



Music Changing Lives has embraced a dual County initiative to reduce our communities' dropout rates through music and art.

When we began 22 years ago, we were ecstatic just to have a few supporters and a little space to share our programs with the youth in my home. This year, however, with the addition of our college student volunteers and many supporters, we have grown into a robust after- school experience, servicing the multiple intelligences of our youth. While COVID19 has forced other organizations to rethink their mission or stop operations in these challenging economic times, we've continued to grow. We find this very encouraging!

Although we still face challenges, as do many small charitable organizations. One of our biggest challenges is replicating the program throughout our region and then one day our nation while planning through a pandemic. With your help, and the help of many others like you, this dream can become a reality, just as Music Changing Lives has.

The broad-based initiatives unveiled by our board and advisors have shown great promise. As a result, I believe we have overcome the "tipping point." For example, we've challenged the idea that we should only operate within Community Centers as a rather exclusive "club," and now with the support of Moreno Valley Unified School District we've placed our programs directly on six school campuses looking to expand to all 43.

This is our ninth year testing this concept of the "Changing Lives Showcase" through a pilot program that started at Vista Del Lago High School in Moreno Valley in 2011, and we're now designing a replication model to distribute throughout California thanks to a sponsorship between Calendowment and The California Arts Council. We realize success will require more hard work and a redoubling of our commitment to service and collaborate in the spirit of MCL's core values, with the intent to expand those values into a larger, more united community. I whole heartily commend the staff and volunteers who have helped bring this year's success, and humbly thank all the members, contributors, and patrons for their support in helping Music Changing Lives do just that "Change Lives".

Sincerely,

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