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Scarsdale Music School Helps Teen Bring Jazz to New Orleans

by Daily Voice Staff Neighbors 09/23/11 Comment



David Jaffin, creator of Give the Gift of Music Foundation
Barthelson Music School

SCARSDALE, N.Y. — Many teenagers are too young to realize the gravity of devastation Hurricane Katrina caused the city of New Orleans six years ago. But that isn't the case for Ardsley resident David Jaffin, who made an effort to help. Then just 13, this avid trumpet player and All-County musician decided to give back to his Southern peers by sharing an opportunity to take part in one of his favorite pastimes: jazz.

Jaffin set out to create the Give the Gift of Music Foundation with the goal of collecting musical instruments and donating them to Louisiana schools in need. He spoke to kids in his Ardsley neighborhood, along with religious and music institutions such as Scarsdale's [Hoff-Barthelson Music](#)

[School](#), and asked them to join his cause. He also sold [raffle tickets](#) and baseball cards at a Scarsdale Street Fair in 2008.

"I always wanted to contribute after the flood — I'm an All-County trumpet player and band fan. Plus, New Orleans is the heart of jazz," he said.

Jaffin's first donation was from his sixth-grade student council at Ardsley Middle School, which voted to give him \$700. That money went toward starting a percussion-based music program at a school in Harvey, LA.

A year later, the idea caught the attention of O, The Oprah Magazine, which granted a \$5,000 donation from Target as part of the Oprah's Big Give program. Thanks to Jaffin's idea, the KIPP College Prep School in New Orleans received new instruments. A few months later, he viewed first-hand the [rewards](#) of his efforts when he and his family went to the school to check out its progress.

"The band played for us, and I introduced myself. It was a pretty awesome feeling to know I gave all these kids new instruments," Jaffin said.

So what's the next step in philanthropy for the 10th-grader at Ardsley High School? "I want to keep trying to get more people involved and contact the band directors at [local schools](#) to help donate to the cause."

If you have any instruments that you're looking to give away to a good cause, e-mail Roberta Jaffin at rjaffin@aol.com.

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