

Music4Life™ Fact Sheet

WHO: In its first phase, *Music4Life™* is a program to benefit elementary (fourth and fifth grade students) in the Seattle Public Schools system. The program is a collaboration among Seattle Public Schools, the 18 Rotary clubs in Seattle Rotary District 5030 and many individuals and businesses, partnering to expand music education for all children in Seattle Public Schools.

WHAT: *Music4Life™* is intended to give every student in Seattle Public Schools access to instruments in good working condition, high quality instruction, and supplies necessary to participate in instrumental and vocal music programs. Initially, *Music4Life™* (www.RotaryMusic4Life.org) will acquire 1,200 musical instruments and supplies to ensure that 50 percent of Seattle Public Schools' 4th and 5th grade students can participate in instrumental music. In the years to come, *Music4Life™* may expand to include a broader range of ages and grade levels, as well as additional music education programs.

WHERE: *Music4Life™* will begin by serving Seattle schools with immediate needs and high numbers of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches (FRL) based on family income criteria established by the Federal government, and then expand to serving schools district-wide. Most schools with high FRL rates are in southeast and southwest Seattle. When successful, it is possible to replicate *Music4Life™* wherever there is a public school child who wishes to learn how to play a musical instrument and a Rotary club in the area.

WHEN: The creative concept for *Music4Life™* was born in the fall of 2007 and is an ongoing program. The immediate goal is clear: put musical instruments in good playing condition into the hands of children and youth wishing to use them now. Procure the instruction, supplies and support (like instrument maintenance) to strengthen the elementary instrumental music program and ensure strong music programs throughout Seattle Public Schools.

WHY: "Music4Life" means different things to different people. To children, learning to play a musical instrument is a meaningful activity — it's fun and it builds relationships that can last a lifetime. To youth, music opens up the world — its history and its many cultures — and provides opportunities for teamwork and meaningful forms of self-expression. Educators know that music benefits students academically, especially in mathematics, science, history, and world languages. Our community understands that music education helps a person lead a richer, fuller, more meaningful life — and an arts-rich community is a more desirable place to live.

HOW: First, we are acquiring musical instruments, supplies and other resources from members of Rotary clubs in the city of Seattle and from other citizens who understand the value of music in a child's life. We work with instrument manufacturers, rental agencies, wholesalers, retailers, and others around the world who have access to serviceable musical instruments. Anyone who loves music and believes in music education for all children can join the effort!