



Redding Piano Angels

Notable News

July 2013

PIANO UPDATE

Since 2010, we have assisted 36 families in the acquisition of an acoustic piano!

Value \$30,300



"We would like to award this piano to Jake Standifer," said Judge Dr. Bowman.

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REDDING PIANO ANGELS

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation devoted to connecting young piano students with acoustic pianos.
Tax ID #45-2909787

CONGRATULATIONS to Jake!

News Release

STUDENT WINS ACOUSTIC PIANO AT REDDING PIANO ANGELS FIRST COMPETITION

Redding, CA – *"We would like to award this piano to Jake Standifer,"* said Judge Dr. Robert Bowman, at Redding Piano Angel's (RPA) first piano competition! Judge Ellen Southard stated, *"Astounding development in a brief year of lessons,"* and Judge Dr. Robert Bowman said, *"Excellent dynamics!"*

Saturday, April 27, at 6:00 pm, RPA's first piano competition was held at The Music Connection in Redding. Local piano students competed and judges were Zonia Warchala, B.M., Ellen Southard, M.S., and Robert Bowman, D.M.A.

"Our piano competition was unique," said RPA's President Frank J. Strazzarino, Jr., *"The winning prize was much more than a plaque, trophy or ribbon, it was a beautiful 48" Yamaha upright piano!"*

Judging criteria was based on 40% talent (performance and presentation), 40% financial need, and 20% commitment (family and student). Winning student, Jake Standifer, performed Mozart's Rondo Alla Turca, Chopin's Waltz in A minor, and Paderewski's Menuet. *"Jake is an extremely gifted student!"* said Conica Patnaik, Jake's piano teacher.

Jake's brothers, parents and grandparents were thrilled when Jake's name was announced. After the competition, Jake performed several songs on his new piano for his family.

Letter from Jake Standifer to Competition Committee Age 13

I started playing the piano at my Grandpa's house on his keyboard in November 2011. I taught myself and, in a couple of months, I played The Maple Leaf Rag by Scott Joplin in my school talent show. After that, my family and friends said I should start taking piano lessons. I started taking lessons from Mrs. Patnaik in April 2012.

At first, I liked piano lessons, and then I didn't like them because I thought they were a little easy. Then Mrs. Patnaik showed me some cool, complex, difficult pieces and lessons got interesting and fun. I love going to my lessons now.

Of the instruments I play, the piano is the most fun. I think piano also helps you understand other instruments. Piano pieces are more complex and proper. I really like being challenged. I don't really know what I want to do, yet. I just know that I want to advance in my knowledge and ability in piano. It is fun and I really like it.



After the competition, Jake Standifer plays his NEW piano for his family!



“... our winning student was suburb!”

Our Mission is to assist piano students in the acquisition of an acoustic piano.

Our Vision is to create opportunities for piano students to enhance their skills and musicianship.

Our Purpose is to acquire used pianos for student use.

We are Redding area residents who believe students deserve to have a functional piano in order to advance their skills.

We identify and acquire pianos that are suitable for student and family use, resulting in placement with qualifying individuals.

Our love for piano music is the foundation for our commitment to its promotion.

PRESIDENT

Frank J. Strazzarino, Jr.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tienne Beaulieu
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Project Manager

President’s Corner

Frank J. Strazzarino, Jr.

I am pleased to write this second President’s message. So many organizations issue a newsletter and are never heard from again. Thanks to our recent flurry of activities, we’ve been anxious to **share a few of our success stories.**

Our **First Piano Competition**, which you are reading about in this issue, was highly successful and our **winning student, Jake, was superb!** There was a room full of interested teachers, partners and generous donors.

We have now **assisted our 36th family** in the acquisition of an acoustic piano!

We recently gained possession of 4 additional pianos, and hope to provide them a home, which will bring us to 40 families assisted, then 50, which is halfway to our **“someday goal” of 100!** Every time we place a piano with a student is exciting, for them and for us.

Each match is a little different, and we are always learning. This need arose after the closure of Redding’s last piano store approximately three years ago, so we are doing our best to **close the gap between talented students and very weak instruments.** Our student testimonials give us the assurance that we are, in fact, **making a difference.**

What’s in store for our future? More pianos, our second piano competition and some creative, yet still secretive, programs to promote the playing of acoustic pianos in our area. We are looking forward to **revealing that secret to you** in the future ...

Funding is always a challenge in running any nonprofit, and we are not immune. We have had marginal success with our grant applications, but we plan to continue. We are fortunate to have some generous donors, although we could certainly use additional funds. Please consider making a deductible **donation to help provide pianos** to our local talented students.

As always, I am grateful for the hard work of our volunteer board members and the dedication of others who help us move forward. Together we enjoy this amazing opportunity to touch some very talented local young pianists!



Judge Dr. Robert Bowman congratulates Jake Standifer on winning the competition piano!

In The News

NEWS RELEASE June 2013

The Redding Rancheria Community Fund, a fund of the Shasta Regional Community Foundation, announces grant awards of \$94,000 to 21 local organizations in Shasta and Trinity Counties. **Redding Piano Angels is awarded \$2,500 for the purchase of pianos.**



May 2013 - by Carolyn Warnemunde

View the entire article at <http://northstateparent.com/category/featured/page/2>

Be The Change: Frank Strazzarino – Giving the Gift of Music

Frank Strazzarino, founder and president of Redding Piano Angels and CEO of the Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce, believes that all children should have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. His love for piano music served as the inspiration for starting Piano Angels in 2011.

When Redding’s last retail piano store, Piano Works, closed its doors, Frank recognized a need in the community for a place for young families to purchase a piano so their children could enhance their skills, musicianship, and enjoyment of music on the real instrument instead of a keyboard. Thus, Redding Piano Angels, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was born.

As well as providing assistance with piano purchases for qualifying families, Piano Angels offers a sheet music library, piano and keyboard lending programs, piano-lesson scholarships, zero-interest short-term loans, and group and competitive performance opportunities.

Jennifer Dugan’s family is the recipient of a piano offered through Piano Angels. She learned about the organization from Zonia Warchala, her daughter Ellie’s piano teacher. As Ellie grew in musicianship, the keyboard she practiced on could no longer produce the quality of music she wanted or needed. Jennifer explains that they went through the research of trying to find a used piano, and discovered how difficult it was to know many pianos were very expensive, and we didn’t know what we might be getting.”

(continued online <http://northstateparent.com/category/featured/page/2>)



April 2013

Providing Keys to Music, by Adam Mankoski (portions of the article)

Ellie Andrews wanted to take piano lessons for a year, so her mother, Jennifer Dugan, finally borrowed a friend’s keyboard. “I figured it would be better than nothing,” she said, but soon learned that the keyboard wouldn’t suffice. “The very first thing she was supposed to practice was the difference between soft and loud,” Dugan said. “Our nifty little keyboard did not provide that option”. ... “The qualities of an acoustic piano, including the range of volume and tone, resonate amplification from vibrating strings, and subtleties in

pedaling, can never be replicated on an electronic instrument,” said Frank Strazzarino, Redding Piano Angels President. Piano Angels found Ellie the perfect piano, at no cost to Ellie’s family. ... “I was very touched by their desire to help connect children with the opportunity to learn and explore on acoustic pianos.” ... Dugan thinks that “Piano Angels is the perfect name for this lovely organization. We have surely been blessed by the passionate, selfless, generous acts of all those who work to make it happen.”



SPECIAL THANKS!

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DONATIONS

Make check payable to:
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2440 Pinion Court
Redding CA 96002

In The News (cont.)

andersonvalleypost.com May 2013

Happy Valley Boy Wins Piano in Contest

by Maghan Hunt

According to Frank Strazzarino, Jr., president of the Piano Angels, the piano contest offered by his organization is unique in the fact that the winner receives a piano. While this is the first contest the group has held, it won't be the last.

Jake Standifer, 13, of Happy Valley was the winner of the 48-inch Yamaha upright piano.

"I had to write a letter about my interest and commitment, then my parents had to write a letter showing need, and my (piano) teacher wrote a letter too," said Standifer. "I also submitted an audio piece as well."

There were six contestants total and each prepared three pieces to play for the judges, he added.

"They (Piano Angels) were hoping to have at least 15 kids enter and then do three rounds where they eliminated five in each round, before announcing the winner in the final round, but it didn't work out that way," Standifer stated.

Instead, all six contestants took turns playing the three pieces of music they had prepared. In between the pieces, judges would ask contestants different questions, like why they chose a piece, he explained.

According to a press release, "Judging criteria was based on 40 percent talent (performance and presentation), 40 percent financial need, and 20 percent commitment (family and student)."

Standifer, performed Mozart's Rondo Alla Turca, Chopin's Waltz in A minor, and Paderewski's Menuet. "Jake is an extremely gifted student!" said Conica Patnaik, Jake's piano teacher.

"I started playing the piano at my grandpa's house on his keyboard in November 2011," said Standifer. "I taught myself, and in a couple of months, I played The Maple Leaf Rag by Scott Joplin in my school talent show."

With encouragement from family and friends, Standifer soon started talking piano lessons from Conica Patnaik. Aside from the piano, Standifer also plays the guitar.

Teacher's Corner

I still love teaching children how to play the piano after 39 years! My personal passion has always been music, and the piano was the instrument I learned to express that passion. I know the kind of soul stirring moments that can transport a child out of everyday mind into their very being because that's what I was able to experience growing up, and still experience as an older person.

As a teacher, I've studied and know the scientific research that has been done regarding playing the piano and superior brain development. Students of the piano statistically excel in school. This is due to the many levels of brain activity needed to use eyes, ears, hands, feet, emotions and creativity in concert (no pun intended!). All those neurons firing together increases intelligence across the board. Well, it's really a no-brainer as I see it. Whether a child goes on to become a performing musician or not, the years of playing piano will create dividends throughout their lifetime.

As a Piano Angel, I also know the need for a student to be practicing on an instrument worthy of their talent and accomplishment. That is why I'm dedicated to seeing students move up from keyboards and sub-standard pianos so that they can express all the beauty and emotion they possess.

A grateful "thank you" to all the donors and friends of Piano Angels that have helped us reach, at present, 36 placements of good practice pianos with students who need them. And thank you to the many area teachers who have introduced us to those students!

Tienne Beaulieu

What They Are Saying

"Just wanted to send you a note to let you know how much we've been enjoying our new piano! Both my girls have really taken to their piano lessons and I just know we will enjoy it for years to come."

Thank you again for making it possible for our family (and affordable) to make it all happen! We truly could not have done it without your help!

With heartfelt appreciation, " from a parent



Teacher Profile

Zonia Warchala, B.M., studied at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point graduating with an emphasis in instrumental music and piano pedagogy. She did her graduate studies at UW - Eau Claire studying with Penelope Cechinni. She taught piano and was staff accompanist at the UW-Stout. Music Department and developed their first group piano classes.

Zonia has been teaching piano and accompanying for over 30 years. She has been the piano accompanist for Shasta High School choirs and musicals, Sequoia Middle School and Redding Christian School musicals.

She loves teaching and has great fun with young and old. She believes good fundamentals are important for beginners and having an acoustic instrument to practice and develop the proper skills and technique to make beautiful music.

Currently Zonia is teaching privately, accompanying, and will be a summer pianist for Pilgrim Church services.

She is an avid supporter of Piano Angels. They have helped 6 of her students purchase pianos. All of them had very cheap keyboards - some with no pedals. Thank you Piano Angels!!



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VISIT

www.reddingpianoangels.com
to view:

- RPA brochure
- piano acceptance policy
- piano request form

*Your tax deductible
contributions are
always welcome!*



"All right, Billy, until your 'staccato' touch improves, we'll be having our piano lessons here at the stove."

Who won our First
Piano Competition
and awarded the
48" Yamaha
upright?

*See inside for
all the details!*

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www.reddingpianoconnection.com

5 BENEFITS OF PIANO LESSONS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

1. The ability to handle pressures in life
2. The ability to respond to criticism
3. The ability to cope with victory as well as setbacks
4. The value of hard work and perseverance in long term goals
5. To get accustomed to the feeling of achievement