

MUSICAL YOUTH  
FOUNDATION

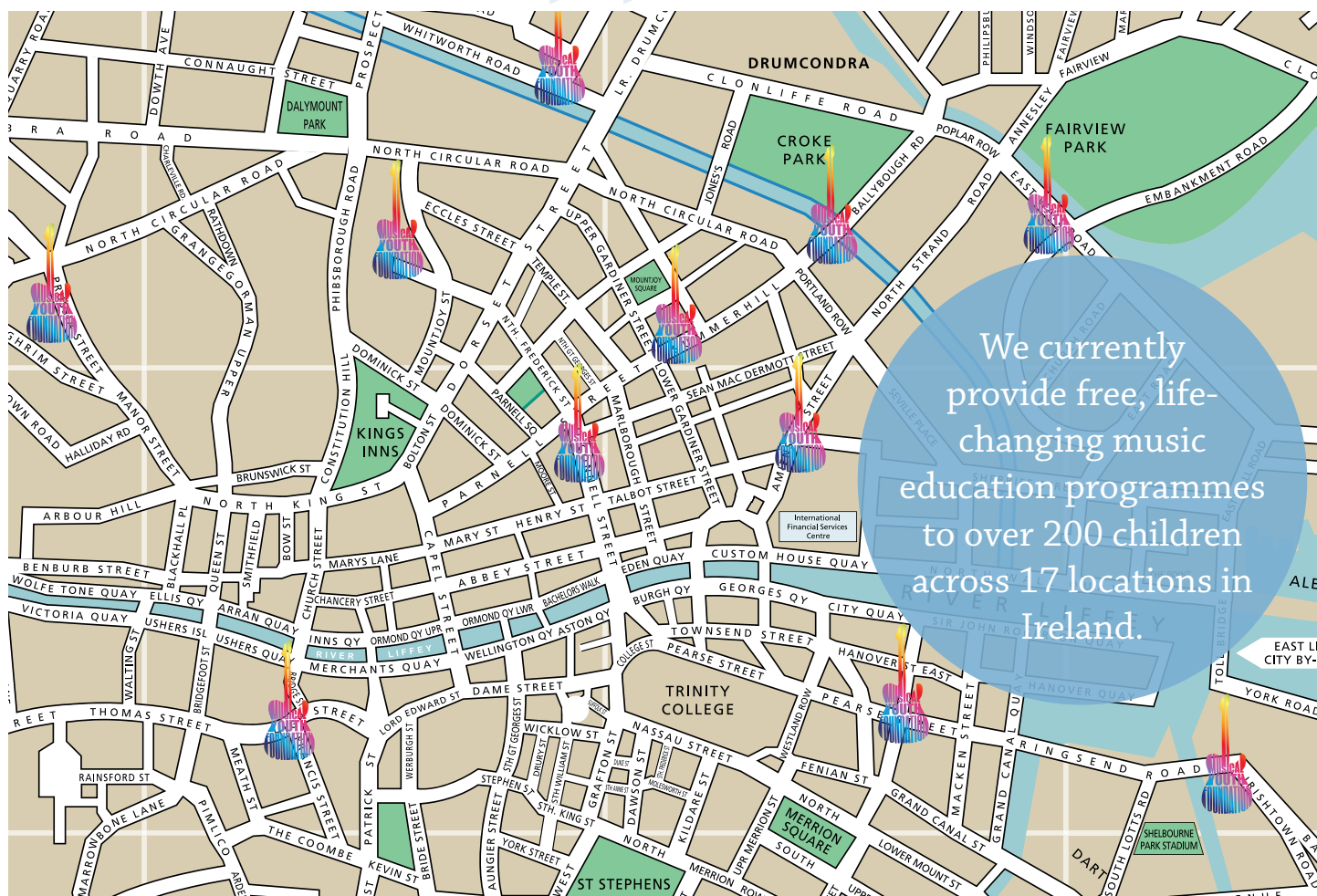
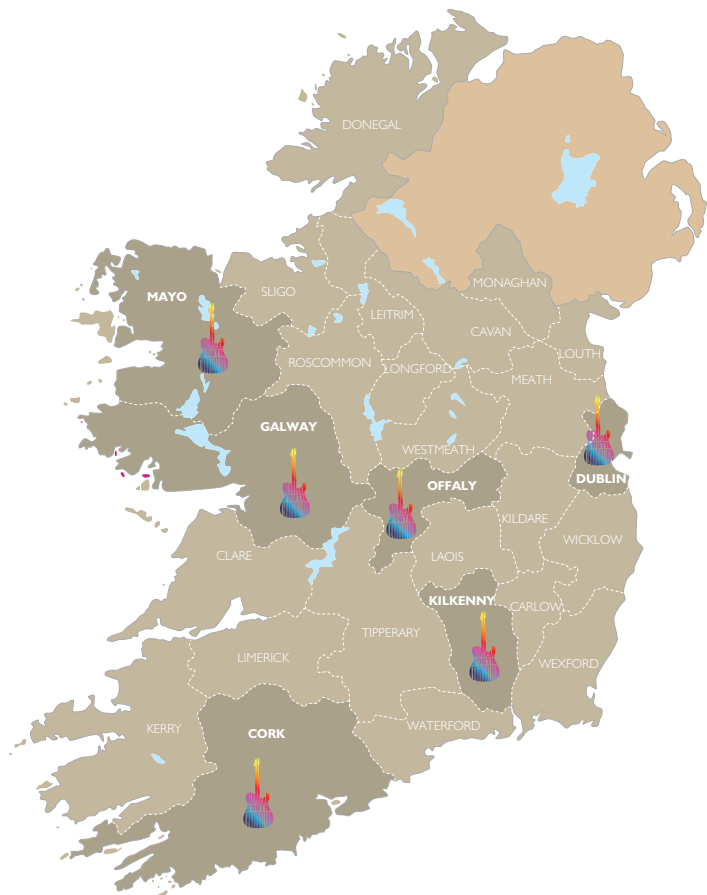
# WHAT WE DO

The Musical Youth Foundation children's charity (CHY18624) is dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged children in Ireland by providing opportunities for them to succeed and excel through the proven power of music education. Music education can ensure at-risk young people in Ireland have the opportunity to achieve a brighter future. By working in partnership with local community centres, youth groups and schools the Musical Youth Foundation provide children with a safe place to go after school to grow, learn and play through the power of music education.

Our mission is simple...

"To provide every child on the island of Ireland with access to a musical education"

*Since I started the guitar lessons I feel much more confident, I'm definitely not as shy anymore. I used to get bullied at school but since taking up the guitar that has all stopped. I guess people see me in a different way now. My school grades have got better too, I find it easier to understand stuff and even when I don't understand I know it is just a matter of practise – the guitar lessons have showed me that. I wanted to leave school when I turn 16 but now I want to stick at it and go on to study music so I can help other kids like me. – Gavan O'Toole (15)*





# BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

There are thousands of professional studies into the wide ranging, benefits of music education. Just Google it and you'll discover a wealth of information relating to the massive positive impact that music education can have on a child's life. Much more than a very satisfying hobby that can last a lifetime, the wide-ranging, life-changing benefits of learning a musical instrument also include but are not limited to;

**Positive Mental Attitude**

**Patience and Perseverance**

**Self Confidence      Relaxation**

**Improved Concentration**

**Coordination**

**Stress Relief**

Researchers have found a significant relationship between music instruction and positive performances in such areas as: reading comprehension, spelling, mathematics, listening skills, primary mental abilities (verbal, perceptual, numeric, and spatial) and motor skills.\*

*\* Source: [www.nammfoundation.org](http://www.nammfoundation.org)*



# CONORS STORY

## MYF IMPACT CASE STUDY

Conor (name/gender changed to respect privacy) was born in 1997 into a broken home environment in inner-city Dublin where domestic violence was a regular occurrence. Witnessing regular violent behaviour was perceived as *normal* for Conor. With little or no support structure due to his difficult family circumstances Conor quickly became isolated with no goals or ambitions and poor communication skills.

The impact of Conor's turbulent home environment could also be seen at school where his learned behaviour caused problems for him not just from an academic perspective but also in how he interacted with his peers. Conor's grades were poor, further compounding his low self-esteem.

It is often the case that young people who witness aggressive behaviour in the home become unwitting targets for bullies at school – this was the case for Conor who was regularly picked on by others.

Conor had no positive male role models in his life and was often in trouble for using bad language and displaying aggressive, disrespectful and sexist behaviour.

Try to imagine Conor's life story if his circumstances had remained unchallenged. Scary isn't it?

### MUSIC CHANGES LIVES....

Since joining our music education programme Conor's life has changed completely. No longer introverted with poor social skills and no creative outlet Conor has truly flourished by being part of our guitar group. He no longer feels isolated, has grown socially, creatively and academically.

No longer the target of bullies, Conor's peers have also witnessed the change in him as his confidence, relationships and grades have improved respectively. With this new found confidence Conor has joined a band and even has a girlfriend - things that would have been impossible for him previously as he struggled with communication and relationship management due to the behaviour witnessed and learnt at home.

Before joining our programme Conor was a boy with no real drive or ambition who would retreat within himself he is now a confident young man with a previously undiscovered natural flair for music. Conor is now determined to finish school and go on to further education where his ambition is to study music so that he can become a music teacher and help others as he has been helped.

*The students involved in the guitar groups have developed better social skills and are more able to communicate their feelings. There are some in these groups who would have difficult enough life situations and for them I believe these classes are a little haven. The students have a great sense of achievement and 'try' without fearing failure. This has been a huge step for some. For children for whom there is a high risk of leaving school early, we have found the guitar lessons of particular benefit in keeping and re-engaging them in the education process – Aoife Kelly, Vice-Principal*





# CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

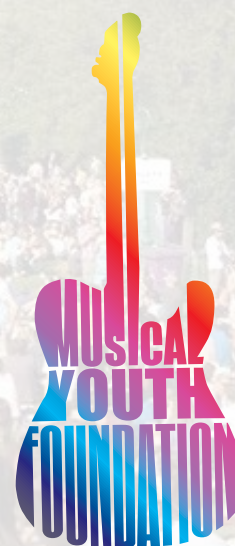
Aside from our own independent fundraising activities we are fortunate and proud to receive support from a variety of great organisations who understand our vision and the benefits it is already having on the community. Our corporate supporters to date include...



## GET INVOLVED

If you or your organisation would like to get involved with the Musical Youth Foundation please contact:

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The Musical Youth Foundation (MYF) is a registered children's charity (CHY#18624) formally established in 2009 and Revenue approved for donations under Section 848A Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.