

# 2017 Annual Report

Scaling Walls A Note At A Time



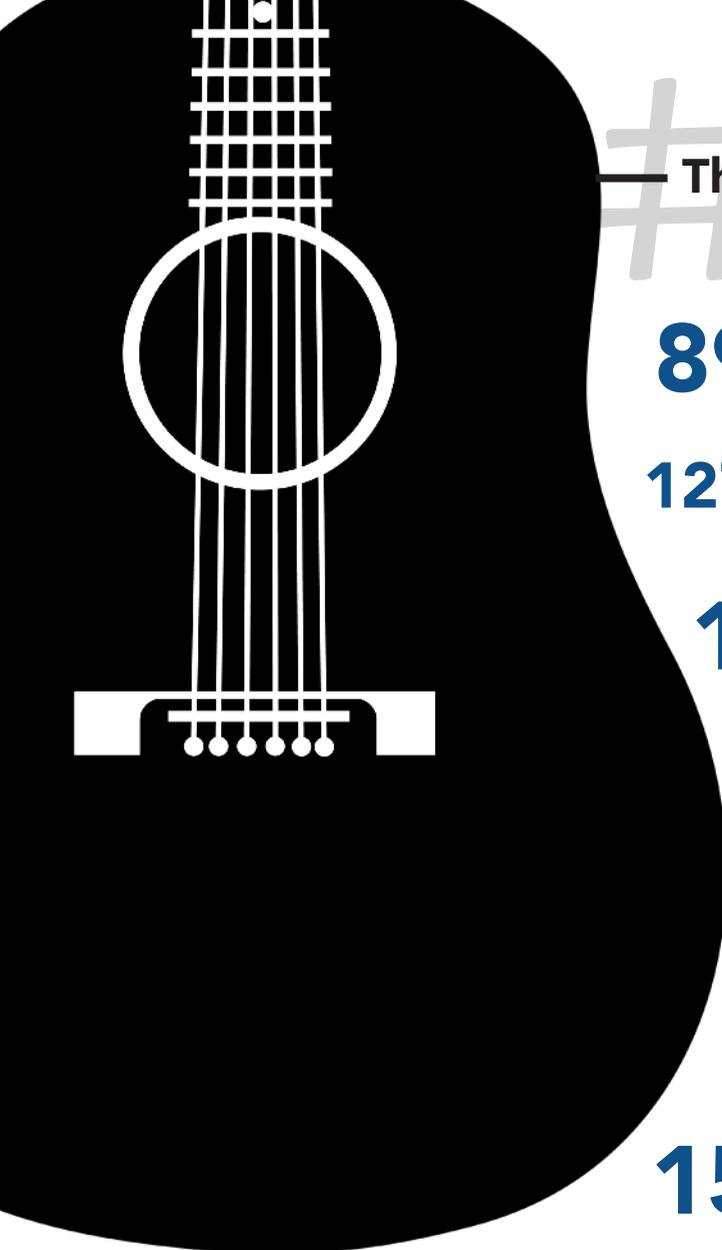
## Music Makes A Change

Confidence | Discipline | Teamwork



**Our Mission:** To be dedicated advocates for children affected by parental incarceration by providing life-changing intervention through music.

**Our Vision:** To give America's most vulnerable children hope and a life-changing experience thus improving their lives, our communities, economy, and culture.



## # The NUMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

**89** Children Served

**127** Music Lessons\*

**10** Schools & Centers

**4** Instruments Learned

**11** Performances

**7** Teachers

**150** Donors

*Music is transforming children's lives placing them on a course toward success.*

### Program Highlights

The year was marked by overall growth and development within the Lancaster community. The School District of Lancaster and the Youth Intervention Center regard SWAN as a critically needed intervention program. As partners, they have opened their doors and enrolled their students.

Performing is a very important aspect of our mission. Students have learned to perform in their school assemblies, for Music Friday's in Lancaster city, and for various private and community events.

\*group and private

“Since the SWAN program began, I have noticed an increase in student morale among those who are involved. The students are feeling a strong sense of connection to one another and to the school. Through drumming they are acquiring new skills that no one can take away from them.”

**Krystal Nemeth, Assistant Principal**



“I love drumming class because I enjoy being part of a team. It sounds really cool when we work together.” **Lilly, Student**

Since joining SWAN, he has really come out of his shell. He’s becoming more social in school and responsible at home. **Melonia Bond, Parent**



“Thank you for providing music lessons. Music makes me happy!”

**Jayden, Student**

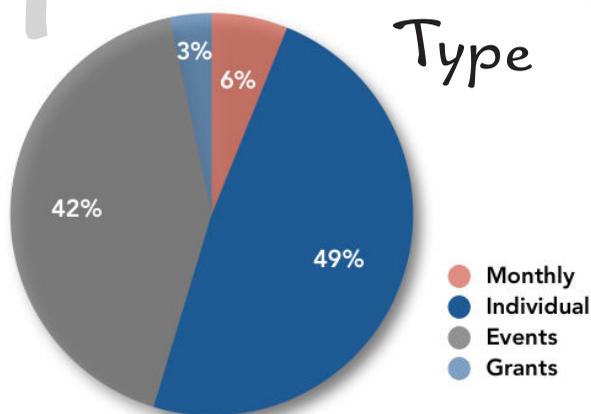
“As his involvement with music has deepened, my grandson’s outbursts have lessened and he has become more sociable. He has channeled his energy into music. He is able to take less medication and he’s talking more at home and in school.”

**Edna H., Grandmother**



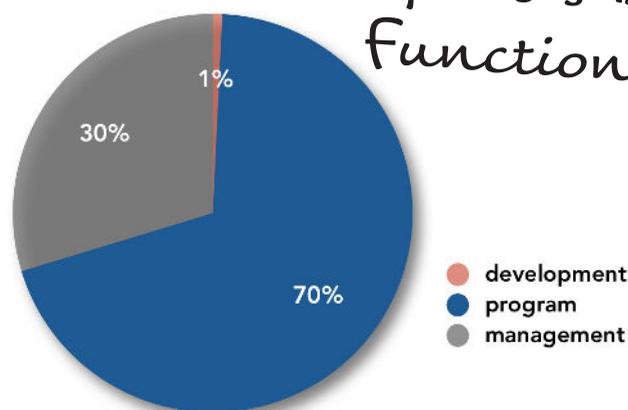
## More NUMBERS:

### Income by Type



**Total \$62,994**

### Expenses by Function



**Total \$59,114**

\*Our complete financial statement and independent report can be found at <http://www.swan4kids.org/about/>

## EVENT Highlights:

### Picnic & Performance

Donors, friends, volunteers, students, and staff had a blast at our first annual picnic & performance. It was a perfect evening to come together as a community and catch up with old friends, meet new ones, learn about the program, hear our students perform, and enjoy delicious food.

A special thank you to our volunteers who prepped, grilled, transported students, documented the event and entertained us. We could not have pulled it off without you!



# Gala & Extraordinary Give

Within days, our supporters, volunteers, and staff raised over \$20,000 during our 2nd annual "Make An Extraordinary Difference Gala" and Lancaster's "Extraordinary Give".

We were honored to have Jeremy and Jinger (Duggar) Vuolo attend the Gala. They interacted with our students and guests. Jinger provided piano accompaniment for a student's performance. Dr. Rau, SDoL Superintendent, was our keynote speaker and had an inspiring message to share.

SWAN student, Bryanna, poignantly told her story, sang and expressed her desire to represent children of incarcerated parents. She has a passion to tell their stories and to bring their needs to the attention of the Lancaster community.

This was our students' first performance of the school year. They did an amazing job!



## Board of Directors

Executive Director: Diana Vuolo  
Chairman of the Board: Sianna McKinley  
Vice Chair: Myrna Stoltzfus  
Secretary: Nicole Amspacher  
Treasurer: Nathan Amspacher  
Director: Steven Wolgemuth

## Business Sponsors

YDOP  
Superior Walls of America, LTD  
Kingdom Livestock Transport LLC  
Convergent Sourcing  
School District Of Lancaster  
Turkey Hill Inc.  
Shady Maple  
JayBirdMedia  
Simply Events Inc.

## — What's NEXT: —

---

If you are reading this note then you have likely been one of our students' silent heroes! Your support of SWAN has touched vulnerable children's lives giving them life-changing and empowering skills. We value your contributions and extend to you our deepest gratitude. When you change one child's trajectory in life you change the trajectory of generations!

What could be better than that? Dream with me for a moment. Can we serve more than 200 children in 2018?

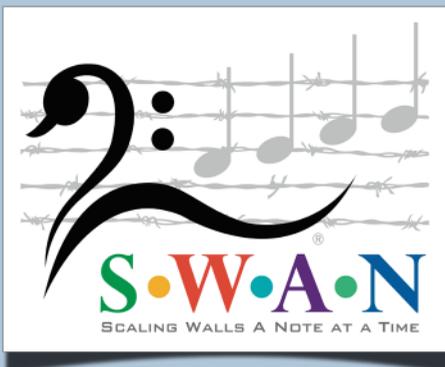
On any given day in Lancaster, it is estimated that 4,000 children have a parent in prison. Sadly, when a parent goes to prison, their children often suffer physically, mentally and emotionally. They may experience the trauma of separation and abandonment, as well as homelessness, and continued or deepening poverty. This often results in behavioral issues and substandard academic performance.

SWAN was founded seven years ago to help these children scale those walls! Why music? There is clear evidence of the beneficial effects of music education on academics, from improving cognitive and non-cognitive skills to boosting focus and IQ. It also helps children emotionally, physically and socially.

We are grateful that in 2017 our music program expanded from serving 24 students in 4 schools/centers to serving 89 in 10 locations. We can celebrate what we have done but let's press on to fulfill our dreams of serving more children so that their wildest dreams can come true. Our goal in 2018 is to continue increasing enrollment and to run our first summer music camp. To fulfill this plan we'll need more teachers, volunteers and a program management system that will more effectively handle this growth.

How can you help? Each of us has friends, family, colleagues and business partners. There could be hundreds in our network that know nothing about SWAN's noble mission. In order for us to change the trajectory of hundreds of children's lives, we need our networks to know and support SWAN. Will you please consider inviting your friends to our upcoming events and introducing them to SWAN? Try telling as many as you can about the mission you so passionately support. If each of us recruits just one more SWAN supporter then 100 more children can be served! In that way, our dreams and, most importantly, their dreams, can come true.

Diana Vuolo  
Founder, Executive Director



SWAN: Scaling Walls A Note At A Time  
PO Box 249  
Lyndell, PA, 19354  
info@swan4kids.org

**[www.SWAN4kids.org](http://www.SWAN4kids.org)**