

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Accent Pontiac Students Feel the Beat at Walt Whitman Elementary School

Bloomfield Hills, MI, November 7, 2016 – Accent Pontiac is a new program sponsored by Kirk in the Hills, dedicated to providing robust, accessible music education for students in Pontiac. Known as a community leader in music excellence and for extensive outreach in the Pontiac community, the Kirk sees this El Sistema-inspired music program as a natural extension of its mission to serve our neighbors, using music as a vehicle for social change.

“It is so exciting to see this program come to life!” relates Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon, Outreach Pastor at the Kirk. “Our hope is that others will see this program making a difference for our neighbors in Pontiac and will want to play a part in making this effort grow exponentially.”

Starting with a soft launch in September 2016, Accent Pontiac has brought musicians into Whitman Elementary for performances to acquaint students with a variety of music and musicians. Students also had the opportunity to play pitched percussion instruments during the school’s Open House for students and parents. Accent Pontiac plans to provide consistent programming for students at Whitman Elementary both during and after school beginning in January of 2017, including bucket band and brass classes.

“This is not a music program for music sake. It’s a youth development program using music to uplift students,” said Christina Rowan, Artistic/Program Director of Accent Pontiac.

Accent Pontiac will present its first student performance, a bucket band assembly on Friday, November 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walt Whitman Elementary School gym. The performance is preceded by a week-long immersive intersession workshop with each first, second, and third grade class receiving one hour of music instruction during the day. The performance will consist of all participating first, second, and third grade intersession students at Whitman Elementary performing bucket band pieces that they have learned, as well as those they have composed themselves. Local guest percussionists will join the students.

Kirk in the Hills is a Christ-centered community called to deepen faith, serve others and foster fellowship. A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Kirk is located

at 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. For more information, please call (248) 626-2515.

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