



## **Mockingbird Grant Funds Music Education For Visually Impaired Youth at Miami Lighthouse for the Blind**

By [Ellis Godard](#) / June 10, 2025 / [Grants](#), [Recipients](#), [Rounds](#)

A nonprofit founded and run by Phish fans on an entirely volunteer basis has announced eighteen (18) new grants to support music education, totaling \$153,870. This is the 30th round of competitive grants from the Mockingbird Foundation, which has now disbursed more than 400 competitive grants, and more than 750 total grants, for an aggregate of more than \$2.75M – all with no staff, no salaries, and no office.

Mockingbird's newest round of competitive grants support a wide array of programs, including two programs serving children with vision impairment, two programs serving Native American youth, programs serving ages from kindergarten to college, and programs in schools, community centers, and non-profit organizations in rural, suburban, and urban settings in 16 states across every region of the country: CA, DC, FL, IL, MD, MO, MS, NE, NH, NM, OH, OK, PA, TN, TX, & WA.

Half of the amounts for five of the grants were made possible through the generous support of the [Kristine Anastasio Manning](#) Memorial Fund (*KAAMF*), created to honor and memorialize Trey Anastasio's sister. Additionally, the Mockingbird board elected to *double* two of the requested amounts, from Children's Eye Foundation and Friends of Breakthrough.

- \$10,000 to [Aspire Pacific, via the Aspire Public Schools Foundation](#) (of Commerce, CA) for instruments for a salsa band and a mariachi band at a public charter school
- \$10,000 to [BLAST Haus, via The 234 Project Foundation](#) (of Seattle, WA) for DJ equipment and lessons for underserved teens – *KAAMF*
- \$10,000 to [Children's Eye Foundation of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus](#) (of Brentwood, TN) for scholarships for visually impaired music students through its Vision Through Music program – *doubled*
- \$5,000 to [Friends of Breakthrough](#) (of Cleveland, OH) for instruments and related supplies at a public elementary school – *doubled*
- \$6,000 to [Girls Rock! Chicago](#) (of Chicago, IL) for instruments for summer camp music programming – *KAAMF*
- \$10,000 to [Girls Rock! DC](#) (of Washington, DC) for general funds for music instruction – *KAAMF*

- \$500 to [Grain Valley](#) (of Blue Springs, MO) for music education books for a classroom library
- \$10,000 to [Indigenous Community Empowerment Network](#) (of Tulsa, OK) for instruments and repair in a mentoring program for indigenous youth
- \$10,000 to [Jackson State University](#) (of Jackson, MS) for the purchase of a tuba and euphonium
- \$8,000 to [Keene Housing Kids Collaborative](#) (of Keene, NH) to support music education for youth living in poverty/subsidized housing
- \$5,000 to [Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) (of Miami, FL) for staffing at a music education non-profit for visually impaired youth, to expand programming to 4th and 5th graders – *KAAMF*
- \$10,000 to [Moody's Jazz Camp](#) (of Truckee, CA) for staffing at a youth jazz camp
- \$10,000 to [OneCity at VanderCook College of Music](#) (of Chicago, IL) for instruments and equipment for a jazz band of fifth graders from underserved communities
- \$5,774 to [Queen Anne's County Education Partnership, via Chesapeake Charities](#) (of Stevensville, MD) to replace 33-year-old keyboards, and add a fourth riser to the growing choir program, at a public elementary school
- \$10,000 to [The Heartbeat Music Project, via Roadwork Center, Inc.](#) (of Crownpoint, NM) for staffing and scholarships for a Navajo youth music program
- \$10,000 to the [William Penn School District](#) (of Yeadon, PA) for instruments for school bands throughout the district
- \$10,000 to the [Winnebago Public Schools' Music Department](#) (of Winnebago, NE) for instruments for schools within a public school district
- \$10,000 to [Young Women's Preparatory Network](#) (of El Paso, TX) for instruments and equipment for an all-female drumline, orchestra, and mariachi band – *KAAMF*

These eighteen grantees were selected from among 803 initial inquiries requesting a total of nearly \$8 million, far beyond the Foundation's resources. Due to such high demand, Mockingbird's two-tiered online application process remains one of the most competitive in the nation. Each year, we are able to fund a slightly higher percentage of inquiries, making grants slightly less competitive, thanks to the tremendous generosity of fans. We hope that you will consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) through the Foundation's website at [www.mbird.org](http://www.mbird.org) so that we can continue to increase the percentage of applicants whom we are ultimately able to fund.

The Mockingbird Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that has been operated entirely by volunteer fans, with no office, salaries, or paid staff, since its inception in 1996. Mockingbird is now a leading provider of historical information about the band Phish and its music, having cultivated

intellectual property through [phish.net](http://phish.net) since 1994. Also a leading grantmaker in music education for children, the Foundation has now made [752 grants, in all 50 states, totaling \\$2,760,402.72](#) (including 37 so far in 2025, totaling \$193,378.33). Proceeds are generated by celebrating the music of Phish through [books](#), [recordings](#), [art](#), [donations](#), and special [events](#), including the recent [Tenth Annual Runaway Open](#) golf tournament.

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