

To whom it may concern,

It's not every day I get a call from a generous soul like Ken Chinn offering to donate a dozen guitars to the music therapy program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. In 2013, I got this phone call as well as a personal visit from Ken and professional musician Richard Bowden to the hospital to make the donation.

Ken's passion to share music with children in the hospital extends beyond his donation to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. He has reached out to five children's hospitals across the country to make similar donations from the Chinn Guitar Project. All of these hospitals also have music therapy programs. When media attention was paid to Ken and his guitar donations, he was sure to point out that these guitars are being utilized as part of music therapy programs. Our profession could not ask for a better advocate.

In our music therapy sessions, we sometimes use guitar instruction as patients want to learn new leisure skills or have an opportunity for expression through music. In the past, I would work with a patient and let them borrow my guitar. When it was time for the patient to go home, I'd have to take the guitar away from them. Many times I knew the families did not have the resources to purchase a guitar for their child. Reaching this dead end in our efforts to provide an expressive outlet was frustrating. Ken's donations mean that our patients can continue to use the guitar as they are returning to their daily routines outside of therapies and treatments.

The recipients of the guitar donations range in age and diagnosis. Listed below are some of the children I've personally interacted with who have benefited from guitars donated by the Chinn Guitar Project.

- Ten year old boy with sickle cell disease who had a stroke several years ago. He now receives blood products in the clinic for several hours every two weeks to prevent another stroke. He brings his guitar to help pass the time in the infusion room
- Bone marrow recipient who is 14 years old and learning bluegrass music on his guitar
- Active 16 year old who lost use of his legs in a car accident and is creating a new hobby with music
- Young teen who just finished treatment for Ewing's Sarcoma and is now starting lessons in his hometown in south Georgia
- Creative 18 year old young adult who is in treatment for leukemia and wants to be in a band when her treatment is through

Ken has shared successes with me about other programs he is supporting through the Chinn Guitar Project. I know his efforts will continue to provide music resources to more and more people. It's a pleasure to work with Ken and the Chinn Guitar Project.

Sincerely,
Beth Collier, MT-BC
Music Therapist
Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Services
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
beth.collier@choa.org