

San Angelo Symphony Guild Beaux and Belles Belaire Music Project



Description

San Angelo Symphony Guild beaux and belles raised funds to replace broken xylophones for the Belaire Elementary music program.

Purpose

The Symphony Guild BBs raised funds to replace broken xylophones for a local elementary in need. Our project goals were two-fold. First, we had a need retain and recruit belle and beau members. The BB group had no community-based project with tangible results. Consequently, membership was lagging, and recruitment was difficult. This project provided the opportunity for BBs to raise money and see the results of their collective efforts. In addition, students gained leadership opportunities, and the guild built a stronger relationship with local school district. Secondly, a local elementary school had a specific need in their music program. Belaire Elementary School is comprised of students from low-income families. The school music budget did not cover replacement of their decades-old broken xylophones. Therefore, our fundraising efforts addressed this need. The BBs reached their fundraising goal by supporting our guild flagship fundraiser. Their collective efforts raised additional funds for the event without additional service credit requirements. The time and efforts of the participants were focused on this single “purpose project”. This success allowed us to retain more members and gave the organization momentum for the coming year. The BBs were able to personally present a check to the school and later shared the experience during a local TV interview for member recruitment.

Financial Information

\$1,500 was provided for the music program in exchange for the service hours provided by the belles and beaux

Timeline

July – Plan belles and beaux year with project meetings and select elementary school to support

August - orientation meeting of belles and beaux participants and sponsors

September – January - work alongside guild members to complete committee assignments for gala fundraiser. (Underwriting requests, invitation assembly and mailing, gala set up, gala teardown, thank you notes)

April - submit beau and belle member service credit hours to board of directors

April - press conference with school district to present funds to music program for instrument purchase

May - present results to guild membership

Volunteer requirements

The Belles and Beaux Directors (two) planned and executed the project with oversight by the Guild board of directors and ongoing feedback from belles and beaux members. This project included many small group projects of 5-7 student age participants and 2-3 adults. These projects were focused on a singular outcome of our flagship event (gala) that includes the support of our entire guild.

Community Impact

This project is expanding music education within our elementary schools and is a sister project to the fundraising the San Angelo Symphony Guild does in support of the orchestra. This program allows our student age members and their parents to better understand the importance of volunteer service and the role of the guild within the community. The xylophones will be used by hundreds of children each year and will last for several years. The elementary students were so grateful they sent dozens of handmade thank you notes.



Suggested improvements

We are adopting another school in the coming year and look to expand the program. Our overall goal is to reach every elementary school on a continual five-year rotation. At this level, every elementary student in our region will be impacted by the guild before they reach middle school.