

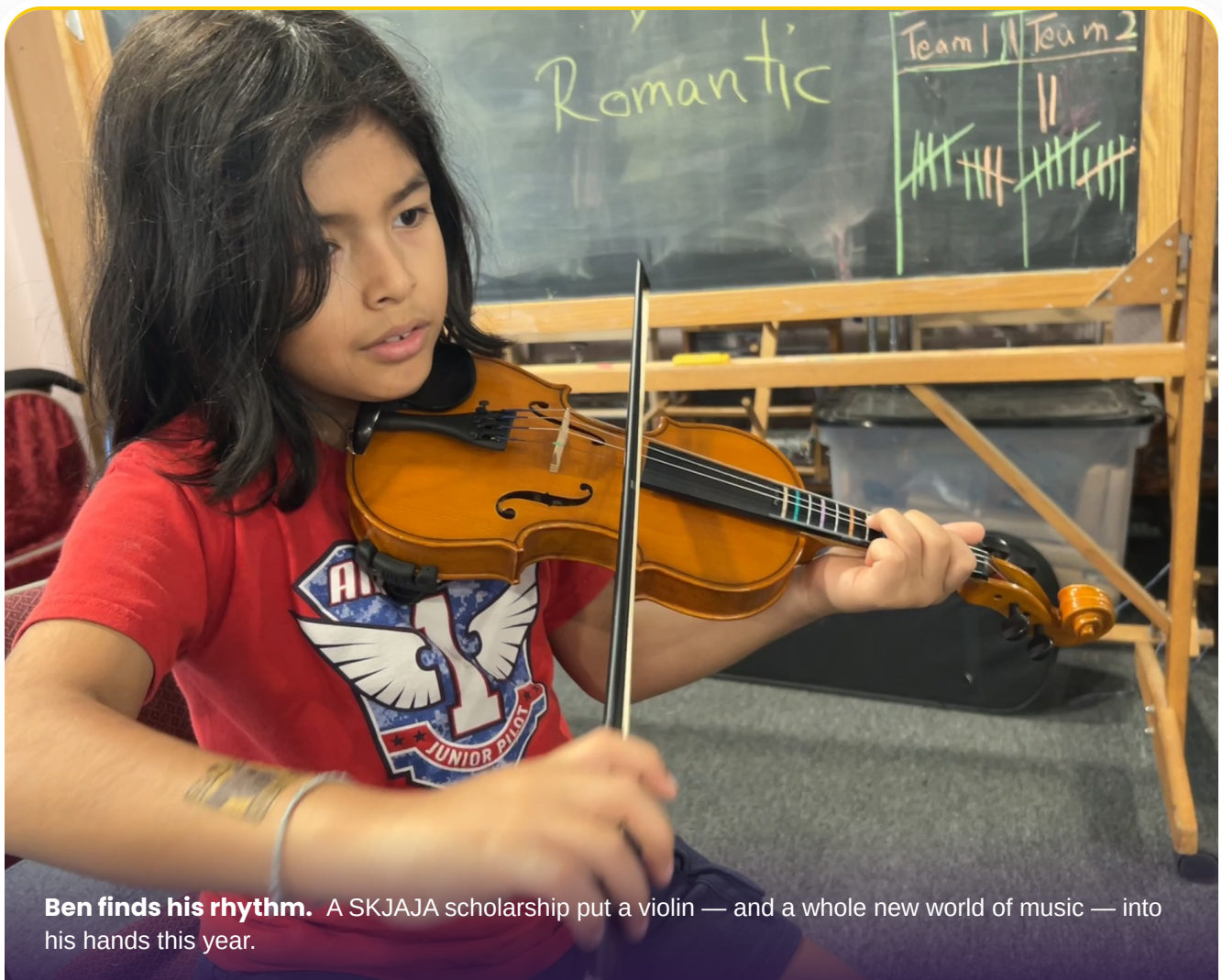


ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of Resilience

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Leveling the Playing Field



Ben finds his rhythm. A SKJAJA scholarship put a violin — and a whole new world of music — into his hands this year.

FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

A Letter to Our Community

Dear Friends of SKJAJA,

When we look back on this year — July 2025 through June 2026 — the word that stays with us is **resilience**.

By almost every measure, it was one of the hardest years our organization and our community have weathered. Funding was stretched thinner than it has ever been. The needs of local families grew, resources tightened, and we were asked, again and again, to do more with less. We felt the weight of real loss, too. We said goodbye to our dear friend and champion Barbara Jessie-Black, whose belief in this community left a mark that will outlast all of us. We navigated the sale and rebranding of the Youthworx space that had been a home for so much of our work, and the hard reshuffling of people and resources that came with it. One of us — our beloved Ann — lived through a life-changing accident and a long road back. And across our community, many of the very families we serve spent the year carrying a quiet, heavy uncertainty, unsure some days whether it was safe to gather, to send their kids to practice, to simply move through their own neighborhoods. Children feel that fear too, and we felt it alongside them.

And yet.

This was also a year that showed us exactly who we are. When resources ran short, this community showed up. We came together for two unforgettable concerts at Yonder. We stood proudly as gold-level sponsors of the Mildred Council Community Dinner, celebrating a legacy of feeding and lifting one another. A \$2,500 grant from WCPE, The Classical Station, kept our PLAY It Forward program in tune — helping us place 36 refurbished instruments, valued at more than \$10,000, into the hands of young musicians. In the closing months of the year, a handful of new foundation and community partnerships emerged just when we needed them most — a hopeful light, even as we enter the year ahead clear-eyed about how steep the road still is. Through every setback, our board, our volunteers, and our families kept choosing one another — professionally and personally — refusing to let a hard year become a lost one.

That is the truest measure of SKJAJA. Not that the water always runs high, but that when it runs low, we dig deeper together so that no child is left without a chance to discover what lights them up.

To every donor, volunteer, partner, and friend who held the line with us this year: thank you. You didn't just help us survive a difficult season — you helped us prove, once more, that when this community leans in, **every kid gets to play**.

Charles de Bose & Ann Daaleman

Co-Chairs, SKJAJA Fund

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

Every Dollar, Working Twice as Hard

THE SKJAJA MULTIPLIER

For every **\$1** given, SKJAJA delivered **\$2+** in opportunity.

Partner discounts and layered community resources stretch every gift, turning direct funding into far greater real-world value for kids.

150+

students given a chance to play, create & grow

\$25,000+

in scholarships & instruments, direct to kids

\$50,000+

in total community impact delivered

That's roughly **\$330 in real enrichment value for every child** we served this year — because your gift is multiplied by the generosity of our partners. We invested **\$25,000+** directly; our community matched it with discounts, donated instruments, and shared resources to reach **\$50,000+ in total value**.

What Your Support Made Possible

Violin lessons

Piano lessons

Art classes

Summer camps

Basketball

Swim lessons

Soccer

Ballet

Volleyball

Choir

Coding

Martial arts

Performing arts

Outdoor education

Donated instruments

"Every kid deserves to discover their passions."

The belief that has guided SKJAJA since 2008 — and carried us through this year.

HOW WE CAME TOGETHER

Resilience, in Action

Two Nights at Yonder

Two unforgettable benefit concerts brought neighbors together and music to the cause — proof that this community shows up when it matters.

Mildred Council Community Dinner

We were proud gold-level sponsors, honoring a legacy of feeding and lifting one another right here at home.

A Silent Auction to Remember

Wonderful community members donated items to bid on and rallied around our kids. We are endlessly grateful for every hand that gave.

The Big Instrument Move

Volunteers turned out in force to move our donated instruments from Ann's home into office storage — a full day of heart, muscle, and teamwork.

A Brand-New Website

An amazing web agency volunteered their talents to build us a beautiful new home online — pro bono, start to finish.

New Partnerships Take Root

Fresh foundation and community partnerships emerged in the year's final stretch, offering hopeful momentum for what comes next.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

A Lean Year, Honestly Told

~\$60,000

Total raised

~\$55,000

Put to work for kids, programs & operations

~\$5,000

Carried forward into next year

Figures are approximate, reflecting a volunteer-driven organization. In our hardest year, we still ended in the black.

Thank You for Holding the Line

This was a year that tested us — and you met it with us at every turn. Because of your generosity, **150+ children** spent this year making music, playing sports, creating art, and discovering what lights them up.

The road ahead is still steep, and we won't pretend otherwise. But if this year taught us anything, it's that when this community leans in, **every kid gets to play**. Will you stand with us again for the year to come?