



Providing Instruments
for the Next Generation



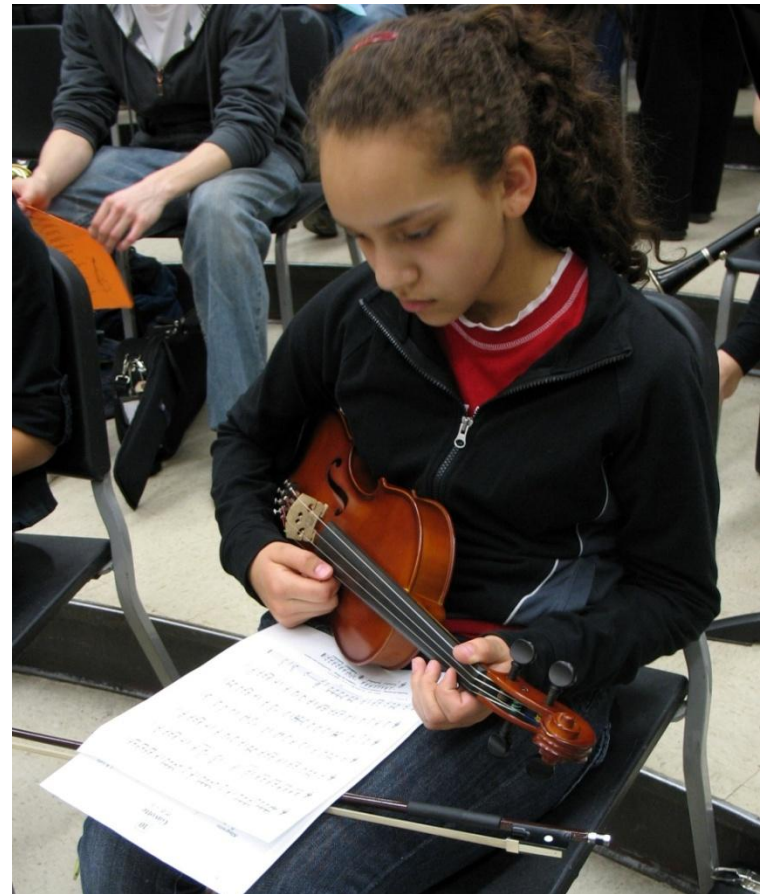
“Instruments in their hands...music in their lives”

15th Anniversary Update for Oak Park School District 97

September 27, 2012

15 years ago... PING! was born

- Parents noticed that the **children on stage at a band concert didn't reflect their school's diversity.**
- They found that the **cost of renting a band or orchestra instrument was a significant barrier** for many families in the community.
- They believed in **the power of a music education** and wanted it to be available to all children.
- They joined with music teachers and approached the D97 board with an **innovative concept to remove that barrier to access.**



PING!'s values and mission remain relevant

We believe that **participation in the arts is an essential and fundamental part of a child's educational experience** that should be available to all students, regardless of family income.

PING! opens the doors to music education by providing musical instruments and music enrichment opportunities to low income students in our community. We work in collaboration with Oak Park and River Forest public school districts 90, 97, and 200.

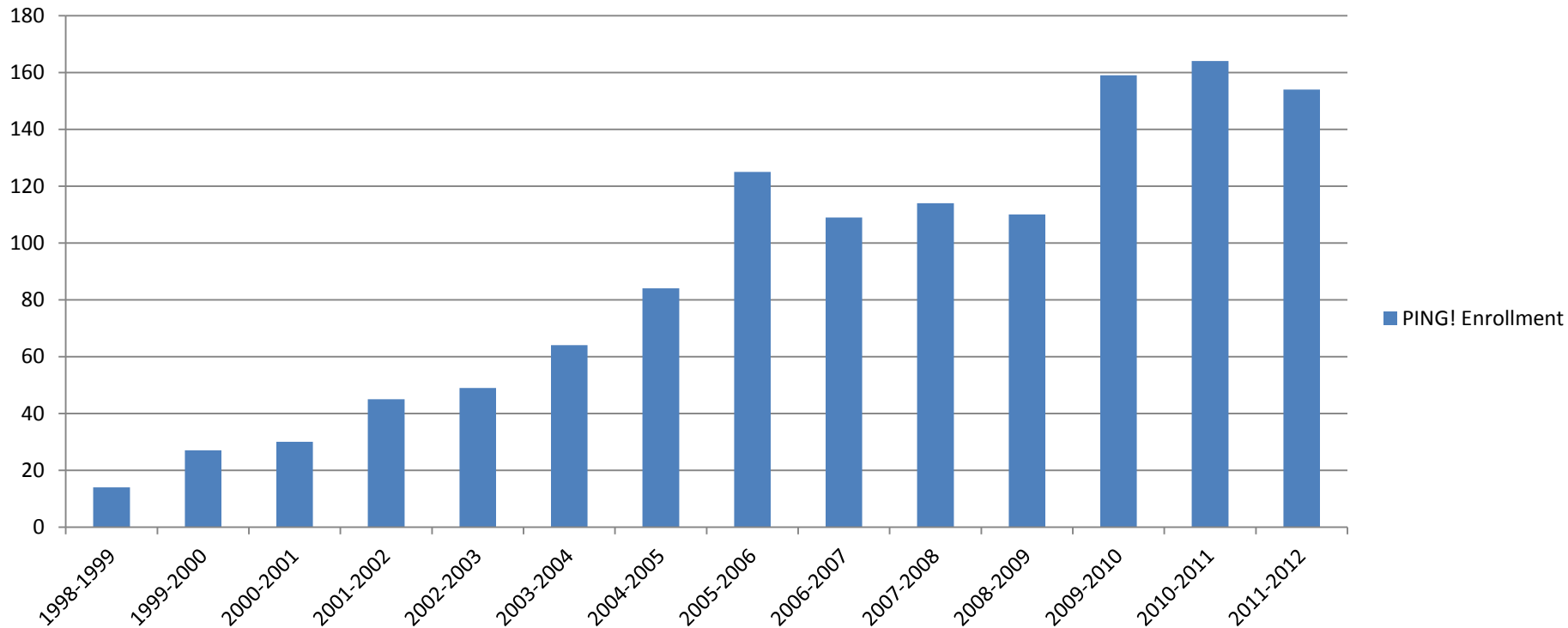


In our 15 years of service

PING! has matured from a small committee of volunteers to an independent 501(c)3 tax exempt charitable organization with an 18-member working Board of Directors.

We currently serve **154 4th – 12th graders** in D90, 97 and 200.

PING! Enrollment



PING! offers instruments, enrichment and support

- We **loan band and orchestra instruments**
 - Over 200 instruments, mainly donated
 - Housed in Hatch School instrument storage closet
 - Partnerships with Austin Music Center and Kagan & Gaines for repairs, maintenance and supplies
- We provide **music enrichment opportunities** throughout the year
 - Fall and spring workshops
 - Family concert field trips
 - Middle school mentoring



The power of middle school mentoring . . .

- High school musicians provide music instruction, mentoring and friendship every two weeks – averaging **950+ volunteer hours per year.**
- The year culminates in a musical showcase.
- Music teachers observe improvement in music, organization and motivation. Parents notice more engagement and self-confidence. More PING! students are continuing with music at OPRF. Each year more OPRF PING! students also become mentors.



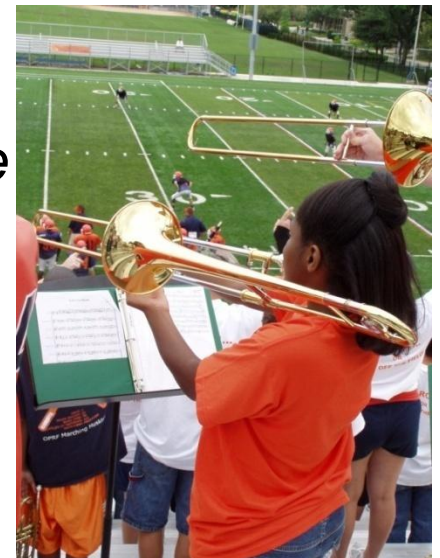
Scholarships enable in-depth enrichment opportunities

Private lesson scholarships for high school students

A variety of **summer enrichment opportunities**

- D97 summer music camp
- Scholarships to “away” camps
- OPRF marching band camp
- Private lessons for incoming freshmen

*“I thought that **summer camp was life altering**. The confidence, self-awareness, and pride that (my son) came home with were noticeable ...and remained ever since. I believe that this experience provided that extra push in **helping him to believe that he can accomplish his goals**. “ PING! mother*



Recent innovations and accomplishments

- Recruitment of professional musician **volunteers for high school private lessons** so more students can participate
- **Rhythm focus** in fall and spring enrichment workshops – Gabby Rosenblum, Paul and Evan Jacobsen
- Increased **summer camp** enrichment opportunities
- Increased **mentor training** and support
- **IMEA recognition** – presenting at the January 2013 conference on how to replicate PING!s model



We know we make a difference

- **Increased access** - 8-9% of all D97 instrumental music students are in PING!
- **Benefits of music education** -- Over 1200 *total* student years of music instruction
- **Positive role models** - 950+ hours of middle school mentoring *each year*
- **Smoother OPRF transition** – PING! student accomplishments and high participant graduation rates



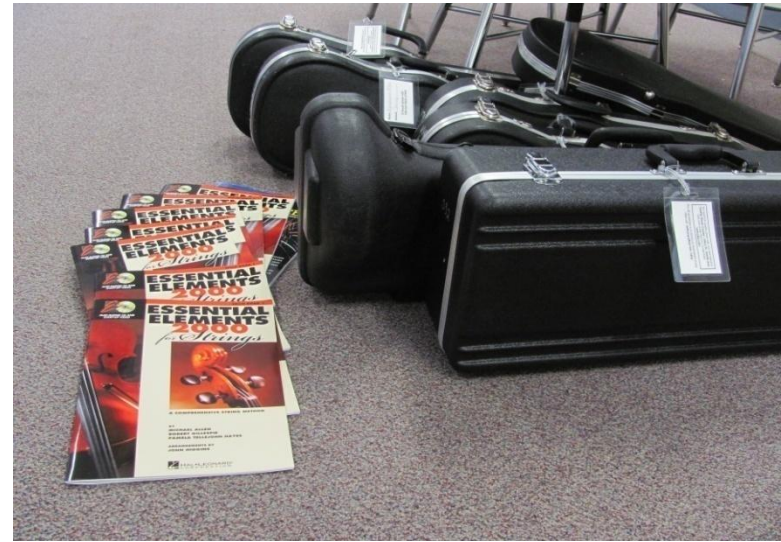
*“Music is giving my daughter **more self-assurance and an identity**”
PING! mother*

*“As the school year progresses, it's **difficult to make a distinction**
between these students and everyone else.” D97 band teacher*

“It takes a village.” Our community partners’ support is essential to PING!’s mission

- District 90, 97 and 200
- Local businesses
 - Austin Music Center
 - Kagan and Gaines
 - Pieritz Office Supplies
 - Community Bank
- Local foundations and NGOs
 - OPAAC
 - Rotary Club of Oak Park and River Forest
 - OPRF Community Foundation
 - Good Heart Work Smart Foundation
 - APPLAUSE!, OPRF Alumni Assoc.

Thank you!



We also are grateful for community members who support us with their time, talent and donations

- PING! parents
- Generous community donors
 - D97 Charitable Giving Campaign
- Local musicians
- Our consultant, our advisors and volunteers
- D90, D97, and D200 music teachers and PING! liaisons
- Our volunteer board – *over 140 volunteer hours each month*

Thank you!



Our goals for the future include:

- Never turn a student in need away
- Help PING! students reach their full potential
 - Deepen and strengthen our existing mentoring and enrichment programs so all students reach their full potential.
 - Broaden student horizons and support the commitment of serious PING! students
 - Strengthen the transition from Middle School to OPRF
- Be a healthy, sustainable organization so we are here for future students - work smart, increase our capacity, collaborate with others

PING! parents say it best



"I would like to thank PING! for the opportunities that have been open to my children through this great art form we call music, for without PING! neither of my sons would be able to experience the joy for music that they both have." PING! mother

"You have exposed my daughter to a world that I have always wanted for her and could not see a way out financially." PING! mother



"PING! is a great foundation. If not for PING!, my son would not be in marching band. Every kid needs something to hold on to in high school – so they don't get lost. ...Music was that foundation for my son." PING! mother



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