



EL HISPANIC NEWS

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Nonprofit brings music programs back to local schools

PORTLAND, Oregon—Several Portland schools now have music education programs because of an energetic new artist-in-residence program call MUSICORPS.ORG created by Ethos, Inc., Portland's nonprofit music center. Ethos, Inc.'s MUSICORPS,ORG programs throughout Portland include music programs at Woodstock Elementary, Woodmere Elementary, Astor Elementary, and Legacy Emmanuel's Da Da Kidogo program. All of the programs have been designed to give music education opportunities back to students who would otherwise go without.

Ethos, Inc. was created in response to budget cuts that virtually destroyed music education programs throughout Portland's public schools. As one of several programs from Ethos, Inc., MUSICORPS.ORG, matches advanced music students from local colleges and universities with low-income schools throughout Portland. Ethos, Inc.'s first MUSICORPS.ORG members include Erika Huffman and Marla Yorgason, a junior and senior at Portland State University, along with Michelle

Boss, a senior at the University of Portland. Combined, these instructors give music lessons to over 200 students.

MUSICORPS.ORG is one of four programs from Ethos Inc that are all designed to bring music education back to students in low-income neighborhoods. Additional programs include "Music Lessons for Kids" (currently reaching 175 students), Multicultural Music Presentations and an instrument drive to match musical instruments with students who wouldn't be able to buy or rent their own instruments. The next instrument drive will be held at the Paradigm (formerly La Luna) for Ethos, Inc's "Bring the Music Back" benefit concert on April 29, 2000 from 7PM - 12AM.

Charles Lewis, Ethos, Inc.'s Executive Director and former Peace Corps Volunteer created MUSICORPS.ORG in response to recent budget cuts. Disturbed by a lack of music education opportunities for low-income children, Lewis formulated most of the ideas behind Ethos, Inc. in his master's thesis for Harvard University.

Coming from a low-income background himself, Lewis at-

tributes much of his academic success to early exposure to music in public schools. Upset that low-income students are placed at a disadvantage because they cannot afford to pay for expensive private lessons, Lewis sought to establish a community mobilization framework that would give music education opportunities to all desiring students.

Ethos, Inc., Portland's nonprofit music center, is sponsored in part by the University of Portland, Portland State University, the N/NE Arts Center, the Lorene Sails Higgins Charitable Trust, Roosevelt High School's PGE-Enron Community 101 Program, the Moore Street Corps & Community Center and Oregon Campus Compact. Because of their work with low-income youth, Ethos, Inc. has recently been awarded funding for an AmeriCorps* VISTA member by the Corporation for National Service.

Individuals wishing to volunteer, donate an instrument, or make a tax-deductible contribution are encouraged to call 503.241.8824, send an email to info@ethos-inc.com, or visit www.ethos-inc.com.