

BAND OF ANGELS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Our Purpose

Band of Angels

Helping students in need find music through the generosity of others.



Who We Serve

We serve children ages 3–21 whose families need support funding the costs of music instruction.



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Founder Welcome

Welcome to Band of Angels and to a celebration of 15 years of service to our community.

Fifteen years ago, this organization began with a simple but powerful belief: that every student deserves the opportunity to fully participate in music, to feel seen, supported, and that they belong. What has surprised me most over these years is not just the growth of this organization, but the number of people who believe in this mission as deeply as we do. Time and again, you have shown up with generosity, heart, and an unwavering commitment to our students.



From the very beginning, every step of this work has been about access and dignity. It has been about making sure a child who wants to play an instrument is not turned away because of financial barriers. It has been about opening doors and providing instruments, scholarships to music camps, mentorship, and experiences that build confidence far beyond the stage.

This year alone, students received instruments, attended camps, and embraced opportunities that expanded their sense of what is possible. None of that happens by accident. It happens because this community believes that access to music education matters.

We celebrate not only 15 years of music, but the young people whose lives are shaped by it. Our students represent more than talent, they embody confidence, connection, resilience, and joy. They are the reason we do this work. They remind us that music is not a luxury; it is a pathway to belonging and self-expression.

On a personal note, I would be remiss if I did not thank my team. Their belief in this mission and their passion help carry Band of Angels through every season. I am endlessly grateful.

To everyone who has walked alongside us; donors, volunteers, educators, families, and friends — thank you. Because of you, Band of Angels has grown beyond what I ever imagined, while never losing sight of who we are and why we exist.

Here's to 15 years of impact — and to many more ahead.

With gratitude,

Mike Meyer, Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Our Core Beliefs

In 2025, Band of Angels served more than 500 students by meeting them where they are—financially, culturally, and educationally—with one clear goal: removing barriers to music education and leveling the playing field. Nearly 50% of the students we serve come from communities of color and historically underserved populations, and 36% live in households at or below the federal poverty level.

Through our Instrument Match Program, 54% of students served were living at or below the poverty line, ensuring access to quality instruments when families could not afford them. At the collegiate level, 71% of Band of Angels scholarship recipients are students from communities of color, helping address a long-standing gap in access and representation within music education and the music business.

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.

Across all programs, Band of Angels is committed to cultivating a welcoming space where every student belongs. Because true belonging in music is essential not only for individual success, but for our future.



Our Impact

2010–2025

4,355

Instrument Awards

20

College Scholarships

768

Music Camp Scholarships

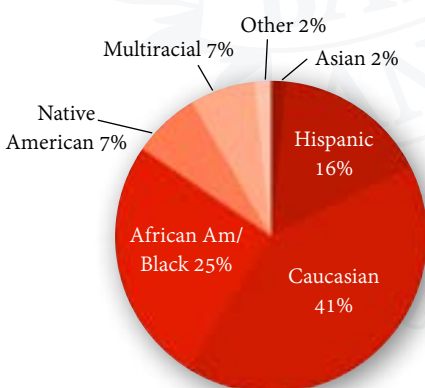
196

Step-Up Instruments

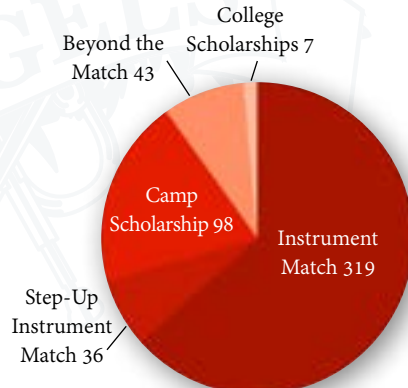
\$4.8 million

Community Impact

503 STUDENTS SERVED IN 2025



ETHNICITY



PROGRAM

Our Programs

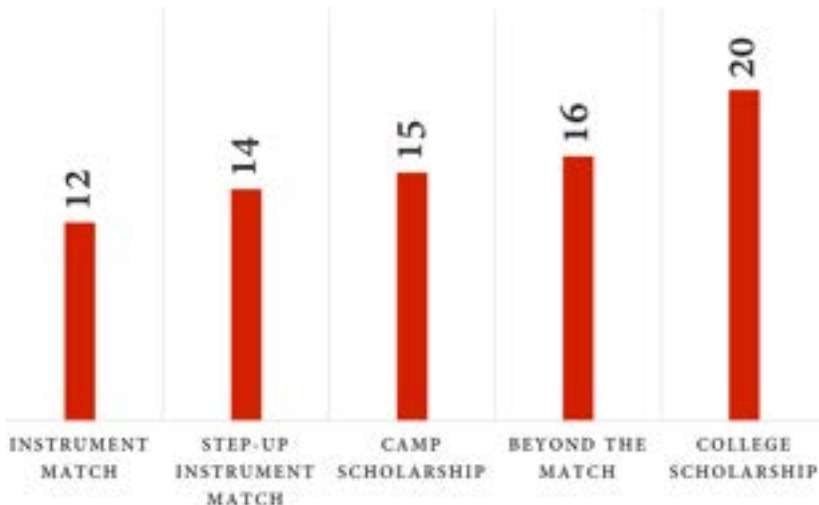
INSTRUMENT MATCH

Their journey is so much more than reading notes on a page. It's about siblings growing side by side, encouraging one another, rising together, and discovering their voices through every rehearsal and performance. It's about a mother whose daily sacrifices open doors for her children, even when the road isn't easy. And it's about a family that understands music isn't just a hobby, it's hope, it is purpose, it is connection, and it's a powerful pathway toward a brighter future.

We know Jayden, Jaylen and Jazmine have a bright future ahead and Band of Angels is excited to watch it unfold.



AVERAGE AGE BY PROGRAM (2025)



Our Programs

INSTRUMENT MATCH

For many students, the cost of purchasing or renting an instrument is the single greatest barrier to participating in music education. Through our Instrument Match Program, Band of Angels connects donated and new, high-quality instruments with students ages 3–21 who demonstrate both financial need and active participation in a music program.



Meet Brexton

Brexton is a 6th grader, stepping into the world of music with his very first instrument! For him, being part of the band isn't just about playing the notes, it's where he feels truly accepted and like he belongs. We are so excited to support Brexton every step of the way as he embarks on this incredible musical journey. The best is yet to come, and we can't wait to see the amazing growth and joy music will bring to his life!

"To Brexton band means everything right now, we got the letter that he was invited to play band this year, and he was super excited." – Brexton's Mom

Our Programs

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Expanding Opportunity Beyond the Classroom

Summer music camps offer far more than lessons and rehearsals; they create transformative experiences that shape young musicians for life. Through intensive instruction, immersive practice, and collaboration with passionate peers and mentors, students grow not only in skill, but in confidence, creativity, and self-belief. These camps foster a powerful sense of belonging, where students feel seen, supported, and inspired to reach higher than they ever thought possible.

Unfortunately, the cost of these life-changing opportunities places them out of reach for many talented students. Band of Angels bridges that gap by awarding scholarships that make it possible for students to attend camps aligned with their unique skill levels, interests, and dreams. By removing financial barriers, we ensure that passion not circumstance determines opportunity.

For many students, attending camp becomes a pivotal turning point. Confidence blossoms, motivation soars, and a newfound sense of purpose takes root. These experiences empower young musicians to not only enhance their craft but also to build lifelong memories and connections that inspire their futures. With the support of Band of Angels, the transformative power of music camps becomes an accessible reality for all, regardless of financial background.

2025 Camps

Boston University Tanglewood Institute
Young Artists

Fort Hays State High Plains

Golden Regiment Summer Camp

Heartland Chamber Music
Festival

Human Jukebox

Interlochen

Kansas State University Band Camp

Kansas State University
Summer Institute

Mark Woods Rock Orchestra Camp

Missouri State Camp

Orford-Canada

Ottawa Jazz Camp

River City Rock Band Camp,
Lawrence, KS

Southern University

SWMS Lawrence Camp for School

The Lee University Music Camp

University of Central Missouri

University of Kansas, Midwestern Music
Camp

University of Montana Jazz Camp

Washburn University, Coleman

Hawkins Summer Jazz Camp



Our Programs

BEYOND THE MATCH

Giving Students Experiences to Help Them Grow

Beyond the Match surrounds students with the experiences, support, and opportunities needed to truly thrive. Through private lessons, students receive individualized instruction that build strong musical foundations, confidence, and discipline. Performance opportunities allow them to step into the spotlight, learn to manage nerves, and take pride in sharing their hard work with others.

These experiences often begin with moments of discovery and joy led by Band of Angels themselves. At events like the BBBS Instrument Zoo, BOA students step into mentor roles, introducing younger participants to instruments, sharing their own musical journeys, and sparking curiosity and confidence through hands-on exploration. As they continue to grow, they model leadership and artistry through unforgettable performance opportunities, such as playing a concert on a rooftop. In these moments, BOA students are not just musicians, they are role models, showing others that music is exciting, meaningful, and deeply connected to the world around them.



Our Programs

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Supporting Students on the Path to Higher Education

Our College Scholarship Program is dedicated to empowering students, many of whom are first-generation college students as they pursue higher education and continue their musical journeys. These scholarships support students majoring in music, music education, and related fields, as well as those studying in other disciplines who remain actively involved in music at the collegiate level. By easing the financial burden of college, we help students stay connected to the art form that has shaped their identity, discipline, and sense of purpose.

For these students, music is more than an extracurricular activity, it is a source of resilience, community, and inspiration. Continuing to make music in college strengthens leadership skills, academic persistence, and personal confidence, while opening doors to professional opportunities and lifelong creative expression. Our college scholarship program honors their dedication, celebrates their achievements, and invests in their potential, ensuring that financial barriers do not silence their passion or limit their future.

2025–2026 COLLEGE RECIPIENTS



Bryson Gates
*William Jewel,
Sophomore, Music
Composition*



Bryson Lane
*KU, Freshman, Music
Performance*



Donte Williams
*Grambling, Sophomore,
Business/Music/
Culinary*



Emma Sandbothe
*Berklee, Junior, Violin
Performance with Minor
in American Roots Music*



Jabari Cambridge Jr.
*Berklee, Freshman,
Music Performance*



Jamin Wilson
*Graceland University,
Freshman, Music
Education*



Nathan Alvarez
*Washburn, Junior,
Music Education*



Angie

VIOLIN

JUNIOR AT TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

“After discovering the violin, the violin has become a very important part of me and my life. A lot of what I do is centered around music whether it’s in school or out of it.”

My name is Angie, and I am a 16-year-old violinist and have been playing for over 10. Music has played a major role in shaping who I am, and the violin has become both my creative outlet and a way to connect with others. Beyond music, I enjoy staying active and participating in outdoor activities, as I love challenging myself and exploring new experiences.

I have a strong passion for learning and personal growth, and I take pride in giving back to my community through music. I am a recent Band of Angels recipient, an opportunity I am incredibly grateful for being a part of.

The 2026 Heart Strings Gala is an honor, and I am excited to meet new people, share my love for music, and create meaningful memories while having fun along the way.

2025 Donor List

\$50-\$99

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Danbee

VIOLIN

SOPHOMORE AT BLUE VALLEY NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

“Attending camp allowed me to experience a passionate, musical, and lively atmosphere that I’ve never been able to before, and it was great getting to know others who shared the same passion that I had for music.”

My name is Danbee and I’ve been playing the violin for almost 5 years now. My dream is to make music that the audience can experience with all their senses, so I’m super excited to play at the Heart Strings Gala 2026! When I’m not fiddling away, I like to write, draw, play my bass guitar, and watch movies. As someone who can’t live without her headphones, I love music with a passion, so both listening to it and making it are the best parts of my day! Thank you Band of Angels for making this possible!

2025 Donor List

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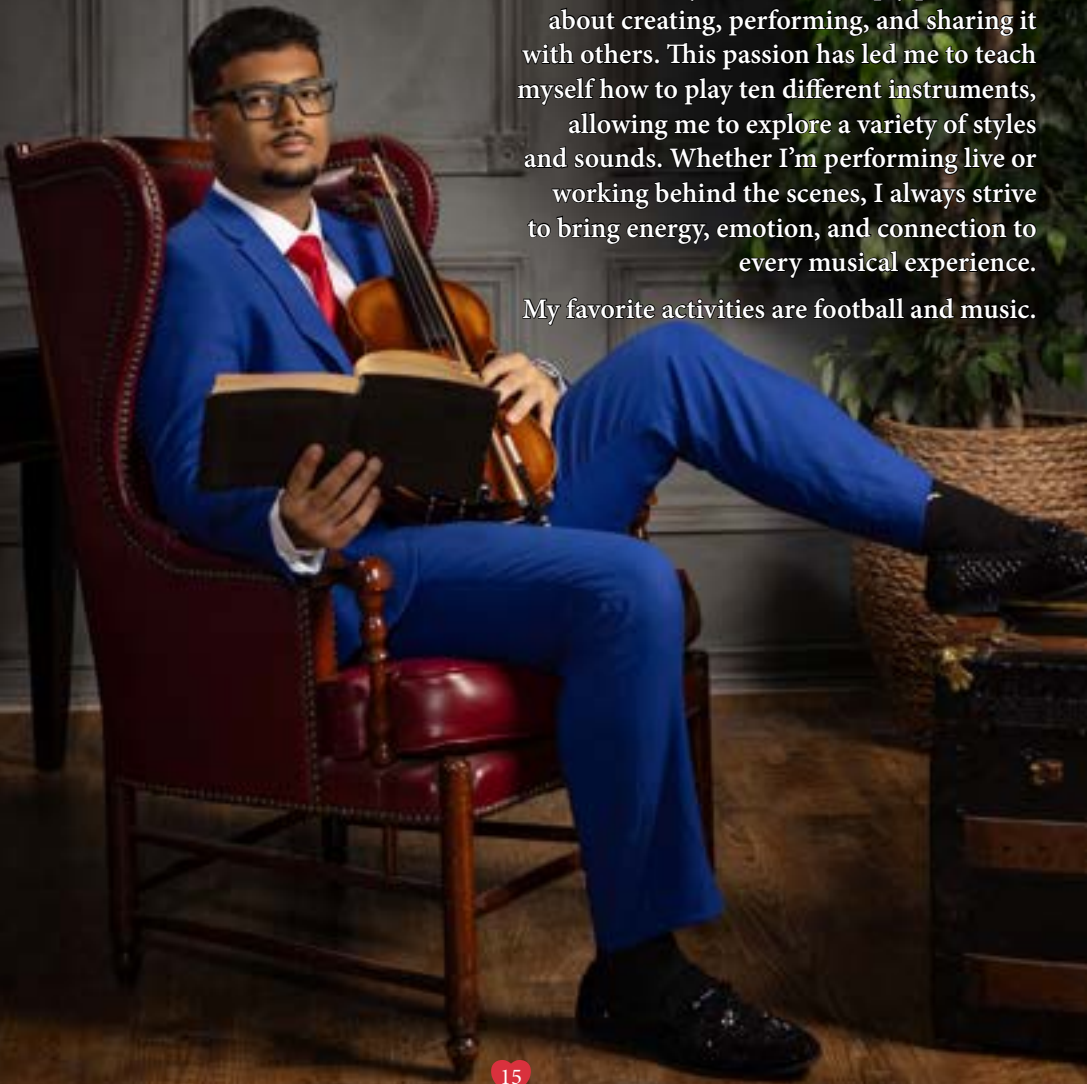
Emery

VIOLA

JUNIOR AT OLATHE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

“After high school, I plan to join the United States Marine Corps, bringing the same discipline, dedication, and drive that I apply to everything I do.”

Music is my life — I’m deeply passionate about creating, performing, and sharing it with others. This passion has led me to teach myself how to play ten different instruments, allowing me to explore a variety of styles and sounds. Whether I’m performing live or working behind the scenes, I always strive to bring energy, emotion, and connection to every musical experience. My favorite activities are football and music.



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Jace

TRUMPET

SOPHOMORE AT CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

“I couldn’t imagine school without band. This is the one class that just makes me feel like anything is possible.”

My name is Jace, and I am 16 years old with a strong passion for music, especially the trumpet. I started playing trumpet in sixth grade with Mr. Miles, who has made band one of the best experiences of my life. This is my fifth year in band and my fourth year in jazz band, and our program truly feels like a big family.

I love playing in jazz band, competition band, pep band, and performing at events throughout the year. I try out for almost every trumpet solo, have participated in district events, and even volunteered to play the National Anthem at summer baseball games.

One of my proudest moments was traveling to Florida to perform at the National Band Festival at Universal Studios, where our ensemble placed first in Symphonic Band and second in Jazz Band. I play in both groups.

2025 Donor List

\$500–\$999

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Yamaha B & O

Lillian

CELLO

SENIOR AT FREE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

“I plan to attend the University of Kansas next year, where I hope to major in music education and minor in conducting.”

I am an 18-year-old senior at Lawrence Free State High School. My primary instrument is the cello, and I also play the violin, viola, and bass. I perform in five orchestras at my school and am a member of the Topeka Youth Orchestra. Through school, I've had many opportunities to develop my teaching skills by helping lead sectionals, and this year I conducted my first piece at our winter program. Outside of school, I work with animals, teach cello lessons, and enjoy solving puzzles.

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Nabil

VIOLIN

FRESHMAN AT OLATHE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

“I want to play the violin because it’s my passion, I do practice every day because I enjoy it.”

I’m Nabil and I am in 9th grade and a part of Band of Angels! I play the violin and I am very fortunate that I am a part of Band of Angels, because they support me through my musical path. I play in the Kansas City Youth Symphony, which I very much enjoy! The violin is my biggest passion, and I’m glad Band of Angels is helping me pave the way to my musical goals.





2025 Grants

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Our Founders

FOX4 & MEYER MUSIC

Founded in Kansas City. Built on Community and Belonging.

Band of Angels began in Kansas City in 2009 through a partnership between two community legacies: Meyer Music and FOX4 TV. The idea was simple: match quality instruments with students who want to play but face financial barriers. We aimed for 50 instrument matches that year but reached 300. And it's only growing bigger every year.



Rock Stars

Class of 2025

Band of Angels Rock Stars serve as our community ambassadors, and in 2025 helped us raise over \$70,000 for our mission!



ALADDIN ASHKAR



ANGEL MCGHEE



ASHLEY KENDRICK



CARLTON RASHAD



CARRIE KING



CRYSTAL MARTINEZ



DENNIS ORTIZ



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SYDNEY WEST



TAMARA STELLING



TAYLOR CAIN



TAYLOR ESCHER



ZACH MOLZER

Band of Angels Team



Left to right: Destiny White-Dixon, Andrew Levi, Dawn Zerbs, Mike Meyer



Michael Crabtree
Design & Marketing



Amanda Barcus
Instrument Coordinator

Advisory Board



Sabrina Wiewel
EVP, Head of Crayola Studios



Greg Grieme
Chief Financial Officer of DANSR

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 and Greg provide strategic leadership to support the organization's long-term growth.



"My dream is to have a nice instrument like this. I love music so much." – Asia



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