



PEOPLE POWERED DO-GOODERY

[Can'd Aid Foundation](#), a publicly funded national nonprofit based in Colorado, focuses on spreading people powered do-goodery through four program areas: Towns, Tunes, Treads + Trails and Love Yur Mama. Since our inception in September of 2013, we have raised and distributed more than 2.5M in support of those programs. Within the four programs, we focus on core programming areas: building strong communities, fostering healthy and active lifestyles, providing access to music, the arts and culture to underserved youth and work toward environmental sustainability. Our areas are broad by nature to satisfy community needs rather than dictating what each community needs.

Our [Tunes program](#) focuses on supporting and growing the next generation of musicians and artists and fostering an appreciation for the arts. Through our Tunes program, we raise funds to purchase new instruments which are donated to Title 1 public school music programs across the country. These instrument donations are presented by nationally touring bands (Tunes Ambassadors) who perform for students, lead music workshops and allow kids the opportunity to learn from successful touring musicians. Our Tunes Ambassadors help raise funds and awareness for our program.

Our TUNES program not only provides new instruments and equipment to public school music programs in need, it also allows students access to nationally touring professional musicians. Our unique model enlists the help of our nationally touring Tunes Ambassadors (current roster includes 15 bands of different genres including Grammy Award-Winning Steep Canyon Rangers) and pairs them with Title 1 schools across the country. By working directly with the individual schools, Can'd Aid is able to provide exactly what is needed in terms of instruments, and our Tunes Ambassadors provide hands-on music workshops, live performances and the opportunity for children to engage one on one. Often, these assemblies are the first time students have been exposed to live music and their reaction is magical. It's hard to tell who enjoys the experience more – the students or the bands!

In just two short years, our Tunes program has donated more than 1,500 instruments to schools across the country, hosted 25 music workshops and provided small artists grants to a dozen nationally touring bands in various stages of their careers.

On the highest level, through the Tunes Program, we are helping to grow the next generation of musicians and music lovers. The long-term benefits of music education include increased brain function, accelerated language development, higher IQs, improved test scores and are a particularly effective therapy for at-risk youth. We believe that providing this programming can broaden a young person's horizons, allow for personal expression and increased self-confidence and be the spark that inspires a child to follow their passion.