



SHROPSHIRE MUSIC FOUNDATION

2017 Annual Report



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LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER



Dear Friends of the Shropshire Music Foundation!

I am extremely grateful for all of your support this past year. Your kindness, generosity, and knowledge of the incredible benefits music can provide for children are an inspiration to me.

The refugee crisis has reached a global scale and calls for action from people everywhere. Major multilateral organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Rescue Committee work around the clock to provide children food, shelter, and water; however, that is not sufficient for children to survive. Activities that promote the mental health and resilience of children (i.e. psychosocial support programs) are critical to their development while living in refugee camps. Shropshire Music Foundation (SMF) provides local children opportunities for education, trauma relief, expression, and creativity through music. Over the last twenty years I have witnessed these programs strengthen the mental fortitude and resilience of children who have witnessed war, death, and the destruction of their homes. I have dedicated my life to improving the lives of children affected by war and I could not do it without your help.

Greece

This year I focused heavily on our three SMF programs in Greece—two refugee camps and one international training course. These camps serve Yazidi, Syrian, Iraqi, Afghani, Kurdish, Sudanese, Eritrean and other refugees, many of whom have traveled hundreds of miles from their home countries to Turkey and on to Greece.

In the Serres Refugee Camp, serving Yazidi Refugees, I taught classes to children and trained six teenage Yazidi volunteers who then began teaching the children, both with me and on their own. Because of this, the SMF program can run year-round here. Thanks to so many generous donations, these SMF Youth Volunteer Teachers are equipped with SMF Mobile Teacher Kits containing everything they need to make a classroom, no matter the setting.

In the Nea Kavala Refugee Camp, located in Polykastro, I taught an evolving population of refugees from all over the world and trained one Syrian Refugee and one longterm volunteer, a School Teacher from Scotland, from the organization WE ARE HERE. By the end of the year, they were able to teach all classes without me and we are now supporting them with instruments, music, and training materials as they teach our music program in their camp.

I also taught a 20-hour intensive SMF teacher training course to 25 international volunteers and refugees working in Athens and the surrounding area. All participants received an SMF Mobile Teacher Kit to teach SMF music classes and Youth Volunteer Training courses in the Athens area.

Kosovo

I spent July in Kosovo where I was able to train 16 new Youth Volunteers and oversee classes in three schools and community centers. Our Kosovo Youth Volunteers are an amazing group of young people and teachers!

Uganda

Our Assistant International Program Director Burim Vraniqaj was set to travel to Uganda in 2017 but had some serious health issues so his trip is postponed until 2018. In the meantime, school teachers are continuing to teach SMF programs in Uganda.

SMF is built on the foundation that music classes and activities can give refugee children and teenagers a nonviolent outlet for anger, frustration, and mental distress. No matter where children are living in the world, they remain in need of care and stimulating activities as well as basic survival needs.

The SMF team and I appreciate you and your support more than we can express. Thank you so much for a strong year and we look forward to 2018!

Sincerely,

Liz Shropshire
Founder and President



TEACHING PEACE THROUGH MUSIC

Shropshire Music Foundation develops youth leadership and capacity for peacemaking and problem-solving in global conflict zones through locally-run, youth-led music education programs. These programs provide opportunities for education, trauma relief, expression, creativity, to become role models in their communities, and to reduce vulnerability to extremist group participation.



OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



What do we provide?

Support

Shropshire Music Foundation provides psychosocial support by creating a sense of community among children who are trying to make sense of chaotic and traumatic events. It prepares youth for life outside of the camp by teaching leadership and communication skills.

Relief

Parents find relief in Shropshire Music Foundation when they see their child smile again. It gives parents time to focus on survival while their children are taken care of.

Fun

Shropshire Music Foundation creates a safe space where kids are free to be kids! Refugee camps are often traumatic places to live, but we alleviate some of the trauma through opportunities to play, learn, and create.



Where are we now?



GREECE

Liz Shropshire most recently returned to the US from Greece in September. She focused her efforts on programs in northern Greece and on refugees who live on the island of Chios.

UGANDA

We are transitioning our program in Uganda to fulfill the role of supporting the local music teachers.



KOSOVO

(ORIGINAL PROGRAM)

The locally run SMF house in Gjakova, Kosovo continues to hold after-school and community music programs for all ages.



Income Statement

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Revenues and Support		
Contributions	\$ 93,157	\$ 99,896
Expenses		
Compensation of officers and directors	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,200
Taxes	\$ 735	\$ 2,484
Rents	\$ 3,675	\$ 3,900
Employee Benefits	-	\$ 12,985
Supplies	-	\$ 9,897
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,670	\$ 1,756
Postage and shipping	\$ 77	\$ 100
Travel	\$ 2,203	\$ 23,858
Bank charges/Exchange rate adjustments	\$ 658	\$ 1,450
Auto	-	\$ 1,047
Utilities	-	\$ 611
Outside Services	-	\$ 1,964
Printing and Publishing	-	\$ 2,590
Misc.	\$ 33,439	\$ 367
Total Expenses	\$72,457	\$ 93,209
Change in Net Assets	\$ 20,700	\$ 6,687
Net assets, beginning of the year	\$ 23,745	\$ 17,058
Net assets, end of the year	\$ 44,445	\$ 23,745



ROHINGYA CRISIS IN BANGLADESH

"OUR FUTURE HAS BEEN SPOILED, BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN?"

August 25, 2017 began one of the largest refugee crises of our time. After decades of discrimination and abuse, Rohingya militants attacked Myanmar police posts in the Rakhine state, provoking the military to destroy villages and rid the country of the Rohingya people.

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims fled to Bangladesh. It is estimated that around 900,000 Rohingya refugees currently dwell in camps in Bangladesh where water is scarce, space is limited, and threats are growing.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO HELP?



Shropshire Music Foundation was invited by Hope International to join a children's center in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Part of the center includes a school in which Shropshire Music Foundation will teach music programs.

We are on track to begin music programs in 2019!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate your practice time

Musicians and music students can get family, friends, and businesses to **sponsor their practice time** by pledging a fixed amount per minute of practice. Learn more [here](#).

Sign up with Amazon Smile

1. **Sign in** to your Amazon account on smile.amazon.com
2. Under your Account Settings select "Your Amazon Smile"
3. Search for and select Shropshire Music Foundation
4. **Start shopping!** Amazon Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Shropshire Music Foundation.

Share on social media

Follow us and share our stories on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.



THANK YOU...



...to everyone who donated to SMF in 2017. You make the music possible.

2017 Leadership Donors



\$10,000+

Jewish Communal Fund
Tenenblatt Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Andrew Dougherty
Calhoun Trust
Capital Group Corporation
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The Rallis Foundation



\$1,000-\$4,999

Andrew H. and Nicola Dougherty
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