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Subject: Funding for Music Haven

To the Committee:

I am writing in support of continuing funding for Music Haven. This educational organization accomplishes so much with very little cash investment. It is an educational arts community for young people who live in the poorest area of New Haven. Beyond lessons on their individual instruments, a major percentage of the classes teach students to work as teams in orchestral settings. Students prepare in-house concerts for family and friends, and in addition they perform for a wide variety of community events. But beyond its mission of music education, and one of the most important reasons Music Haven deserves funding, is that it encourages young people in the poorest area of New Haven to continue their general education through high school and on to college. In fact there are several students who have gone on to college who are the first of their families to attend. The faculty of Music Haven has supported these students and their families as they complete college applications and visits; their support role for families who are unfamiliar with the college application process has made all the difference for several of these students.

Please reconsider continuing funding for this organization that is so beneficial to the inner city area of New Haven.

Karen Eshelman

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