

DONOR STORIES

CENTER CITY ARTS “Center City Arts Fund”

The Center City Arts Fund was established in 1996 to provide financial support with cultural opportunities for Waterloo/Cedar Falls inner city youth. Grants from this fund support Music Works, a program associated with the University of Northern Iowa Music Education Department, which allows children in need of financial assistance an opportunity they might not have otherwise had to participate in musical activities.

The Center City Arts Fund has provided opportunities that have exceeded expectations

Academic research has shown that children who participate in musical activities perform much better academically and instructors with Music Works often comment on the growth in confidence and self-esteem in students from the time of their first lesson to their first recital. The Center City Arts Fund has been successful in providing support for a very diverse level of participation, including a number of African American and Bosnian students. Some former students of the program have built upon their experiences and have created a future of music.

The Center City Arts Fund has provided opportunities that have exceeded expectations. Over the years, each student participates in individual as well as group lessons each week. The students also participate in an average of eight special events such as concerts, outreach and performances during the year. The music students are great recruiters for future students especially when performing on special events!

The Center City Arts Fund was established at the Community Foundation of Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Northeast Iowa as a way to collect contributions for those interested in supporting students in their pursuit of a musical experience.

*Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.