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Accent Pontiac Expands Program with Support From El Sistema USA “PRESTO” Matching Grant Award

Pontiac, MI, September 14, 2018 – Accent Pontiac is pleased to announce the expansion of their music education programming in Pontiac Elementary Schools this Fall. Thanks to a $20,000 matching grant award from the Program for Rising El Sistema Organizations (PRESTO), the new non-profit is now offering musical education programming at both Alcott and Walt Whitman Elementary Schools. Instrumental music classes will be offered to elementary 2nd-5th graders.

“We are incredibly grateful to El Sistema USA for putting their faith in us to expand our reach and provide even more music to our kids,” said Accent Pontiac Executive Director Tina Rowan. “Our ultimate goal is to serve every student in Pontiac and we’ve more than doubled participation in two years.”

Accent Pontiac was launched in 2016 after receiving support from Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills. The Kirk, with its long history of musical excellence, decided Accent Pontiac was the perfect fit and dedicated initial funding from a capital campaign designated to support outreach in Pontiac.

Two years later, the organization is well on its way to serving approximately 750 students in Pontiac schools. Trained musicians teach students the fundamentals of music through Bucket Band, Brass and Woodwind classes during and after school. Children are performance-ready and also learn basic life skills that help with focus, behavior, attendance and testing.

The PRESTO grant was part of a 3-year, $1 million investment into 13 organizations in 11 states across the country to bring free music education to underserved youth.
“Our goal is to support innovation and growth in the El Sistema movement across the United States. The PRESTO program is our way of providing that support through resources and training for young organizations exhibiting great potential,” said El Sistema USA’s Executive Director, Katie Wyatt. El Sistema USA supports a nationwide movement of programs inspired by the El Sistema to effect social change through music for children with the fewest resources and the greatest need.

Accent Pontiac: Strengthening Pontiac’s youth and community through equitable access to intensive and consistent music making. Accent Pontiac is located at 1340 W Long Lake Rd. in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. For more information, please call (248) 847-3420.