

THE INSPIRE FOUNDATION

TAMPA BAY AREA'S FINEST FIGHT FOR MUSIC AND THE ARTS

You may know them as your neighbor, doctor, lawyer, or private music instructor, but those are just their day jobs. Fourteen of the Bay Area's finest joined talents to form The Inspire Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on music and arts for children with special needs. The Inspire Foundation will provide instruments, supplies, and a curriculum to schools, individuals, and organizations. Their mission is to ensure that every child has the opportunity to explore their own talent and interest in music and the arts.

The Inspire Foundation began when preschool music teacher, Cristine Rhodes, and her husband and music instructor, Jason Rhodes, joined up with colleague and speech pathologist, Heather Palmer, to discuss a new program Cristine was designing called Autism Sings. The driving force behind this program was a combination of love and experience in the music field, along with their own experience raising a son on the spectrum. When Jacob stopped talking at the early age of two, Jason and Cristine naturally responded by using music and arts in all aspects of his daily routine. They believe that combination of teaching and his love for animals and sports largely contributed to his current successes.

Jason and Cristine began working with local artist and mother, Katye Grab. Together they became inspired to do even more for this cause by forming the inspire foundation and recruiting an amazing Board of Directors. The Foundation's board includes Jason, Cristine, Katye, Heather, James Stanton, Teri Toner, Donna Israel, Debbie Dawson, Laurie Spiegel, Bart Kerr, Chris Grab, Jeremy Albert, Michael Stanton, and Chase Florin.

The Inspire Foundation reached out to companies that shared the same goals as they did, and formed a special bond immediately with Renee Trinca, the owner of Schoenhut Toy Piano Company, located in St. Augustine. Renee was so excited to

become a part of this wonderful cause that she donated a majority of the musical instruments for The Inspire Foundation and Inspire School of Music & the Arts' classrooms and summer music camps. She stays in close contact with Cristine and is excited at the progress of the foundation and being a part of its growth. They have also just joined a partnership with Ryan Judd, owner of The Rhythm Tree. Ryan is a board certified music therapist. His mission is to teach parents, educators and other therapists how to use music to help children with special needs learn, grow and thrive!

The Inspire Foundation will rely mainly on fundraising events to raise money. They were selected as the November beneficiary of the Professional Philanthropy Network, a non-profit organization that helps other non profits raise money for good causes.

Their next event is the first annual Arts for Autism. This event will be held on March 1, 2014, at the Florin Roebig property in Pinellas County off of Alderman Road. There will be live bands, live event artists, food, drinks, raffles, silent auctions, and much more. Contact board member and director of marketing, Donna Green Israel at inspirefoundationfl@gmail.com for more information.

There are a few different ways you can become involved in The Inspire Foundation's vision. One way to help is to volunteer your time at fundraising events.

Volunteer applications can be found on their website. Becoming a Junior Member is another option. Junior Members are children that want to help raise money for The Inspire Foundation via their own fundraising efforts either through their schools or individually. Junior members can submit their ideas and lead the efforts as well as recruit their friends. Of course, you may also donate to The Inspire Foundation directly on their website or at fundraising events. 100% of these donations go directly to funding music and art programs for children with special needs. Although this organization is exclusive to the Tampa Bay area now, their goal is to expand throughout Florida, and eventually the United States. This is an amazing organization that has an incredible vision and I can't wait to see where they go next.

Florin | Roebig
Trial Attorneys

PRESENTS

ARTS FOR AUTISM

EAT. DRINK. ROCK. BE INSPIRED!

MARCH 1ST, 2014 • 6:00 — 10:00 PM

AT FLORIN ROEBIG • 777 ALDERMAN ROAD • PALM HARBOR

CONCERTS
SILENT AUCTION
LIVE "EVENT ARTISTS"
RAFFLES
FINE ART
FOOD
WINE
717 VALET PARKING

IT'S Your home
Your Family | Your Community | Your Life

Schoenhut
SINCE 1873
MADE WELL THE NAME

THIS SPECIAL NIGHT OUT WILL BE FUN AND MEMORABLE FOR EVERYONE. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE INSPIRE FOUNDATION AND THE INSPIRE SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THE ARTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 727-859-7918 OR VISIT WWW.THEINSPIREFOUNDATIONFL.ORG