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Pinckney Schools receives \$20,000 grant for music program

*Funds will expand partnership between school district and
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra*

Pinckney, Mich. – The halls are alive with the sounds of music – the halls of Pinckney schools, that is. With support from a recent grant of \$20,000, **Pinckney Community Schools** will be able to greatly expand its orchestra education program for students throughout the Pinckney school district.

The grant, \$10,000 of which comes from the **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** and \$10,000 from its affiliate, the **Community Foundation for Livingston County**, will enable the school district to expand the program to more students and strengthen its partnership with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.

Pinckney Community Schools is the only district in Livingston County to offer an orchestra program. Started in 2001 as an after-school program for fifth-graders, the program now serves approximately 170 students in grades 6 – 10, attracting more students every year.

The district recently began partnering with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra to enhance students' experience in the program. As part of the expanded

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program, AASO's professional musicians will provide direct instruction to students and give classroom talks on classical music. Students will also attend AASO rehearsals to learn about performing on stage with a large group.

"The strength of this program is the kids' exposure to professional musicians and a professional conductor," says Nancy Staub, assistant superintendent of curriculum for Pinckney Schools and a board member of the Ann Arbor Symphony. "This mentoring, along with the expanded out-of-school opportunities, will help our young musicians take their skills to the next level."

Rebecca Cheskidov, education director for the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, agrees. "Our musicians have been amazed at how the Pinckney students have grown in both their skills and their love for classical music," she says. "We're impressed with how the entire community has embraced this partnership. It is bringing classical music to a whole new audience that wouldn't otherwise have this experience."

Anne Colone, president of the Pinckney Community Schools Board of Education, is thrilled with the grant. "As a former volunteer with both the Community Foundation and the Livingston County affiliate, I know what an honor it is to receive this grant," says Colone. "The Community Foundation works very hard to ensure its grants go to programs that make a difference. This grant is a wonderful 'seal of approval' for us."

The Community Foundation for Livingston County, established in 1991, is a permanent charitable endowment fund created to benefit the residents of Livingston County. Its mission is to support and improve the county's quality of life. The Foundation is building community capital through contributions from a wide variety of donors so that the charitable needs of Livingston County can be

met, today and in the future. The Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

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