryson! You're doing it!

### EMMA SANDBOTHE

Emma is a third-year student at Berklee College of Music majoring in violin performance. She works multiple jobs to make ends meet in addition to a full class load. Through the generosity of our financial donors, Band of Angels was able to award Emma a scholarship that will take some load off her costs so she can concentrate on her classes and her future! After graduating, Emma plans to move to Nashville and make a living as a fiddle player and violinist for touring bands and in recording sessions, along with having projects of her own playing the music that's important to her. You'll get there, Emma!



# Daniel

## TRUMPET, GUITAR, PERCUSSION, CLARINET

### JUNIOR AT PRAIRIE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

I'm 16 years old, and I love playing music.

I play many instruments, including the trumpet, guitar, percussion, and clarinet. My trumpet is from Band of Angels, and I performed at the 2024 Heart Strings Gala.

My passion is teaching music to others, and I would like to go to Pittsburgh State University. I am an athlete in track, and I participate in student government. I am proud to have made it into the District 2 District and Jazz Honor Bands.



Meet Daniel

# Ma'Khi

## TRUMPET

### SOPHOMORE AT RAYTOWN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

I'm Ma'Khi, a sophomore at Raytown South High School and a Band of Angels recipient. I've been in marching, symphonic, and jazz band under the direction of Ms. Romero for almost five years. I enjoy practicing my trumpet and playing football. In my spare time, I play video games, help my grandfather with lawn care, and spend time with my younger cousins and friends. My late mother had a passion for band, and it brings me joy to share that with her. After high school, I want to attend college on a band or football scholarship and major in computer science.



Meet Ma'Khi

# *The Teams Behind the Team*

## **FOX4 & MEYER MUSIC**



The Meyer Music team tirelessly answers phone calls, refers customers to Band of Angels, accepts instrument donations, assists with instrument matches and repairs, vacuums cases, polishes mouthpieces, and more.

The Fox4 News team consistently advocates for Band of Angels by serving on our board, promoting the fall instrument drive, attending and emceeding fundraising events, and providing videos and on-air coverage of our mission.



# Elijah

## SAXOPHONE AND PERCUSSION

### FRESHMAN AT TONGANOXIE HIGH SCHOOL

I'm an active member in marching band and two different jazz bands under the direction of Charles VanMiddlesworth.

I have taken private lessons for drums for nine years and alto sax for five years. I'm also on the church worship team and play the drum set. I like spending time with family, friends, and making people happy with his music. I performed at the 2024

Heart Strings Gala, played at On Stage With Sis, and have been a BOA recipient for the KU Midwestern music camp scholarship twice. In addition to music, I am involved in 4-H showing pigs and am an officer in my club.

After I graduate I want to pursue a career in music.



Meet Elijah



# ROCK STARS



## Class of 2024

Band of Angels Rock Stars serve as our community ambassadors, and in 2024 helped us raise \$83,000 for our mission!



# Hannah

## **VIOLIN, HARP, PIANO**

### **SOPHOMORE AT OLATHE NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL**

I play violin, harp, and piano, with violin being my favorite. Last year, I performed with the KMEA All-State Orchestra on harp and the East Central KMEA District Orchestra on violin. I am the Assistant Concertmaster of Ad Astra's Youth Chamber Orchestra and a member of the "Friends of Chamber Music Kansas City" and "Heartland Young Artist Project" chamber ensembles.



Meet Hannah

# *Payton*

## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

### ***FRESHMAN AT PRAIRIE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL***

I am 15 and I love music. It's one of my favorite things to do. I went to district jazz and concert with my saxophone and also made it into state jazz. I would like to thank my band director Mr. Jeff Russell for introducing me to all this. I am in wrestling and it is one of my favorite things to do. I would like to say thanks to Mike Meyer and Band of Angels for inviting me to come back and do the gala again.



Meet Payton

# Board of Directors



**Emily Bannwarth**  
*Shook, Hardy & Bacon*



**Jay Breeden**  
*Smash My Trash*



**Ty Brown**  
*DJs by Design*



**Becca Castro**  
*KC SourceLink*



**Katie Ervin**  
*Catalyst Development*



**Susan Escher**  
*Symphony Financial*



**Paulina Escobar**  
*Stinson LLP*



**Valerie Escobar**  
*BMG Advisors*



**Emma Jo**  
*Emma Jo Music LLC*



**Alex Karscig**  
*KPMG*



**Alaia Martin**  
*Cyphr*



**Mike Meyer**  
*Meyer Music*



**Liz Montijo**  
*Fox 4: Creative Services Director*



**Angela Ridpath**  
*EAG Advertising*



**Clay Shafer**  
*Baron BMW/MINI/Collision*



**Janice Small**  
*Honeywell*



**Michael Zanders**  
*Ameriprise Financial Services*



# Jacob

## DOUBLE BASS, CELLO

### **SOPHOMORE AT BLUE VALLEY SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL**

I have played the cello since fourth grade and switched to the double bass last year.

Thanks to Band of Angels, I attended Mark Wood's camp as a bassist and had the time of my life. Music has always been a big part of my life—my mom and dad are both very musical—and I'm so glad Band of Angels is helping me return to camp this year. When I'm not making music, I love playing video games, going for bike rides, and spending time with my four dogs and many siblings. I'm so grateful to be a part of this amazing organization, and I can't wait to rock out with Mark Wood again this year!



Meet Jacob

# ***Band of Angels Team***



**Mike Meyer**  
*Co-Founder & Chairman*



**Dawn Zerbs**  
*Development Director*



**Andrew Levi**  
*Director of Programs &  
Community Engagement*



**Destiny White-Dixon**  
*Student Program  
Coordinator & Alumni*



**Michael Crabtree**  
*Design & Marketing*



**Amanda Barcus**  
*Instrument Coordinator*

# Kaliah

## FLUTE

### SENIOR AT EAST HIGH SCHOOL

I love playing music, dancing, sports, reading, and going to the gym. I am proud of being one step closer to graduating and pursuing a degree in music education. You probably wouldn't guess that I used to have pink hair and my mom helped me dye it. My favorite quote is "you can't fight hate with logic".



Meet Kaliah

# Katerra

## CELLO

### SENIOR AT RAY-PEC HIGH SCHOOL

I am a musician with a deep love for music. Music has been a part of my life since childhood. I have played the viola from 7th grade through my sophomore year, and I am now enjoying playing the cello. I am an animal lover and have two cats that keep me company. I am aspiring to further my education and I'm aiming to attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) for college. My dedication to academics and music highlights my commitment to personal and professional growth as a musician.



Meet Katerra

# Advisory Board



**Sabrina Wiewel**

*Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer /  
Hallmark Media (The Hallmark Channel)*



**Greg Grieme**

*Chief Financial Officer of DANSR*



**Ed Bartak**

*RSM Kansas City Managing Partner, RSM National Alumni Leader, and RSM  
National Project Management Center of Excellence Leader*

The Band of Angels Advisory Board is a committee of executives who lend their business expertise and global perspective to help Band of Angels innovate and achieve excellence in programs and operations. Sabrina, Greg, and Ed are integral to Band of Angels successful and sustainable growth.



EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

Form 990

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)  
Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.  
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2023

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

B Check if applicable:  
☐ Address change  
☐ Name change  
☐ Initial return  
☐ Final return/terminated  
☐ Amended return  
☐ Application pending

C Name of organization  
BAND OF ANGELS CORP.  
Doing business as  
Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite  
11890 W 135TH STREET  
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code  
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66221

D Employer identification number  
46-1617742

E Telephone number  
913-491-6636

G Gross receipts \$ 608,003.

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
H(b) Are all subordinates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
If "No," attach a list. See instructions  
H(c) Group exemption number

I Tax-exempt status: ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) ( ) (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527

J Website: BANDOFANGELSKC.ORG

K Form of organization: ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other

L Year of formation: 2012

M State of legal domicile: KS

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: BAND OF ANGELS CORP. COLLECTS DONATIONS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DISTRIBUTES THOSE DONATED

2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.

3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) 3 16

4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b) 4 16

5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2023 (Part V, line 2a) 5 0

6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary) 6 100

7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12 7a 0.

b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11 7b 0.

	Prior Year	Current Year
8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	501,792.	559,394.
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0.	0.
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	17,148.	17,846.
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	-18,381.	-59,409.
12 Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	500,559.	517,831.
13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	73,706.	166,173.
14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0.	0.
15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	182,622.	225,909.
16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0.	0.
b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)	119,270.	
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	155,552.	169,906.
18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	411,880.	561,988.
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	88,679.	-44,157.

	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	597,211.	708,251.
21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	3,703.	112,433.
22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	593,508.	595,818.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here  
Signature of officer  
MICHAEL MEYER, PRESIDENT  
Date

Paid Preparer Use Only  
Print/Type preparer's name  
KEVIN ENSMINGER  
Preparer's signature  
KEVIN ENSMINGER  
Date  
10/02/24  
Check if self-employed ☐  
PTIN  
P01310558  
Firm's name  
RSM US LLP  
Firm's EIN  
42-0714325  
Firm's address  
4622 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, STE 1100  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112  
Phone no.  
816-753-3000

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ☒ Yes ☐ No

(00:40-1WG) Wd8Z:l h10Z/1Z/h0

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

**APR 18 2014**

Date:

BAND OF ANGELS CORP  
C/O MIKE MEYER  
10122 W 119TH ST  
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213

Employer Identification Number:

46-1617742

DLN:

17053120364043

Contact Person:

MITCHELL P STEELE

ID# 31360

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:

December 31

Public Charity Status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Form 990 Required:

Yes

Effective Date of Exemption:

August 15, 2012

Contribution Deductibility:

Yes

Addendum Applies:

No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Sincerely,



Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC

Letter 947

