

## "KIDS HELPING KIDS"

# The Gift of Music, Make a Child Smile

By Kids X-Press Reporter David Jaffin

My project is called "The Gift of Music". The goal is to help rebuild music programs in New Orleans schools after Hurricane Katrina. The idea came about as I really love the New Orleans Saints football team and I am an All County trumpet player, as well as play in two jazz ensembles. I wanted to help the New Orleans jazz community by collecting any working musical instruments including trumpets, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trombones, violins, violas, guitars, piccolos, music stands, music resources and almost anything related to music to donate to schools in New Orleans. Once I had this idea, I made up a flier about the project on a long car ride on a laptop. Then I had wristbands made up that say "The Gift of Music, Make a Child Smile".

In May of 2008, my family and I entered a contest in "O" (Oprah's magazine.) The contest was to submit an idea to give big that would help a lot of people. We won! We were one of five in the nation.

Then, in June 2008, I gave a speech to tell my fellow classmates about my project. They decided to donate \$700 to buy instruments for an elementary school in Harvey, Louisiana. We bought 40 basic instruments to help them start a percussion-based music program. They were very grateful.

In August of 2008, I got a table at the summer street sale in Scarsdale and raffled off many items including a Johnny Damon signed baseball, a basket of flowers and several other items raising about \$600.

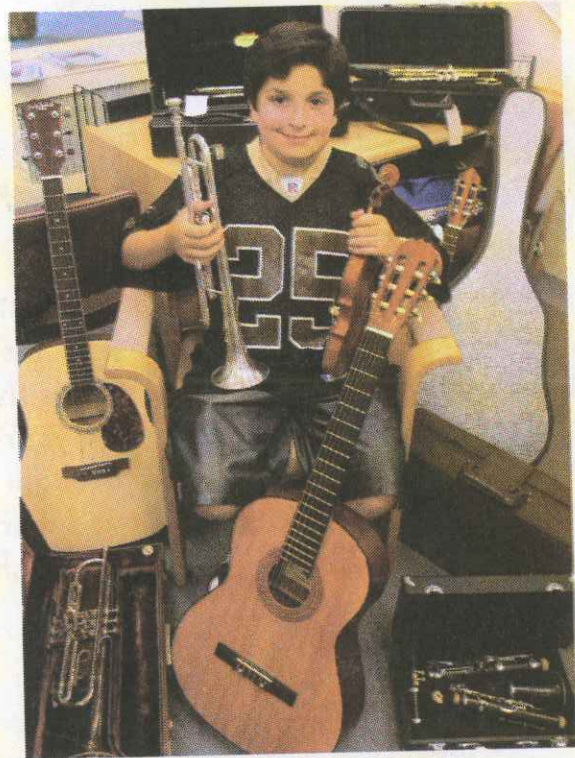


Photo credit: Jim MacLean @ the Rivertown Enterprise.

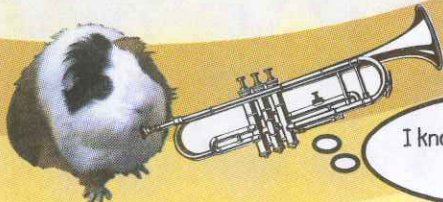
### David Jaffin, Katrina's instruments

Then, in October of 2008, my family and I were in "O" Magazine; I was also in The Rivertown Enterprise newspaper and I was honored by the Town of Greenburgh before that, I was just a regular seventh grader in Westchester, New York.

The challenges of my project are how to spread the word about the project and how to get more donations of working musical instruments. The rewards are that you feel really great about yourself, especially when I got some pictures of the kids playing the instruments that I donated to them.

If anyone has an instrument to donate, please contact us by emailing us at [RJaffin@aol.com](mailto:RJaffin@aol.com). I am beginning a website that has some basic information. It is [www.givethegiftofmusic.net](http://www.givethegiftofmusic.net).

Yes, one person can make a difference. My message to the kids of America is that nothing is impossible.



David,  
I know you play trumpet;  
lets do a duet!