 ***Fort Dodge Community Foundation***

 ***and United Way***

 *Investing in our community, today, tomorrow … forever*

 ***Widening the Stage***

**Grant Application**

The Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way has established a fund to advance the love for, appreciation of and participation in music education and activities for students. Eligible students must show a financial need for assistance. This fund is designed to ensure opportunities for eligible students to enrich their educational environment through a variety of musical endeavors.

Grants will be used to help students participate in musical activities who may not otherwise have the opportunity due to the lack of personal financial resources. Music education encompasses the teaching of all things music-related to instrumental and voice instruction and participation.  Music education is important, as it can improve a student's academic abilities and social skills while cultivating a love and respect for music that can last a lifetime.

Grants for this fund will give students who have the aptitude and enthusiasm to pursue music education as a pathway to dreams.

The *Widening the Stage* fund offers grants to qualified students for the following opportunities:

* Assist the students in purchasing or leasing musical instruments
* Assist students in participating in music related extra-curricular events
* Assist students in attending summer music camps **if recommended or supported by their instructor**
* Assist student in attending music competitions

**Funding Process**

1. Grants will be available to elementary, middle and high school students who attend a public or parochial school in Webster County or the Manson/Northwest Webster school districts. No grant funds will be given directly to the student.
2. The Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way will determine the amount of funding available for each school based on a per-capita formula. A pre-determined level of funding will be provided to schoolsin Januaryof each year. The Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way will keep a financial record of all funding provided to each school
3. **Each School is Responsible for:**
4. *Determining which students are eligible for Widening the Stage grant assistance and the amount. A committee of instructors in the music departments at each school must be established to develop a process for selecting qualified students to receive financial support.*
5. *Communicating by letter or email with the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way to initiate a request for grant allocation. A liaison in the music departments of each school will be responsible for communicating with the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way and assisting in coordinating this grant process within their respective schools and departments*.
6. *Each schools is responsible for ensuring that the funds are used according to the protocols of this program and are appropriately meeting the needs of the selected students.*
7. Students must complete the Widening the Stage grant application and obtain the signature of his/her instructor on the application that verifies the student’s need and commitment to his/her musical education. This form will document the purpose and amount of each grant for every student selected for financial support
8. The Fort Dodge Community Foundation will review the application.
9. If approved, payment will be made directly to the institution that is providing the services, materials, classes, activity or musical instrument. Fort Dodge Community Foundation and Widening the Stage grant guidelines prevent these grant funds from being paid directly to the student or their family.

1. Grants can be used to help support individuals who demonstrate financial need to participate in a music organization’s trip but may not be used to support group trips, camps or other extra-curricular events for the school or music departments in general, or for a group of students. Grants must be directed toward helping individual students who qualify based on their financial need. For example, Widening the Stage Funds cannot be used to help pay for a band’s transportation or entry fee for an event, but may be used to help an individual student with his/her individually required fees or his/her share of the cost of participation in said event.

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Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name:

School: Grade:

Home Address: City: State: Zip:

Home Phone: Cell Phone:

Parent(s):

Home Phone: Cell Phone:

Music Instructor Signature (verifying need):

Total Amount of Funds Need for the Event or Opportunity:

Amount of the Grant Request: Amount you can Contribute:

My family’s annual income is

Name of siblings and their ages

Please describe how these Widening the Stage funds will be used by you in 200 words or less.

This grant application should be submitted electronically or by hard copy to:

Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way

24 North 9th Street, Suite B

Fort Dodge, IA 50501