

2025 Annual Report

Scaling Walls A Note At A Time



**Give Music
Empower Dreams**

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.

A Note From The Executive Director

Renewal, Growth, and a Community That Stepped Forward

2025 was a year of significant change, focused development, and renewed community support for SWAN.

The year concluded with encouraging momentum that allows us to continue being a life-changing presence for children facing profound adversity.

As always, at the heart of SWAN's work are children whose courage, stories, and growth continue to remind us why this mission matters.

Change

After successfully demonstrating the effectiveness of our Rising Stars model of integrating trauma-informed mental-health support, Bible instruction, private and group music lessons, and performance opportunities, SWAN experienced the loss of several major funding sources. These changes were due to reductions in federal allowances tied to Senator Fetterman and the conclusion of a School District of Lancaster contract that supported mental health professionals in our program.

Strengthening Our Foundation

In response, SWAN entered a season of strategic focus and refinement. Through wise counsel and careful evaluation, we concentrated on strengthening development and long-term sustainability, positioning the organization for a healthier financial footing and future growth.

Community Support

Our community responded with extraordinary generosity. Volunteers stepped forward wherever help was needed. Teachers reduced their pay or donated their services to ensure students continued receiving care. Donors, Rotarians, business owners, churches, and educators increased their support and encouraged others to become involved. Their commitment ensured stability and consistency for our students during a challenging season.

Impact

Although programming was temporarily reduced in 2025, the impact on students remained profound. Children healing from trauma learned to regulate their emotions, build confidence, and support one another through trauma-informed music instruction and performance. We observed students who had previously been withdrawn begin to engage, communicate, and mentor younger peers, providing clear evidence of transformation and hope.

Looking Ahead

We enter 2026 with renewed optimism and gratitude, made possible by our donors and community supporters. Expanded private lessons began in January, with additional lesson times added to our schedule. Planning is underway for our five-week, full-day summer music program. As you read this report, celebrate with us that SWAN is recovering financially after a challenging 2024. We invite you to join us on July 22 at The Farm at Eagles Ridge as we celebrate our students' accomplishments.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Diana Vuolo

Founder, Executive Director

Your partnership allows SWAN to deliver measurable, trauma-informed outcomes to children facing complex challenges. We are deeply grateful for your alignment with a mission that reflects James 1:27, providing care that restores stability, opportunity, and hope to vulnerable children.



The NUMBERS:

72 Children Served

- 20** Attended Rising Stars After-School
- 22** Given Additional Private Lessons
- 70** Attended Therapeutic Drumming Sessions
- 8** Returned for year **3**
- 7** Returned for year **5**
From **8** Schools in **2** Districts

410 Music Lessons

- 378** Given in Spring & Fall
- 32** Given in Summer
- 13** Therapeutic Drumming Sessions
At **1** School and **3** Music Studios

21 Performances

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

Program Highlights

Through our partnership with the School District of Lancaster, SWAN provided 410 music lessons to 22 students. Twenty students received both private and group instruction, supporting individualized growth alongside ensemble learning. During the spring and fall, Rising Stars students also participated in art, Bible, and social-emotional classes, with access to licensed mental health counselors for additional support. Throughout the summer, three students continued their musical development through private lessons.

Over the course of the year, students showcased their progress in 21 community performances, strengthening confidence and engaging the broader community through music.



Program Highlights Continued

SWAN's collaboration with the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra (LSO) provided 14 students the opportunity to participate in the Next Level Musicians Program. Additionally, 60 students, family members, and staff attended the LSO performance of *Cirque de la Symphonie*. Through our partnership with Sight & Sound Theatres, another 60 students, family members, and staff experienced the live theatrical production *Noah*, expanding access to high-quality artistic experiences.

A new Therapeutic Drumming initiative, funded by a grant from the Reese Foundation, launched this year in collaboration with Music For Everyone. Therapeutic drumming principles are used to support self-regulation among students, their families, and School District of Lancaster staff. Thirty-three district teachers, social workers, guidance counselors, community school directors, deans, and truancy officers participated in Part 1 of a two-part interactive seminar; five completed Part 2, with additional participants scheduled for 2026. Participants have begun incorporating therapeutic drumming practices in their work, including one instance in which three trained staff members facilitated sessions for 50 district students. SWAN's Rising Stars staff also conducted 12 therapeutic drumming sessions for students, including one session that engaged family members.

“It felt good and made me happy to perform for them as a thank you.”

Daizelyn, Student



“I enjoy the music lessons because I get to play an instrument and I am getting better at reading the music notes!”

Lily, Student



“I like every single class at Rising Stars, and I feel like I belong here.”

JD, Student

“Thank you, Sight and Sound, for providing an opportunity for my girls and me to see Noah. This wasn't just an experience; it was a memory we'll cherish. While this year hasn't been easy, we can now look back at something truly positive.” **Jasmine, Parent**



“I am learning to work with others and be a leader.” **Hunter, Student**

“I enjoy my work with SWAN because it makes a difference! The gifted team at Rising Stars are flexible, patient and insightful, thus, the students feel safe and eager to learn in this loving atmosphere.

Through conversations with students and their guardians I am reassured that these deepening relationships of trust are impacting each life through music, mentoring and the Bible.”

Janet Rawleigh, Rising Stars Program Director



“That’s the instrument I play!” **JD, Student**



LSO’s Cirque de la Symphonie
“I loved how the music was perfectly timed with the acrobats!” **Chanric, Student**



Noah at Sight & Sound Theatres
“One of my favorite parts was the promise with the rainbow, wow, so powerful!” **Parent**

Sisters posing with a photo of their first performance with SWAN in the summer of 2019.

Therapeutic Drumming Program

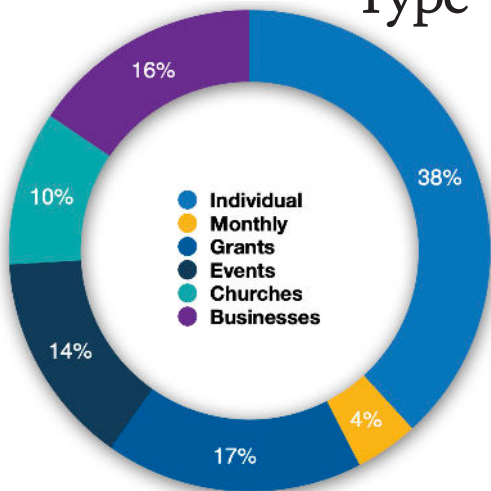
Beyond the immediate training, the broader purpose of this collaboration is to help more children and families experience the therapeutic benefits of music while deepening relationships between SWAN, MFE, and SDoL staff. Together, we’re cultivating meaningful connections that can lead to student referrals, expanded programming, and a wider circle of hope and healing.





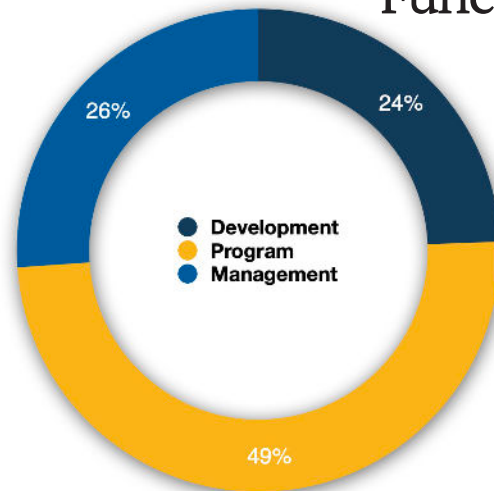
More NUMBERS:

Income by Type



Total \$387,629.99

Expenses by Function



Total \$209,898.61

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

EVENT Highlights:

Summer Celebration

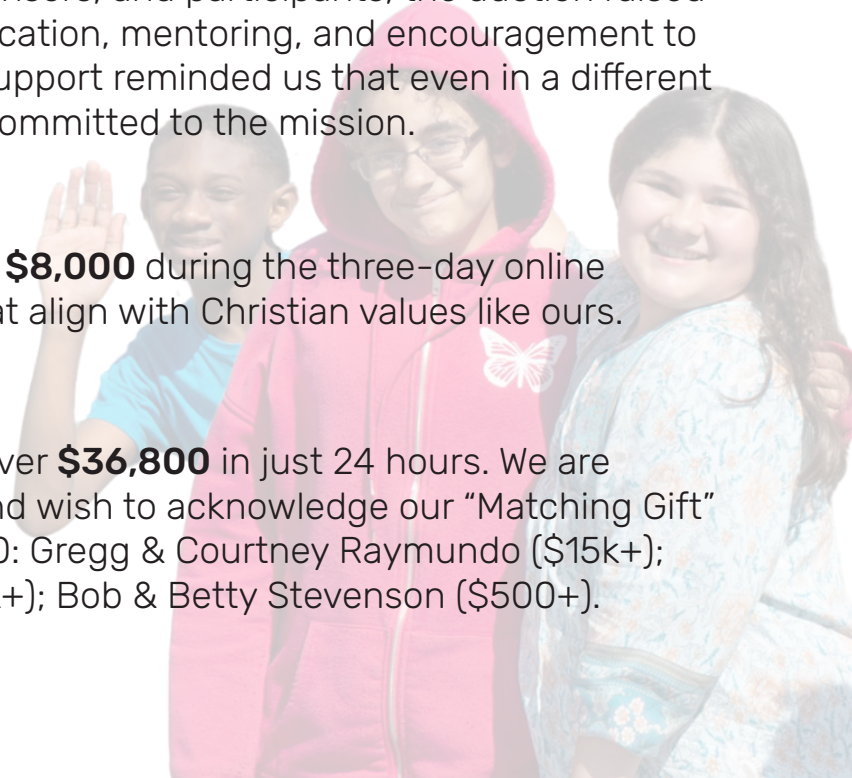
Despite not being able to hold our traditional summer dinner and student performance, we celebrated strong community support through our online Silent Auction. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and participants, the auction raised **\$6,580** to continue providing music education, mentoring, and encouragement to the children we serve. This meaningful support reminded us that even in a different format, our community remains deeply committed to the mission.

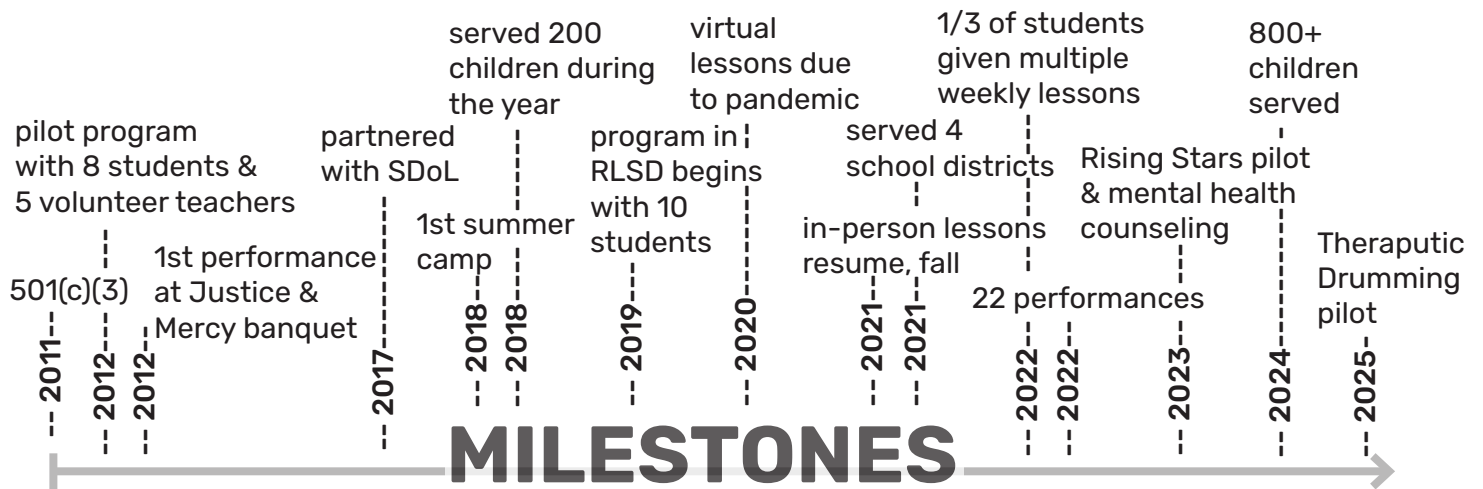
FaithfulGive

Thanks to our supporters, we raised over **\$8,000** during the three-day online FaithfulGive event supporting causes that align with Christian values like ours.

ExtraGive

Thanks to our supporters, SWAN raised over **\$36,800** in just 24 hours. We are immensely grateful for every donation and wish to acknowledge our "Matching Gift" donors who together contributed \$17,500: Gregg & Courtney Raymundo (\$15k+); Chris Altrichter, Dan & Sandy Brooks (\$1k+); Bob & Betty Stevenson (\$500+).





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Grants

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Kenneth Bankert Foundation Inc.

LCBC Church
Rutter's Children's Charities, Inc.
Shady Maple Foundation
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September Farms
Sight & Sound Ministries, Inc
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Sound of Roses Big Band

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Women's Symphony Association
of Lancaster
WTM Digital



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