



TO: REPRESENTATIVES DAN TROY | JAMIE CALENDER | JAY EDWARDS | BRIDGE SWEENEY

FROM: THE FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

DATE: MARCH 13, 2025

RE: PERSONAL TESTIMONY – FUNDING REQUEST FOR OHIO CAPITAL BUDGET

My name is Ann Marie Raddell. I am a Board-Certified and Licensed Music Therapist. I am also the Director of Creative Arts Therapies at The Fine Arts Association in Willoughby, Ohio. I have been practicing music therapy, since 2006. My job experience started at Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare, providing music therapy services to adults in an inpatient psychiatric hospital. I eventually moved back to my hometown of Cleveland, where I worked for the Positive Education program with students who are troubled and troubling, and then eventually The Fine Arts Association, a community-based arts center. Through my 19 years of experience as a provider, I have witnessed the transformative power of music. Schizophrenic patients more lucid while listening to a familiar and preferred song. A frustrated youth calmed when learning rhythms on a drum set. And non-verbal Autistic children singing songs in their entirety. But nothing demonstrated the healing capabilities of music therapy more than when my own children required these services.

I am the mother of three girls. Ella, 16, Emily, 14, and Liza, 7. Emily and Liza were both born with a rare, degenerative, life-threatening illness called MPS-1, or Hurler Syndrome. Both girls have required bone marrow transplants, multiple surgeries, and many months of inpatient hospital visits. Hospital staff often commented about the calming effect of our hospital room. There was only one difference between our rooms compared to our hospital neighbors. Music was constantly playing.

Both of my girls have also engaged in music therapy services since infancy. Music therapy has calmed them during moments of PTSD from years of medical intervention, assisted in motivation in gross motor skills, and continues to help them appropriately express their feelings of frustration in having what is considered to be terminal illness. I learned how to better advocate for the Creative Arts Therapies because of my girls' responses to music therapy.

My goal as the Director of Music Therapy at The Fine Arts Association (FAA) is to help these valuable services become more accessible to individuals who need them. FAA attempted to increase funding sources by becoming a John Peterson and Autism Scholarship provider. FAA also became OHMAS certified in 2022 in order to partner with our county Juvenile Detention Center and ADAMHS Board. While these partnerships help meet the needs of our community, there is

only so much funding. The need for these therapies outpaces the amount of funding and funding sources. And some marginalized groups are not able to access any funding for these services. One community that I have observed to struggle most with receiving funding for supplemental services are the elderly, particularly individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's Disease on Memory Care Units. We often receive requests to fulfill this need but lack the financial resources to do so. One grant through the Feel-Good Foundation allowed us to serve an individual in a Memory Care Unit. Her daughter's testimony is as follows:

"Through the generosity of a grant, The Fine Arts Association was able to send a music therapist to visit my mother once a week for a period of 16 weeks. At the time she was living in a memory care facility struggling with the later stages of dementia. Due to the inability to use private insurance for music therapy, these were services that I would not otherwise be able to afford. I was grateful to receive reports from the music therapist each week detailing how mom reacted to each session. There were good days and bad during that time, but more often than not, mom would be happy for the visit, smile, and react to the music—and on several occasions—she even spoke her mind indicating that the therapist might need more practice on a song! It was in the music therapy moments that her former personality shined through the barriers of her illness. There was always a variety of music, and it was clear that those tunes sparked memory, if only for a short time.

I was my mother's only family caregiver, forced to move her to a memory care facility in order to work full time. I visited in the evenings, but it was so comforting to know that she had an extra visitor on the days of her music therapy sessions. It brought happiness, not only to her, but the other residents since her sessions were done in the common room. People with dementia are often confused by the stories and scenes on television. Music is simpler. It provides entertainment, yes, but also a link to memory that can bring contentment, calm, and joy. This is often a forgotten demographic—and their need for therapy isn't always a priority. I hope this grant will allow The Fine Arts Association to reach more senior citizens and improve their standard of living."

-Catherine Doman, Willoughby, Ohio

*With support from the State of Ohio, The Fine Arts Association can be a community solution provider by strengthening the sustainability of its creative arts therapies programming, ensuring continued access to the arts for all while advancing its mission to **Create and Discover Beauty**.*