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MSU Community Music School receives \$2,000 CVS Caremark Community Grant for Music Therapy Programs

Contact: **Amanda Darche**
 MSU Community Music School
 (517) 355-7661, ext. 16
 adarche@msu.edu

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The MSU Community Music School (CMS) has received a \$2,000 CVS Caremark Community Grant in support of music therapy programming for Greater Lansing children and youth with special needs.

Music therapy at CMS includes a variety of programs such as individual therapy sessions, group sessions and the Eric ‘RicStar’ Winter Music Therapy Camp. The CVS Caremark Community Grant will support all programs and is already providing financial assistance to two local children. Additionally, the grant will be matched by the Dart Foundation, which matches up to \$5,000 annually in funds raised toward the RicStar Camp.

“The grant from CVS is much needed and appreciated. Music therapy is an extremely effective form of therapy for so many people in our community,” said Cindy Edgerton, director of music therapy clinical services at CMS. “Support such as this allows CMS to continue these programs and to bring them to members of our community who might otherwise go without services. I’ve seen children transformed by music therapy. I am delighted that this grant will allow us to reach more people.”

In music therapy, clients use music to work on areas of need such as communication, motor skills, and self-expression. Several programs provide an inclusive environment where participants with various levels of ability interact.

“CVS Caremark Community Grants are an effective way for us to contribute to the success of communities where we do business,” said Jennifer Veilleux, director of CVS Caremark Corporation. “We are proud to support the work that the MSU Community Music School does in the community.”

The CVS Caremark Community Grant to MSU Community Music School is part of CVS Caremark’s commitment to its communities throughout the country. MSU Community Music School was selected to receive a grant through the CVS Caremark Community Grants 2009 grant application process. Grants were awarded to organizations that share a common vision with CVS Caremark’s All Kids Can™ program, which strives to make life easier for children with disabilities. The goal of the program is to create more

inclusive environments for children – with and without disabilities – to build self-esteem, lasting friendships, and social skills, and to help children without disabilities learn diversity and tolerance.

“CVS Caremark is committed to helping children with disabilities learn, play, and succeed in life,” said Everett Moore, area vice president, East Lansing, CVS/pharmacy. “Through this grant, we are proud to be able to help make an impact on the lives of children in the Greater Lansing community.”

Local CVS employees will be invited to volunteer for music therapy programs through CVS’s Community Crew website which promotes employee volunteerism.

The MSU Community Music School is located at 841-B Timberlane Street in East Lansing and is the outreach division of the MSU College of Music. Although there is a moratorium on the academic music therapy program at the College of Music, music therapy programs at CMS will continue. The mission of CMS is to provide comprehensive music programming – quality instruction, related music services, and educational programs – for interested individuals of all ages and levels with financial assistance for those in need. For more information, visit www.cms.msu.edu or call (517) 355-7661.

About CVS Caremark All Kids Can

All Kids Can, a program of the CVS Caremark Charitable Trust and CVS Caremark, is a five-year, \$25 million commitment to support children with disabilities. The goals of All Kids Can are to support children with disabilities by raising awareness in schools and in local communities about the importance of inclusion, creating greater opportunities for physical activity and play, and providing access to medical rehabilitation and related services. CVS Caremark and its more than 190,000 employees plan to help children with disabilities learn, play, and succeed through partnerships with leading local and national nonprofit organizations such as Easter Seals and many others across the country. For more information, visit www.cvsallkids.com.

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