



Share Your Blessings^{inc.}

Share Our Achievements

2016 Newsletter

Our Mission...

Our goal is to offer programs and support that promote value, acceptance, and inclusion so that each individual and each child can address life's challenges, achieve personal goals, and fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive, happy, and rewarding lives.

Who We Serve...

We are dedicated to enhancing and inspiring the lives of disadvantaged individuals and their families. Recipients of our services include children and adults with a wide range of disabilities and special needs (such as down syndrome, autism, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, visual, intellectual, and physical impairment, and much more) as well as children with difficult, at risk, and/or tragic economic, family, or environmental situations.

2016 was an exciting year of development, expansion and overall success for Share Your Blessings as we helped a wide range of individuals and organizations. Much of this success was due to a program called Project Maestro, which incorporates a revolutionary interactive music system called the Beamz. By simply touching light beams anyone can create and play music by triggering various notes, musical instruments, sound effects and videos. Through Project Maestro, in 2016 Share Your Blessings provided life skill, education, therapy and recreation programs to over 2,000 individuals with special needs and disabilities. This included supporting and donating Beamz Interactive Music System to the following individuals and/or organizations:



- Over 45 Beamz systems to teachers/schools reaching more than 1,000 students with special needs
- Over 20 Beamz systems to nonprofit organizations; including senior care and memory facilities reaching over 750 individuals with special needs
- 25 plus Beamz systems to therapists reaching several hundred special needs clients
- Over 100 Beamz systems to families, reaching several hundred individuals with special needs and their family members

Share Your Blessings also supported events, provided training and partnered with many organizations to provide programs that serve individuals with a wide range of special needs and disabilities. These programs include, but are not limited to; The Morgan Project, Guitars in the Classroom, Able Arts Works, Scottsdale Training & Rehabilitation Services (STARS), Arizona Autism Elementary School, the Foundation for Blind Children, National Lekotek Center and Scottsdale Public Schools including Tavan elementary and Coronado high school. In addition, we supported Craig Chaquico, celebrity guitarist, and the Eskaton Foundation with a major concert for Alzheimer's Music Therapy. We also provided support for the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention organization and their family members.

With the invaluable relationships, sponsorships and assistance received from others, we expect Share Your Blessings and Project Maestro to only grow and expand in the years to come. We are also looking to launch new programs in the future to further our mission to promote value, acceptance, and inclusion so that each individual and each child can address life's challenges, achieve personal goals, and fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive, happy, and rewarding lives.

For more facts and information about our organization, please contact Tom Reidy @ 480.433.7266 or visit our website at www.share-your-blessings.org.

Share Your Blessings Historical Donations

Have you ever watched music transform someone's physical demeanor, inspire a change in attitude or trigger a lost memory? Now imagine how effective music might be as a tool for delivering physical and cognitive therapy to individuals with disabilities, injuries, intellectual limitations, chronic illness and the like. We are happy to report that since launching Project Maestro several years ago, Share Your Blessings has been able to leverage and provide these benefits to many thousands of individuals by donating over 700 Beamz systems to the below organizations and/or programs.

Share Your Blessings Historical Donations

Over 700 Beamz Donations

Hospitals and Healthcare

50 Starlight Children's Foundation Pediatric Hospitals
Phoenix Children's Hospital / Temple University Hospital

Schools

Several dozen State Regional Education Centers
Hage Elementary School, CA / Lakewood Elementary, WV / Bridge Elementary, WV
H.E. White Elementary, WV / Big Otter Elementary, WV / Pratt Elementary, WV
Prestria Day Program, WV / Clay Middle School, WV / Tavan Elementary, AZ
Coronado High School, AZ / ACES, AZ / Arizona Autism Charter Elementary School
Arizona Autism Charter Middle School / Banner Academy, AZ / Upward Foundation, AZ
Pathways Day School, AZ / Blind Foundation for Children, AZ / Sierra Academy
Chrysalis Academy / Gateway Academy

Day Schools and Camp Programs

Gompers Habilitation Center / Standing Tall / Marc Community Resources Inc.
Williams Syndrome Foundation Summer Camps / Our Own Family Camp

Residence Programs

Rainbow Acres / Down Home Ranch / Eskaton Senior Care / Marbridge
Noah's Ark of Central Florida / Chapel Haven

Non Profit Organizations Serving Special Needs

UCP of Greater Birmingham / The National Lekotek Center / The Landon Pediatric Foundation
Orange Grove Center / The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project / Resounding Joy / Arts & Services for Disabled
STARS / ARCH / Courtney's Place / ARC of Chandler/Gilbert / Valley Life / LIFE
Miles for Autism / Scottsdale Bible Church / Bethany Ranch Home / Guitars in the Classroom
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress / Gigi's House

Families

75 plus families from the annual National Down Syndrome Congress Convention Event
Over 100 Additional Families



HOW TO APPLY FOR A DONATION

To fill out an application for a donation unit please contact
Tom Reidy, Director, Programs and Partnerships @ 480.433.7266 or visit our website at
www.share-your-blessings.org/apply-for-donation

TESTIMONIALS

The next best thing to seeing and experiencing the Beamz is reading the testimonials of those who have. The following are testimonials from families, teachers, therapists and other partners. There are many more testimonials on our website at www.share-your-blessings.org

"My daughter has autism and is 12-years old. All the cousins would come over and interact with my daughter with it. It was so neat to watch. Very easy to use. We received the Beamz at the end of December. It took her about a month to get comfortable with it. I put a playlist on her iPad with kids using a Beamz and by February she started requesting it almost daily. It definitely allowed my daughter to interact with cousins who have never really known how to do things on her level." Parent



"Michael has Down syndrome and cortical visual impairment. Michael likes that he can participate in making music and beats, and enjoys the music and the light Beamz. Since he does have a visual impairment this is easy for him to see. It is something we all like to play with him. We are extremely thankful that Michael was a recipient of the Beamz."

"I have a student with autism, and he is using it for break times when he is in sensory overload mode or needs an outlet. He uses it about twice a day for about 15 minutes each time. He is more freely able to talk about what is bothering him after he's had time with Beamz. I love the fact that the student has access to it, and it is simple to understand." Teacher



"Students ranging in age from 4-12, needs ranging from autism to intellectual disabilities to ADHD to emotional disabilities. One of the great benefits is the engagement and language I am able to get from my students and the creativity and problem solving skills I have been able to elicit from my students. We also use the Beamz as reinforcement, for language development during speech and language therapy. I am so grateful that I have been afforded this opportunity to utilize Beamz. What an amazing opportunity!" Teacher

"I've seen people's eyes brighten, and their bodies grow animated, as they make the sounds of a flute, or air-drums, or air-guitar...with the Beamz. It's not a game, but such a simple thing to play, and yet it lends itself to a feeling of great happiness, beauty and hope. I'm so pleased to know that the Share Your Blessings program is offering this opportunity to individuals with special needs, programs and schools across the country, spreading the music and light to more people who will benefit from it." Craig Chaquico, Celebrity Guitarist



The M.O.R.G.A.N Project (Making Opportunities Reality Granting Assistance Nationwide) is a national, community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is to promote awareness and facilitate support of parents caring for their children with special health care needs, and to enhance the Quality-of-Life for these special families.

"The donations of the Beamz units have been a huge success for our clients, both here and at home. We utilize the Beamz with an iPad and dancing water speakers, and the kids absolutely love "seeing" as well as hearing the music! We have incorporated the use of Beamz in our music programs that we offer to individuals as well as during our specialized sensory group sessions. We have had quite a few of our member's request donations of home units and as far as we know the kids are having a wonderful time with them in the home environment as well. Share Your Blessings has made a huge impact on our ability to offer truly multi-sensory technology to our clients and we are extremely grateful to have been chosen as a charitable partner for this program."

For the kids, Executive Director

"At Scottsdale Training & Rehabilitation Services (STARS) we are very fortunate to have quite a few volunteers who come in and offer entertainment or educational services, sometimes both! The Youth Program is very lucky to call Tom Reidy with Share Your Blessings one of those volunteers. Tom has come to STARS on a number of occasions to give the Youth Group a chance of a lifetime to play with an amazing "instrument" called "Beamz", which was donated to us by Share Your Blessings. This device is synced up to a computer and offers a wide range in song and instrument selection. The goal of the instrument is to trip one of four lasers coming out of the device that are each synced up to a different instrument and activate said instrument. As a track plays, the kids like to play a game where they take turns using different body parts (nose, foot, elbow, hand, etc.) to activate the lasers. They always have a tremendous time with Beamz and Tom. Unfortunately, some of the kids will never be able to learn how to actually play an instrument, but with Beamz, they've been closer than ever. Staff is always excited to hear when Tom is coming back because the kids enjoy their time with him so much.

Once again: Thank you Tom and Share Your Blessings!"
STARS Youth Team.



Did you know...

- Music triggers networks of neurons into organized movement. The part of the brain that processes movement also overlaps speech network. These two key elements help patients overcome the obstacles that most affect their basic motor skills, speech difficulties and the likes.
- Music is one of the few activities in life that utilizes the entire brain.
- Many studies have shown that integrating music into therapy yields much better results than toy play sessions alone.
- A study done by Aalborg University found “significant evidence supporting the value of music in promoting social, emotional and motivational development in children with autism.
- In an article posted by Jessica Ryan for *Accessibility*, a publication for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, three studies with participants ages 60 to 83 were cited regarding aging and music. Among other findings, these studies concluded that music brings joy to people with dementia and keeps them connected to their caregivers and other loved ones. As opposed to the people in the control group, the people exposed to music experienced benefits in mood, cognition, attention, and executive function. Singing also led to improvements in short-term and working memory, while music listening led to significantly higher quality of life.
- An article in the *Music Therapy Center of California*, focused on the needs assessment of individuals with Down Syndrome. They broke the assessment needs into Speech, Cognitive/Academic, Motor Skills and Social Needs. In short, all of these needs were addressed through various activities and music incorporation and found that music improved everything from word pronunciation to improvement of gross motor skills to a more positive self image in social situations.



Help Shape the Future

Share Your Blessings plans to continue and expand the Project Maestro program in 2017 and beyond by reaching out to additional geographies – specifically expanding our initial Arizona focus to New Mexico, Southern California, and Colorado where we have volunteers ready to help with outreach and support. You can help by:

- Donating funds at share-our-blessings.org/donate/
- Designating Share Your Blessings as a “Smile Amazon” recipient for all your Amazon Purchases (It’s easy—simply log into smile.amazon.com, under account information click on “Your AmazonSmile” and designate “Share Your Blessings Incorporated” as your recipient. We will then receive .5% of all your purchases as a donation at no cost to you. Thereafter you must log into Smile.amazon.com to make your Amazon purchases—everything else will be the same.)
- Suggesting, introducing, and/or referring other programs and worthy recipients to us

With each two-hundred dollars we receive we can purchase a Beamz Unit – generally allowing us to reach 10 to 50 individuals. And every dollar you donate will go 100% to programs and services that help the individuals and organizations we serve as we operate on a 100% volunteer basis except for a small overhead which is funded by our founding donors.

Helping Individuals With Special Needs