



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

PEACE THROUGH MUSIC INTERNATIONAL

A YEAR IN REVIEW



23 YEARS OF IMPACT

As the refugee crisis around the globe hits unprecedented levels, the Peace through Music International is striving to improve the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable citizens through music. Since 1999, the organization has brought its programs to more than 20,000 children and taught 95,000 classes.

MISSION

Peace through Music International transforms the lives of war impacted children and adolescents through locally-run, youth-led music education programs.

VISION

A world where children affected by war are empowered to choose peace.

NEW NAME!

Although The Shropshire Music Foundation will retain its legal name, it will now be doing business as Peace through Music International. We feel this better reflects its mission and will be easier to remember!



PEACE THROUGH MUSIC UKRAINIAN REFUGEES



In the summer of 2022, we opened a new program in Poland serving Ukrainian refugees. We taught harmonica, singing, and ukulele classes to children and teenagers up to eight hours a day, six days a week in the Serock refugee center outside of Warsaw for three months.

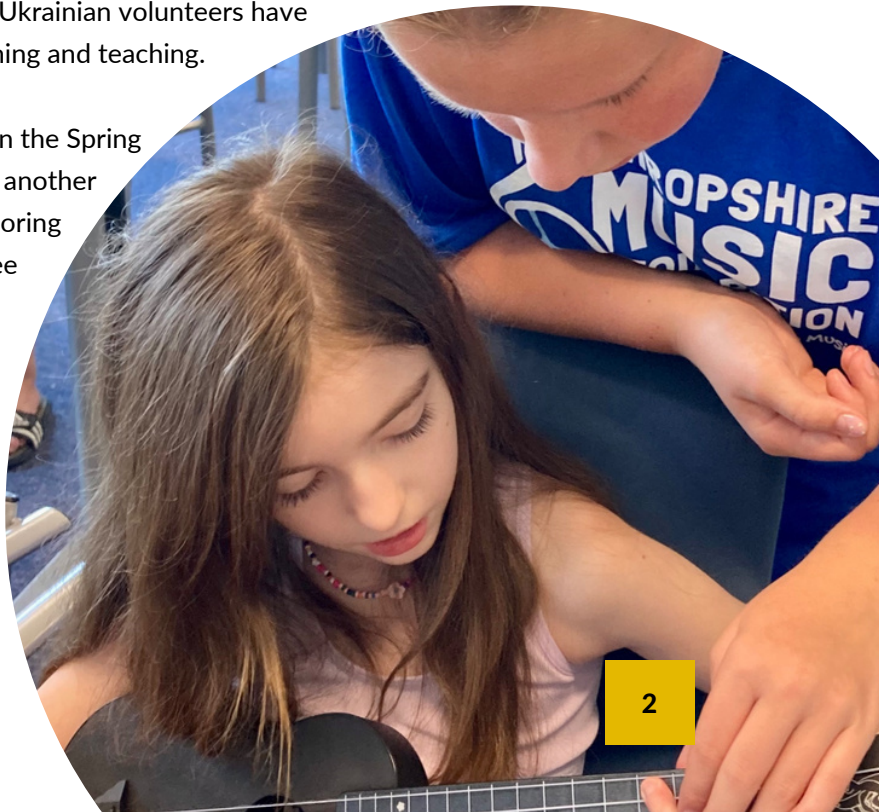
Classes continue online-- including two classes for women and a class for teens and volunteers.

Our program brings purpose, self esteem, achievement, creativity, reduces the effects of trauma, and brings music, fun and joy into a high-stress, traumatic situation.

As part of our empowering and self-sustaining model, young refugees were trained to teach some of the classes themselves. These young Ukrainian volunteers have been incredible, dedicating many hours to training and teaching.

Given the enormity of the conflict in Ukraine, in the Spring of 2023 PTMI would like to open a program in another large-scale refugee camp in Poland or a neighboring country. One current possibility is Łódź refugee center, 75 miles southwest of Warsaw.

This program is critical, but funding is needed to make it possible in 2023.



PEACE THROUGH MUSIC BANGLADESH

Serving Street Children & Rohingya Refugees

Currently an astounding 890,000 Rohingya refugees are living at the Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar region. The camps have grown to become the largest and most densely populated camps on earth. This crisis has strained an already impoverished country, which has shown unprecedented generosity to the deeply persecuted Rohingya people. PTMI has been making a significant impact in the lives of both Rohingya and Bangladeshi children since 2019. In 2022 our **exceptional team of young Bangladesh volunteers in Cox's Bazaar are teaching our unique music program in 4 locations:**

- **Rohingya Refugees in the Kutupalong Refugee Camp** - Few NGOs are granted access inside this camp. The PTMI Bangladesh has worked tirelessly to gain entry and have opened our highly anticipated classes for young, excited, and severely underserved Rohingya refugees.
- **Climate Refugees in Najirar Tek** - These children are living in an area with little access to education or resources. The students have been delighted at the opportunity, believing music instruction was only for wealthy families.
- **Street Children in Cox's Bazar** - Our "surf kids" are homeless and underprivileged children who come together to surf during the day and then gather weekly with our volunteers to learn the pennywhistle.
- **University Students** - Soon PTMI will be training an elite group of volunteers from the Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chittagong. AUW has students enrolled from 19 countries across Asia and the Middle East. The demand to fill our volunteer positions is incredible-- ONE HUNDRED women applied for inclusion in our training program. We'll work to train as many as we can in 2023.



PEACE THROUGH MUSIC FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PHOENIX

As the Taliban conducted their swift take-over of Afghanistan, hundreds of thousands of Afghans fled for their lives. A large group of refugees were being held temporarily in the Phoenix area as they awaited more permanent housing.

Until they were assigned a place to live, most were trapped in limbo with little to do. The men and women were not yet employed and the children had not started school. After just escaping the threat of violence, oppression and death, these families need a way to work through their trauma and need tools to begin life in the United States in a healthy, positive way.

Starting in the Fall of 2021 and through the entire spring of 2022, PTMI provided an intensive Peace through Music program up to four days a week for men, women, teens and children.

The women's classes were especially groundbreaking. The women hesitated to learn something on their own without their husband's presence or approval. But then a new sense of empowerment swept through the group, and the class exploded in popularity. Soon we were teaching over 25 women at a time! Many have continued learning online.

In partnership with the IRC, we are re-opening the program in January to serve a new group of asylum seekers and Afghan refugees!

Voice of Hope

"We were very depressed when we arrived in the US and we worried about what we should do and what our future would be. When you started the ukulele classes, it changed our mindset so we could stay away from depression and stress. Instead of thinking about the bad things, we were having fun and learning music and how to play the ukulele every day. It is very good for us. Our teachers are very good people and we have learned many things from them - English, ukulele, loving each other, humanity, and so much more."



PEACE THROUGH MUSIC SALT LAKE CITY

Peace through Music SLC has served young refugees, New Americans, and low-income children in Salt Lake City since 2019.

In 2022, a group of 7 teenage volunteers has been teaching a group of elementary students in the Granite School District, famous for its wonderfully high concentration of refugees.

The class is held at the Historic Scott School in partnership with the Promise South Salt Lake after-school program.

Promise SSL is an initiative of the City of South Salt Lake and provides dynamic, highly specialized community and out-of-school-time programming with academic and prevention focus. Their programs are free, open to all, and emphasize equity, diversity and putting children first.

Instruction in this class included harmonica, singing, learning music notes and rests, and plenty of musical fun and games. It will continue throughout the 2022-2023 school year.



PEACE THROUGH MUSIC ONLINE UKULELE PROGRAM FOR YAZIDI REFUGEES



Voice of Hope

"That was the best moment of my life— when we had our first Zoom session together with all the girls! There was so much love!"

—Asifa

Yazidi Refugee living in Germany

From 2016-2019 PTMI ran a very successful music program in the Serres, Greece camp for Yazidi refugees who narrowly escaped the genocidal actions of ISIS.

Some of these Yazidi refugees have now been given asylum in Germany. Asifa Hassan, a young Iraqi refugee living in Germany, initiated a plan to bring many of her fellow teen and young adult peers together via Zoom to learn the ukulele.

In 2022, as a result of her initiative and management, she, with the assistance of Liz Shropshire, now teaches two online Ukulele classes each week to young Yazidi women. Some of these women join the class from a refugee camp in Iraq. These classes provide education, trauma relief, and socialization as the students lean on each other in their unique shared experience.

A number of our Yazidi students plan to take what they have learned from Peace through Music and start programs in the Iraqi camp, as well as other communities.

PEACE THROUGH MUSIC NORTHERN IRELAND



Because the majority of children in Northern Ireland attend segregated schools and live in separate communities, we bring children from both sides of the community together through community center-based music classes and concerts. Socialization across secular and ethnic differences through shared activity is crucial to helping children build the common experiences and relationships which serve as a foundation for peace.

Person-on-person and random acts of violence are woven into the fabric of everyday life in Northern Ireland, and teenagers are especially vulnerable both to being victims of violence and to being lured into acts of violence. Our youth teacher volunteer program is focused on helping teenagers build their self-esteem, pride, and positive relationships with their own community, as well as to develop a personal commitment to peacemaking.

PTMI Northern Ireland Director Amy Fitzimons is currently running a program at Bloomfield Collegiate School in East Belfast, serving 6th and 7th graders, with likely expansion in 2023.

MORE BRIGHT SPOTS IN 2022



PTMI selected for inclusion in one of Arizona's traveling Light the World Giving Machines



Liz Shropshire was a special guest at a conference entitled, "Building the Framework to Promote Mental Health Through Music Therapy in Refugee Camps," organized by the AMAR Foundation and the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at BYU.



PTMI Bangladesh Director receives prestigious International Volunteer Day '22 award

Lots of news coverage in 2022, including evening news stories, newspaper articles, and podcast interviews!



“Our goal is for these children to know that they have the power to make their own choices, that the path of peace brings happiness and security, that weapons do not equal power, and that violence is not the answer. Our goal is for these children to become instruments of peace.”

-Liz Shropshire

OBJECTIVES FOR EACH PROGRAM

Address participants' war-related and poverty-related emotional trauma and developmental needs.

- Provide consistent, long-term music education that includes daily practice and opportunities for performance
- Provide free instruments and all class materials
- Provide structured opportunities for play, learning, group interaction, self-discipline, and self-expression
- Provide a positive emotional outlet to youth and children through songs and activities
- Provide a safe place for children to feel love and belonging
- Provide hope and meaning in a post-war culture of indifference, apathy and hopelessness

Establish volunteer and leadership opportunities for youth to gain skills for future employment.

- Generate opportunities for tangible accomplishment
- Empower youth volunteers to become positive local role models for children
- Build problem-solving and cognitive skills
- Develop professional communication skills
- Teach punctuality, accountability, preparation and responsibility and integrity

Reduce vulnerability to extremist group participation and human trafficking. Prevent youth violence, crime, and drug and alcohol abuse.

- Create positive peer networks
- Provide positive role models
- Incorporate drug and alcohol prevention in curriculum
- Provide diversionary educational and cultural programs
- Empower youth to develop a positive identity through shared experiences and friendship
- Help youth recognize that as they change the lives of the children they teach, they have the power to change their communities and the world

Cultivate tolerance, empathy, and socialization among hostile communities

- Create opportunities for communication, cooperation, and understanding among ethnic, religious, and divided communities

UNIQUE PROGRAM BACKED BY RESEARCH AND EXPERT FINDINGS

In a study measuring the **effect of our program** on refugee children, published in the *American Psychological Association's Traumatology Journal*, researchers discovered the following:

- Children who participated in the program reported reduced symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Overall, children who participated in the program at least 1 year evidenced fewer affective and cognitive disturbances than children recently enrolled.
- The results of the correlation analysis demonstrated that students who had been in the program longest exhibited the fewest signs of emotional, psychological, and cognitive disruption.
- Cognitive stimulation, promotion of attention and focus through the process of learning musical instruments and songs, social support from peers in a nontraditional classroom setting, the community-sustained infrastructure, and/or the message of peace and communal unity promoted by the program leaders likely all contribute to the outcomes evidenced by this study.

Additional documented results of our programming includes significantly improved rates of secondary school completion and college attendance. Among our Kosovo youth volunteers, for example, 100% completed primary and secondary school, as compared to fewer than 40% of children in Kosovo at large. More than 90% of our Kosovo volunteers went on to attend college, as compared to 33% of high school graduates across Kosovo.

For the last 23 years, PTMI has implemented recommendations issued by the United Nations And UNICEF In their report on the “Impact of Armed Conflict On Children.” The report found that the most effective child war trauma relief programs provide “opportunity for expression and structured activities.” UN Expert Graca Machel cited music, theater, and arts education programs, especially those based in local culture.