



Above: G.I.V.E. students with their tutors.

Below: G.I.V.E. musicians pair up with students to help them learn musical instruments. The tutors also perform on the instruments and later teach math.



VIDEO OBSERVER
by Emerson Little © 2019

**Volunteers G.I.V.E
Back to the Community**

After school on a Friday afternoon, I met with Hannah Huh, Director of G.I.V.E. (Give, Inspire, Volunteer, and Educate), a non-profit organization partnered with the Fullerton Boys and Girls Club. The program allows students from 8th to 12th grades to volunteer their time and effort to provide musical instruments, math and STEM tutoring to grade school students in the community.

Beginning with a music session, the program's weekly services start off with volunteers preparing their respective instruments and music stands. Students are encouraged to select from the wide range of instruments and are paired with a volunteer. They then transition into a math session, where students are grouped by grade and brought under the watch of their grade tutors. Curriculum is prepared every week by the tutors, who proceed to help students learn and practice their math skills.

G.I.V.E. is designed for children who do not have a lot of experience playing a musical instrument at school. "We try to teach them one-on-one and sometimes, we have two tutors for one student. So we usually have a tutor training session for eight weeks. If someone wants to teach someone and can play, we have auditions. We have to make sure they have good qualifications," Huh said.

Ms. Huh believes that "education is the spark and driving force that brings hope to the next generation. G.I.V.E. is but one

link in a chain of support for our youth. We are committed to act as a bridge to facilitate the intellectual and emotional development of our youth so that they can thrive and blossom into their full potential. This organization is definitely open for everyone," said Ms. Huh. "I have a son...he's eighteen. When I raised him, so many people said, 'Be a leader. Be a leader.' I was thinking a lot about what a leader is, and what is leadership. In my philosophy, it means to serve the people, the community. So, when we serve others and the community, we have a huge benefit. Students can do it by sharing their educational skills or other special skills."

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--Hannah Huh,
G.I.V.E. Director

Ms. Huh's son was in an IB program, which required community service. "A lot of people said if your son is in high school, he needs to join in some kind of volunteer group or community service. He has to do that to graduate high school. That's why I had more interest in a volunteer program," said Ms. Huh. "I'm an orchestra musician. My orchestra serves other venues, like the City of Anaheim, where we previously worked with underprivileged kids. I was trying to find a good organization or community service project here for my son, so that's why I created this program."

Brett Ackerman, Chief Executive Officer of Boys & Girls Clubs of Fullerton, said, "Hannah reached out to me at the end of 2017 and she was interested in running a program. I said, 'We've been looking for a music program, but we



just haven't had anyone to run it. I sat down and met with her and she was off and running. It's growing now. We're going to start bringing kids from our Teen Center over here to participate in the program as well. It's a great thing, it's a great partnership."

Ms. Huh added, "Last year, from the first week of March, we started the program here. Previously, we were individual volunteers who became a group and set up the non-profit organization. We never asked for membership or any money from students. We just tried to look for ways of surviving because we wanted to open the door to everyone."

G.I.V.E. happens every Friday in a back room at the Boys and Girls Club. On the first day of February, I visited the program. Mr. Ackerman, who gave me permission to film, led me into a backroom where I met with Ms. Huh. On the wall, there was a rainbow with the acronym, "STEAM" painted on it. In front of the wall, tables and music stands had been set up by G.I.V.E. volunteers wearing navy blue Boys and Girls Club t-shirts.

The children were divided into different stations. When I first entered the room, my eye was drawn to the keyboards since I've been playing the piano and taking lessons at Patrick's Music School ever since I was in elementary school. There were also kids learning clarinet, flute, violin, guitar, and ukulele. Teen volunteers at all the different stations were working with the elementary school children to teach and provide advice. Ms. Huh and other adult volunteers were supervising the children and helping out the teenage volunteers.



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