

Long Grove Living

MAY 2017

A SOCIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LONG GROVE



STRAWBERRY FEST
Tickets Inside



YOUR INVITATION TO OUR
WINE TASTING



YOUR PHOTOS • YOUR STORIES • YOUR VILLAGE



88Keys to Cure

We applaud and give a shout out to Derek Chung of Stevenson and the other talented young artist who put together an amazing concert to benefit The National Intensive Care Unit at Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. It's not too late to give. We thank resident Robert Chung for calling this to our attention.

88Keys to Cure, an Illinois not-for-profit organization founded by Long Grove resident Derek Chung of Stevenson H.S., Sophia Li of Vernon Hill H.S., Grace Tu of Glenbrook South H.S., and Jarrett Takaki of New Trier H.S., sponsored its first concert on April 1, 2017, at Nichols Concert Hall in Evanston. The 88Keys to Cure Inaugural Benefit Concert featured an evening of classical music performed by the founders of the organization and some of the area's top young artists including Masha Lakisova of Vernon Hills, Haddon Kay of Lincolnshire, and a pair of talented 8-year-olds in Emmie Guo of Chicago and Freya Pang of Darien. Proceeds from the concert will be directed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. The concert was well attended. To date, 88Keys to Cure has raised over \$10k for the NICU, more than doubling its initial goal.

Jarrett, Grace, Derek and Sophia are students of the Sueanne Metz Piano Studio in Long Grove. Collectively, they have over 30 years of piano studies with Ms. Metz. They have won competitions at the local, national, and international levels. They have performed individually in over 20 states and even as far Russia, Poland, and Italy. Each of them has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York.

While their piano resume speaks for itself, the hope is their legacy will be defined by contribution, not an accomplishment. This was the motivation behind creating their own charitable organization. The name is synonymous with the 88 keys that make up a standard piano. The vision is for young musicians to identify with a charity or cause of their choosing; organize, promote, and perform in benefit concerts; and spread classical music appreciation and enrichment within the community. The organization sets the platform for future students in the Studio to carry on the vision and honor the values taught by their teacher. The continuity and connection to the community seem particularly necessary at a time when discussions to cut funding for arts and humanities are intensifying.

One of the challenges for the students was deciding on a charity to benefit for their first concert. It was important to set the tone for future charities and concerts. A few months ago, they were introduced to neonatologist Dr. Nana Matoba. Dr. Matoba was an accomplished pianist who now treats premature and critically ill infants at Lurie Children's NICU. The students presented their vision for 88Keys to Cure to Dr. Matoba. She invited them to the hospital and introduced them to the NICU staff. They saw babies fighting for their lives and could only imagine the emotional and physical toll the families deal with every day.

From the donations collected, the NICU will purchase a number of specific items for the benefit of their patients including Medela hospital-grade pumps for nursing mothers to use at home while her infant resides at the NICU and Zlfo Cushions used to improve stamina and support for the infants. Lurie Children's will host a presentation to the NICU from 88Keys to Cure in June. While the concert may have passed, the needs of the infants and their families are ongoing. Therefore, 88Keys to Cure will continue taking donations on their website and are hoping to schedule an additional event locally or online before the presentation. Details will be announced on their website and Facebook page.

<https://www.88KeystoCure.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/88KeystoCure>