



## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Steel Magic Northwest  
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**GENERAL GOALS:** Steel Magic Northwest is as much about making good people as it is about making good music! Participants learn much more than just music in the steel band. They develop teamwork skills, leadership through mentoring, an increased sense of responsibility to the group, social skills, and they see on a regular basis the fruits of their dedication. The steel band is different than school band or orchestra in that the director doesn't stand in front with a baton; the students themselves are in front, and therefore have a heightened sense of ownership of the performance.

### SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:



Since receiving your support, the “infrastructure” of our after-school steel band program has literally been built from the ground up. With the combined support of five foundations, we raised the amount necessary to equip our organization for decades to come (the instruments and support gear).

And right now, there are about 45 kids actually playing on those instruments as a part of the Edmonds School District's Summer Music School, a three-week summer day camp for primarily middle school children in the south Snohomish county area. This event is a cooperative effort between Steel Magic

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Northwest and the district to enhance their music camp. It also serves as a wonderful recruiting tool for us, as these kids will perform for all the families whose kids attend the camp (about 195 families), where we will briefly introduce our organization to them. We are also preparing our website to accept registrations for our September session, and this will be in place just before that concert takes place.

In receiving and preparing the instruments for use, not one penny has been wasted, as organization personnel and board members have pitched in to do a lot of manual labor (scuffing, painting, building carts, transporting the instruments, etc). This, indeed, was a very high bang-for-your-buck return.

*The months ahead...*

*Finances:* We now enter our most financially vulnerable time. The next six months to a year will be our toughest. The broader community, which we will rely on for support in the future, hasn't seen the results of the program yet, and we will have to commit to a rental space very soon (probably paying first and last month's rent up front). But the number of registrants we're going to have in September remains a total mystery. We do have some money in the bank from individual donations (and one small operational grant), but we will need additional outside support in order to keep our tuition low enough while the number of participants grows. We continue to write grants for operational support.

Our initial offerings will be two youth 12-week classes, and one adult 12-week class. If those fill up, we can easily add another. In January, we will still offer 12-week classes, but to that we will add two performance groups which run on a year-round calendar, and the adult group will also go to a year-round schedule as well.

*Location:* We have a back-up location at Edmonds Adventist Church, which is willing to rent us half of their fellowship hall during the week, and a small space partitioned off from a classroom to store the instruments on the weekends, when they use their fellowship hall. That room is even more expensive than some of the other properties we have seen (commercial or warehouse) but we know that the city's planning department would okay our business license there easily—plenty of parking, ample restrooms, etc. Two other properties we are looking at are cheaper, and would be 100% ours full-time, but the city planning departments might take issue with the number of bathrooms available (one!).

*Recruitment:* In addition to the summer music camp recruitment opportunity, we will be making presentations in the local public and private schools at the very beginning of the school year, to round up more participants and get our classes as full as possible.

Gary Gibson  
Executive and Artistic Director  
Steel Magic Northwest