

**Mr. B's JOYBOX EXPRESS** is a project designed to raise awareness and funds for groups dedicated to improving the health and well being of children, focusing on groups that provide children access to arts and athletics programs. At the heart of the project is a custom-made trike that holds a 352-pound piano. Mr. B and fellow musicians conduct bicycle tours, with all instruments in tow, performing benefit concerts and promoting charitable giving for partner organizations along the way.



*Mr. B's Joybox Express*

## WHAT THE JOYBOX EXPRESS DOES BEYOND TRADITIONAL CHARITY WORK:

- Creates the opportunity to merge creativity and philanthropy so that others imagine how they might contribute to (an agency, organization, cause) whose purpose and mission matter to them
- Provides a model for how to become a catalyst for innovation, collaboration and community building
- Stretches individual and collective imagination to create a new paradigm for the celebration of music AND fundraising
- Exemplifies the "can do" spirit that is critical for teaching, learning, and creating--with an impact far greater and deeper than a one time event could ever have

**Trails Edge Camp, "A Camp for Ventilator-Dependent Children,"** Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI

**The Tiny Scarabs, family chamber music program of the Scarab Club,** Detroit, MI

**Early Exposure,** City of Detroit Recreation Department, Detroit, MI

**Saugatuck/Douglas District Library "Note-able Pages" (children's music and reading program),** Saugatuck, MI

**Grand Rapids Coalition to End Homelessness,** Grand Rapids, MI

**James Tatum Foundation for the Arts (youth in music),** Detroit, MI

**Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation,** Southeast Michigan Metro Detroit Chapter

## Music & Fundraising

After a maiden voyage of 150 miles in 2009, the Joybox Express Quartet rode across the state of Michigan in 2010. The group plans to ride across the state again in 2011.

### Groups we've served

**National Kidney Foundation of Michigan,** Ann Arbor, MI  
**St. Vincent Home for Children/St. Vincent Catholic Charities,** Lansing, MI  
**Wild Swan Theater,** Ann Arbor, MI  
**LACASA Family Shelter,** Howell, MI  
**Chelsea Center for the Arts,** Chelsea, MI  
**Michigan State University Communicative Sciences & Disorders Mexico Health Project,** E. Lansing MI  
**Foundation for Mott Community College Athletic Fund,** Flint, MI  
**MADD Poets Society (Making a Direct Difference),** Toledo, Ohio  
**Melanoma Know More,** Cincinnati, Ohio

## 2012 Heart of America Tour

In the fall of 2012, MR. B's JOYBOX EXPRESS will undertake our most ambitious plan to date; a 1750-mile journey--Minnesota to New Orleans--alongside the majestic Mississippi River!



*Group Ride from Chelsea to Ann Arbor, July 2010.*

Our journey is expected to last 90 days, and unlike our earlier summertime adventures, we've scheduled this trip specifically to be able to visit as many schools along our route

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The JOYBOX EXPRESS QUARTET performs at the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, July 2010.

as possible. Back home, schools in

our area are working with us to integrate our experiences into their students curriculum. In return, these students will be encouraged to help us shape and improve our presentations to schools along our route. We believe there are many learning opportunities to discover through this collaboration!

Our team will also be reaching out to as many human services organizations as possible, partnering with them to create events designed to raise funds and draw attention to their needs. We are excited to be able to support organizations who share our passion for helping others!

## LEARN MORE ABOUT US:

**Our website:** [www.joyboxexpress.com](http://www.joyboxexpress.com)

**Contact Mark Braun (Mr. B):**

**Email us at:** [info@joyboxexpress.com](mailto:info@joyboxexpress.com)

**Watch Independently produced video:**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6McGQ\\_DIMK](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6McGQ_DIMK)

“Mr B’s Joy Box Express in HD”

**Many videos on YouTube:**

Recommended videos on YouTube at “TEDxDetroit”



Mr. B with kids at the St. Vincent Home for Children, Lansing, Michigan, July 2010.

## TESTIMONIALS

“It’s no secret that families are pinching pennies and schools are losing their field trip dollars; foundations are shrinking their giving, and in Michigan we lost our cultural funding entirely last year. You stepped up and brought your joy and music to the challenge. Our Michigan neighbors responded with their financial contributions and applause – and our thanks are to you and them.

At Wild Swan, we believe that the arts nourish a child’s spirit as well as intellectual development, social skills and imagination. How wonderful it was to see in the Joybox Express a celebration of two essential elements of a happy childhood: music-making and bike-riding, brought together to support our community’s children. It’s a great model for all of our kids to see: a grown-up taking care of his body, expressing his artistic soul, and really extending himself to fellow musicians, riders, kids and families for the greater good. Congratulations on your accomplishment, and thank you so much for making us part of it.”

–Chris Barry, Executive Director, Wild Swan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI

“The administration of Mott Community College was so pleased to be associated with your ‘pied-piping tour’ last summer to benefit our athletic fund. To feature your outstanding talent as a musician would be thrilling enough, but to then add the unique and intriguing aspect of your own 352-pound piano fastened on the back of your bicycle pedicab only added to the delight and inspiration for the 150 people who

came out July 7 to see and hear you perform. What a wonderful way to share your gift of music while raising funds for our athletes at MCC.”

–Lennetta B. Coney, President, Foundation for Mott Community College, Flint, MI.

It is a pleasure to share the incredible musical experience that our students had recently when MR. B’s JOYBOX EXPRESS arrived on the front lawn of our school. Soon, all were up on their feet singing and dancing with enthusiasm in appreciation of the fabulous music created by this amazing trio.

Lessons learned from the concert included music history and appreciation, as well as basic scientific principles of sound, physics and engineering. In addition, Mark Braun and his fellow musicians taught our students about creating a vision, working tirelessly toward a goal, and ultimately, achieving success.

–Janette Jackson, Principal, Wines Elementary, Ann Arbor, MI

“We are honored that Mr. B visited St. Vincent Catholic Charities and the St. Vincent Home for Children. He gave of himself to focus importance on providing quality of life for all children. He shared an example of creativity and passion with the children that they will carry with them through their lives.”

–Andrea E. Seyka, CEO for St Vincent Catholic Charities, Lansing, MI

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