



TRAVIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

ESTELA P. MEDINA
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
COURT SERVICES
DETENTION SERVICES
DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICE
PROBATION SERVICES
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

To Dr. Hinsley
Executive Director
For the Austin Classical Guitar Society

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to report the positive impact that Mr. Marcum and others have had with the young people who are participating in his guitar class at the Gardner-Betts facility for the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department. There have been many cases where the guitar class has served the young people well while in our program. The guitar class bolsters self-esteem as many of these teens have never experienced the accomplishment and pride that they feel after learning to play an instrument and then successfully performing before an audience. The guitar class also injects the young people with motivation to excel at something that is positive and constructive to replace destructive behaviors and lifestyles. Additionally, the guitar class provides an opportunity for the young people to earn academic credits needed for high school. Many of the young people that are in the residential program are significantly behind in their school, and this is one way that they can make up for credits lost in the past. Many specific examples could be given of the positive impact that this service brings to our youth, but let this following example serve as an individual example of many.

A 17 year old male entered our program with a plethora of obstacles for success in his life. He was raised primarily in a single parent home with one of his parents being in and out of jail and/or drug rehabilitation programs. This child had made poor decisions with his own life by developing his own drug habit, committing crimes, and becoming delinquent in school. Although he is very bright and has multiple gifts and talents, these decisions limited his success in school and in society. Upon entering the program, his motivation for positive change was extremely low. When offered an opportunity to join the guitar class, he enrolled. His motivation began to snowball and spread to other areas of programming. He went from putting forth minimal effort in school and his drug rehabilitation to becoming a leader by example for his peers. This youth is currently back on track to graduate high school on time and return to his home with a renewed commitment to his family and to himself for a more productive future.

As mentioned above there are many more stories that could be shared with similar circumstances and outcomes. We at Gardner-Betts very much appreciate the Austin Classical Guitar Society and Travis Marcum for their commitment to the young people of Travis County.

Sincerely,

Dean Campbell, LPC
Senior Chemical Dependency Counselor
Residential Services

