

Harmony for a better world!

KidSingers
harmony for a better world





KidSingers has been my beacon of hope and motivation to accomplish my goals. Without it I would not have made it this far in school.
 ~ Fred Lopez

...the Mission

To empower at-risk youth to gain self-esteem, self-expression and a sense of community accomplishment through the discipline of quality music training and performance opportunities creating harmony for a better world.



KidSingers...the Story

KidSingers was founded in 1997, and from the first day it has been changing lives for the better. Whether singing for the governor, performing at an Angel's game, or providing a safe haven where a child can grow in musical skills, self-esteem and confidence; the ultimate objective of this award-winning youth chorus has always been the same: to help kids realize and achieve their highest individual potential. And it's working!



KidSingers has helped to shape my character, to look beyond my needs and to help another. I am a better person because of KidSingers and its code of respect, trustworthiness, responsibility and honesty.

~ Oscar Morales



...the Program

KidSingers is an inner-city, 150-voice, after-school choral music education and performance program for at-risk youth in grades 3-12. Drawing kids from 45 different schools in the Santa Ana Unified School District and surrounding area, *KidSingers* is comprised of 95% Hispanic youth. Boys account for 40% of the enrollment.



KidSingers has long upheld its commitment to serving youth in the Santa Ana area by providing children with an encouraging environment in which to explore their talents and interact with each other. I have long been a strong advocate of after-school programs, and I join the community in thanking you for the

great public service you perform when you keep kids away from guns, gangs and drugs.

3 ~ Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger



KidSingers believes in me and... I believe in a better tomorrow...



KidSingers is the only after-school music program in Santa Ana that provides free choral music instruction and performance opportunities on a consistent and on-going basis to youth who could not otherwise afford it. Structured into four age-appropriate choruses, *KidSingers* participate in highly disciplined rehearsals where they learn the art of singing and performing. *KidSingers* consistently takes kids with little or no singing experience and transforms them into a dynamic performing ensemble!



KidSingers has helped me to believe in myself and realize my talent. It has taught me that I can achieve so much in life if I put my mind to it. It has given me the positive direction that I need and helped me discover my full potential.
~ Brian Williams

KidSingers is not just a choir that I have to go to, it is a family that loves and helps me. I don't just focus on myself anymore. I want to help others.
~ Evelina Galvan



...the Need

Due to state budget cuts, music programs in public schools are the first to be axed. Though supported by many noted studies about how music stimulates the learning centers of the brain and increases reasoning abilities, music education still faces near extinction. Since 1997, *KidSingers* has been the only after-school music program in Santa Ana to help fill the gap.

Recent studies characterized Santa Ana as one of the greatest urban hardship cities in the nation. During the after-school hours of 3:00pm and 7:00pm, reports also show that gang activity and criminal behavior in youth is increasing. Kids in this geographical area are at great risk of falling into destructive behavior. *KidSingers* provides a safe haven by reaching out to these vulnerable youth to help fill this dangerous void.

*I am confident that **KidSingers** plays an important preventive role in providing the kind of enrichment activities that could have prevented many of the problems I observed when children entered Orangewood Children's Home and the juvenile justice system.*
~ William G. Steiner, Founder of Orangewood Children's Home

...the Evaluation

The University of California at Irvine conducted a study to evaluate *KidSingers*. They documented some very impressive findings.

- 100% of *KidSingers* learned music theory, singing and performing techniques
- 87% increased in self esteem
- 87% more confident about themselves
- 85% learned to respect other people and cultures
- 65% more confident about speaking in front of their class



*Sometimes I ask myself what I would do without **KidSingers**. I would probably be in a gang and not value myself or have the goal of college. I am glad **KidSingers** is here for my brother, my sister, my community and me.*
~ Huver Miranda



The impact of any program is measured by how it affects lives for the better. *KidSingers'* parents, teachers and the kids themselves, all testify to the positive effect *KidSingers* has had on their lives.

Musical Achievement: Kids improve their ability to read music, perform and project with confidence.

"I have learned more about notes, what staves are and how to read music. What's cool is I learn and have fun."

"I have learned to sing from my diaphragm and have correct posture."

*"What I like best about **KidSingers** is that I send music to people's hearts."*

"I have learned how to sing the scale and to do sign language for all the notes."

Academic Achievement: Parents and teachers have expressed how kids improve in academic areas, especially reading, language skills and spelling.

"My daughter's grades have improved and her confidence has soared. She is no longer afraid to read out loud in school."

*"**KidSingers** definitely played a very important role in his academic success and social skills development. His self-esteem and academics have improved and he keeps a positive attitude."*

*"**KidSingers** helps me raise my grades and citizenship. **KidSingers** motivates me, lifts my self-esteem. It helps me stay away from violence."*



Self-Esteem and Social Skills: *KidSingers* teaches life skills and provides a safe haven.

*"All my students who have been in **KidSingers** have been excellent students. I think **KidSingers** helps to direct them on a positive life path by giving them a group participation experience in a community where negative group participation (gangs) are so prevalent"*

*"I like going to **KidSingers** because it is like going to a place where you can't hear any mean things or see fights."*

*"I have seen him blossom into a more confident student and individual. **KidSingers** lets him see that there is a different path he can take other than gangs and drugs."*

Family Unity: *KidSingers* brings the family together and facilitates a sense of pride and accomplishment.

"She feels more loved because we can show her our support. It helps us to care and respect each other... to unify us."

"My son is not as violent; he is more affectionate, talkative and happy."

*"**KidSingers** brings us together more as a family and family unity is the solution to all problems."*



... the Scholarships

In 2002, *KidSingers* established a College Scholarship Fund to help *KidSingers* earn money to attend college. For these children the idea of a college education was not even in their awareness. Now, they not only want to go to college, it is a priority.



*"Thanks to the scholarship money I am earning through **KidSingers**, my goal of being the first person in my family to attend college is getting closer. I love to learn and I want to create a better future for myself and to be able to help others that are in need. Thanks to **KidSingers** I know I can achieve this."*

~ Berenice Cervantes

*"When I asked my friend what he was going to do after high school, he said, 'Nothing, I guess, just start working.' That's how I felt before I started **KidSingers**, but now the idea of attending college is a definite goal for me."*

~ Mauricio Garcia



... the Performance

Children's television innovator Shari Lewis said, "Children grow when they listen to music, but when they participate in the activity of making music that's when they develop a real sense of self esteem." It is one thing to practice and learn music, but when kids perform, that's when they grow. *KidSingers* focuses on hard work and excellence in musical training. Dynamic performances are the result! *KidSingers* perform at many places, venues and events including: singing the National Anthem at Angel Stadium, singing for Governor Schwarzenegger, Holiday concerts at Nixon Library and St. Joseph Auditorium, Disneyland and KOCE TV.



*Many times I have come to **KidSingers** feeling mad or upset. But when I start singing, the upset and anger disappears. The values in the songs they teach us are things we can use in our day-to-day life and things we can teach other people.*

- Danielle Roberts



.. the Difference *You* can make!

Please join us in this incredible journey of *KidSingers*. Through your tax-deductible donation, you will ensure that each child receives the gift of music and all the other benefits that *KidSingers* provides.

Opportunities to give:

Adopt-A-KidSinger - Cost to sponsor one student per year is \$1,500. Partial or full sponsorships are available.

College Scholarships – Awarded each year to youth at our annual Spring Concert.

General Support – Instructors, concerts, rehearsals, management, music literature, costuming, insurance, transportation, snacks.

Benefit Sponsorships – Corporate or individual sponsorships available for our annual Benefit Auction/Dinner.

Concert Underwriting – Eight major performances a year are held.

Endowment Fund/Stock Gifts – Principal is not used. Yearly earnings and interest used to fund program costs and ensure future growth.

Volunteer Time – Volunteers are always welcome to do office work and help at rehearsals with music and tutoring.

*“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give”
~ Winston Churchill*



*“My goal is to become a police officer and help to create peace and order in Santa Ana. **KidSingers** has given me values that will help me reach that goal. I am more confident and a better person. I will carry the values of **KidSingers** for the rest of my life.”*

~ Miguel Vazquez

*“Before I came to **KidSingers**, I felt like a “loser” at school. I didn’t have many friends. Most kids thought I was different or “uncool.” The worst part is that I believed them, and did not believe in myself. I just took the humiliation from bullies. Now, I’m the complete opposite. I now have the confidence to go up on stage and sing. I can now stand up for myself and face that bully that says I’m not “cool.” My newfound confidence and self-esteem has come from all that I have learned and continue to learn from **KidSingers**.”*

~ Justin Duncan

*“**KidSingers** has helped me build my confidence and self esteem so that now I am not afraid to try new things. **KidSingers** is a place where everyone helps each other and no one person is alone. We are a family with open arms that makes sure everyone has the opportunity to let their little light shine within them.*

~ Katrina Oscal



...the Supporters

KidSingers has won awards and funding from many prestigious organizations including: PIMCO Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, Angels Baseball Foundation, Wells Fargo, Festival of Children Foundation, Season of Caring/O.C. Register, City of Santa Ana CDBG, Orange County Community Foundation, Disneyland, Pacific Life Foundation and Target.



...the Story Goes On

"Gangs are everywhere and many people get hurt by them. When I was little I lived in a very bad area where shootings were going on day and night. I was sometimes scared to go home because I didn't know if I would get in the middle of the crossfire. **KidSingers** was the place I could fall back on. I didn't have anywhere else to go until I came here and they assured me that I would be fine and made sure of that. I have seen many of my friends get hurt by drugs, alcohol and gang violence. I have tried to help them and show them that there is a better life than the gang life that they are in now. I am thankful for **KidSingers** for pulling me out of that life where I could have probably ended up if it wouldn't have been for the great combination of **KidSingers** and my family. **KidSingers** showed me that I can express myself through the value of music. **KidSingers** is like my big brother, they protect me, they teach me new things, and they show me how to be a better person"

~ Katrina Oscar



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All donations are tax deductible.