

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association Hoover Uncommon Student Award Application

First Name: Quinn

Last Name: Wilson

Project Proposal Title: An Instrument in Every Hand

Give a brief, clear statement of project and its goals. My project consists of the creation of an organization in which unwanted instruments are donated to and then redistributed to students who would otherwise be unable to participate in musical activities. The organization would be comprised of several primary drop off stations for the instruments, each one with capable and willing volunteers to mend and refurbish instruments. The drop off stations would be existing music stores open to participating. Based off of Herbert Hoover's campaign slogan of "a chicken in every pot, a car in every back yard," I have decided to entitle the project An Instrument in Every Hand.

Benefits or importance of project (Why do you want to do this project?) Music has always been a massive part of my life and an influence on my decisions. A large portion of the activities I am involved in today revolve around music. They include learning to play multiple instruments, participating in my church's praise team as drummer, partaking in drum line and playing drums for two of Ankeny High School's show choirs. In my efforts to share my knowledge and love of music, I also teach drum lessons at a local music store. After becoming familiar with the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student award, I saw it as the perfect opportunity to help my community. It also represented an ideal method of helping others in an area that I am passionate about. For much of my time as a musician, from playing piano to trombone to drums, I have wondered if there were students with musical talent that would remain undiscovered simply due to an unavailability of proper instruments. It has become my goal to provide these students with that chance despite a lack of money. I would love to be able to give every student in need the opportunity to participate in similar, stimulating musical experiences that have so strongly affected my life and contributed to who I am as a person.

Procedures you will use to complete your project, (How are you going to do it?) I have taken the first steps necessary to begin my organization and prepare for future actions by confirming a starting drop off location for instruments. I have discussed the details of the project with Gary Stoner, the owner of Stoner Music in Ankeny, Iowa. He and store employees have kindly offered to help in every way possible, including volunteering the store as a drop off location.

They have also offered their skills in musical instrument repair to mend donated instruments at no fee. The next step would be to contact schools in the Des Moines metro area for the need of instruments for their students. The number of schools affiliated with the program could grow in number as more drop off points were established. Creating a check out system for the instruments that all schools would engage in would be the final step for the creation of this program. The check out system would work like a library check out system for books, in which once an instrument is donated to the program, it would be added to a central data base for any school to access. This would allow for easy tracking of instruments so that all may be returned when the student no longer has a need for the instrument. Other aspects include the publicity of the idea, a lure for donations, and a reward for the volunteers who would be mending the instruments. The publicity could be handled through flyers and posters distributed to schools and any interested music stores, as well as social media and possible news paper articles explaining the organization and entailing the drop off locations. The lure for donations and the award for volunteers would be handled through the implementation of a discount card system. For each instrument donated, a discount card would be given to the donor for a discount at the participating store. The discount card would encourage the donor to return to the store and purchase merchandise, thereby giving the store a revenue opportunity. I have spoken to Gary Stoner about this discount card idea and he is willing to implement such a service at his store.

Resources/materials you will use to complete your project. My position of working in a music store will be what truly enables the functioning of this project. Stoner Music currently employs several people to repair damaged instruments, both to resell and to give back to the customer for a fee. The owner and the employees of the store have been informed of what An Instrument in Every Hand would entail and are extremely willing to help with the mending of instruments and the distribution process. Several of my coworkers are also interested in helping with the establishment of other drop off locations through their own connections to musicians working at music stores in the area. Also, my involvement with my own high school's music program would enable contact with other school music programs to set up recipients of the instruments. Being involved in Ankeny's instrumental music program would also allow for a possible starting point for instrument donations, not only in the high school, but in the entire school district.

Mentors you will look to for guidance, if applicable. (You must ask for agreement and note in proposal). The people in my life who are most acquiescent to help with this project include my parents, employer and coworkers, and teachers. My parents have encouraged me to initiate my project as well as to submit a proposal. My mother works in the school district and has helped

me with communicating to band instructors in the Ankeny school district to get an idea of the need within our own local community, which turned out to be greater than previously thought. The band instructor of Terrace elementary, Vicky Anderson, has said that often times, students continuing on to band in sixth grade are unable to take their borrowed instrument as the buildings prefer to keep them. Gary Stoner as well as a coworker, Glen Gustafson, have also been a huge help and encouragement to my planning of An Instrument in Every Hand. Each of them has helped me to understand what constructing this project would look like as well as the details which would be involved. Both Glen and Gary have even volunteered to be the first participants of the program repairing instruments free of charge, and to help me run the central data base of instrument checking. The two teachers I have asked to right my letters of recommendation, Mr. Hey and Mrs. Cowger, are also extremely supportive of my plans for the future of this project as well as my passions in life.

Conclusion or results you expect. My ultimate dream for An Instrument in Every Hand is to supply students in Iowa with an instrument that would otherwise be unobtainable, thereby allowing them to participate in the inimitable experiences offered by music. I understand that achieving this level of success would require many hours of planning and work along with the cooperation of multiple volunteers who can share in my passion of helping others. It will not be easy, but I truly believe that it is possible. If the program is able to function properly and efficiently on a smaller level, I see no reason of why it would not expand to a full scale instrument donation organization.

How your work on this project relates to Herbert Hoover's expertise as an organizer and leader? One thing that Herbert Hoover and I have in common is a desire to help the community. As president, Herbert Hoover strove to conquer the nation's problems. In the first several months of his presidency, Hoover was able to initiate tax cuts favorable to low-income families, increase the number of veterans' hospital facilities twofold, propose a fifty dollar per month pension to senior citizens, and design a federal Department of Education. Just as Herbert Hoover expertly organized these programs for his community, the organization of An Instrument in Every Hand would benefit four primary aspects of my community. The first would be the donor of the instrument, offering the satisfaction of helping those in need and putting an unused instrument back into use. The second beneficiary would be the music store/drop off location. With the affiliation to a program such as An Instrument in Every Hand, an increase of customers could be seen, through both recommendations of donors as well as a positive reputation of being involved in such a program. A third aspect of the community involved would be the schools which choose to receive the mended instruments for their students. The

school would be able to save money through donated instruments as well as become involved in a volunteer based organization. In addition, the school would be able to provide more of its students with the lifelong skill of playing music through access to more instruments. The fourth, and most important benefit, would be for the student in which the instrument is delivered to. The student would be able to experience the satisfaction of acquiring a new skill that may otherwise not have been possible, and improve their overall learning experience through a different application and exercise of the mind. Along with the skill of playing an instrument, a sense of belonging may be achieved through the participation in musical groups, bands, etc. An entirely new set of experiences would be offered to the student all through simply receiving an instrument.

How did you find out about this program? My mother was the first person to tell me about this program and encourage me to further investigate the opportunity. She first read about the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award in the Ackley World Journal. The article described the application of the award and for who it was intended. I read further into the details of the award on the Herbert Hoover Association website.