

## **Promoting Peace Through Music: Music is the Language of Magic**

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### **Section 1: Narrative**

#### **Project Goal**

*Promoting Peace Through Music* aims to open the doors of knowledge, patience, and peace by teaching musical instruments to children who lack adequate access to crucial education, guidance, and security in low-income areas of the capital city of Mongolia. We are hoping that these children will grow up to be good people and become world-renowned musicians in the long run.

#### **Project Overview**

Outside of the Davis Project fund, other generous individuals and organizations have helped my project. For example, the Lantuu Dohio NGO provided their classrooms for our music project. Volunteers from the Lantuu Dohio community always assisted our needs. A donor from Australia is sending us three more pianos for our project.

In the low-income districts of my country, public institutions such as schools and libraries are underfunded, alcohol abuse is common, and child development issues are mostly neglected. As a result, it is common for children to become victims of child abuse. The reason why I think this problem exists is ignorance. Mongolian people should raise their voices together and fight for people who need desperate help. To solve this problem, Lantuu Dohio NGO took action and built two buildings called Magic Mongolia 1, 2 dedicated to eradicating human trafficking and protecting children from violence, neglect, abuse, and exploitation in Mongolia and around the world. As a result, hundreds of volunteers and social workers are trying to end abuse, poverty, and human trafficking in Ulaanbaatar. The solution to fix this problem is effective because Lantuu Dohio became famous in my country when they built Magic Mongolia 1. Many people now try to help as much as possible. I decided to partner with Lantuu Dohio to further its holistic approach to help children through music.

Lantuu Dohio gave us a warm welcome. The community was always willing to help. For example, after installing all the instruments, Lantuu Dohio posted our Davis Project for Peace on their Facebook account<sup>1</sup>. One of the Mongolian most prominent news reporters from LiveTV contacted us; as a result, our Davis project was live on TV and the news<sup>2</sup>. More importantly, not only they helped us to organize our opening ceremony and provided their staff members and their classrooms, but they also promised to continue teaching music lessons in the future through their music program.

From my background, I have been playing the piano for almost 15 years; I firmly believe that music makes me a relaxed and peaceful person. By teaching music to children, I envision that children will mitigate all the emotional trauma they have experienced. Moreover, playing musical instruments with one another will improve their teamwork skill, leading to more peaceful lifestyles in the future.

However, there were many challenges along with my project. For example, after installing our instruments in Magic Mongolia 2 and teaching music lessons for our fifth time, the Mongolian government shut down everything from June 24 until August 9, 2021, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. My country has the highest number of new Covid cases in the world. It was at this moment that I felt that our project might not go as planned. Therefore, I contacted my school advisor and asked for advice. We

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<sup>1</sup> Magic Mongolia 2, Facebook Posts, <https://www.facebook.com/467958106738402/posts/1762090320658501/?d=n>  
<https://www.facebook.com/467958106738402/posts/1800857833448416/?d=n>

<sup>2</sup> Оюутан Э.Тэмүүлэн “Ид шидийн орон-2”-г хөгжмийн зэмсэгтэй болгов <https://livetv.mn/p/274554>

decided it would be better to start teaching children after the government opens up the country. Therefore, we started our music lessons on August 16, 2021, and our scheduled music lessons will end on November 16, 2021. Another challenge was when the government opened up, one of our teachers decided to limit the number of people he interacts with. Therefore, we had to find another teacher for our project within a concise amount of time. Overall, the problems were challenging, but we are happy that we solved these challenges.

To me, achieving peace with others or within oneself means having the emotional, physical, and mental strength to never give up no matter what happens in life and having solid teamwork skills. Music helps in this process because it teaches patience, knowledge, and teamwork to individuals. During this summer, we installed all the instruments, inspired the community, and taught music lessons to our children. However, this is only the beginning. I believe that my project will pay off in the long run because learning how to play new instruments takes time. After my project, Lantuu Dohio NGO will be organizing music lessons. Our children will have the opportunity to have access to six different types of a total of 19 musical instruments anytime. They can advance their music knowledge with the help of their teachers. By practicing musical instruments together, they will help each other to become more team-oriented and tenacious. In the end, I hope they will grow up to become caring and peaceful individuals who can work with other people effectively and have the guts never to give up no matter what happens in life.

My project is still ongoing. But, so far, I have felt more connected to the world. This project intensified my feelings to open doors for others. In the end, we are all connected. Seeing smiles on little kids made me one of the happiest men in the world. To conclude, the most significant aspect I took away from this project was being reminded of the importance of caring for others.

Due to Covid-19 and other trials and errors, I suggest that future PfP grantees have many different options planned for the future. Plans can change at any time and for any reason. In my case, my project was on hold for around 1.5 months due to the COVID-19. One of our teachers decided not to teach anymore due to Covid. However, when the government opened up, we continued our music lessons. I also implemented my project remotely. It was a bit challenging to talk to my teammates every time. Through zoom, it will help a lot if you are ready for any possibility. That is the only advice I have for future grantees.

This experience was personally satisfying and life-changing. I am so grateful for the opportunity.

***“Everyone has magic inside them, magic to make the world a better place.”***

- Temuulen Erdenebulgan and Nyamjav Altangerel

All people who contributed to the project.

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