

In The Spotlight...

dedicated to exemplary people, places & organizations that support Texas music.

editor's corner by:
Bruce Warren



MusiCares provides a safety net of critical assistance for music people in times of need. MusiCares services and resources cover a wide range of financial, medical and personal emergencies, and each case is treated with integrity and confidentiality. MusiCares also focuses the resources and attention of the music industry on human service issues that directly impact the health and welfare of the music community.

Over the years, the music industry has evolved into an amazing worldwide network of individuals and multinational conglomerates grossing over \$50 billion a year. Yet, disturbingly, the very people whose creativity and ingenuity fuel this massive cash machine have few places to turn in troubled times. The tragic health and financial hardships faced by too many members of our musical family prompted the Recording Academy's establishment of the MusiCares® Foundation in 1989.

It is the mission of MusiCares to ensure that music people have a place to turn in times of financial, medical or personal crisis. Its primary purpose is to focus the attention and resources of the music industry on human services issues that directly impact the health and welfare of music people.

The "heart and soul" of MusiCares is the Emergency Financial Assistance Program that provides critical funds for music people struggling with financial, medical or personal crises. This program offers financial assistance for medical expenses including doctor, dental and hospital bills, prescriptions, addiction recovery treatment, psychotherapy, treatment for HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other critical illnesses, as well as basic living expenses such as rent and utilities.

Committed to providing prompt, confidential help to those in need, MusiCares is staffed by full-time Health and Human Service Managers in Los Angeles, Nashville, and New York. Each region has its own toll-free help line: 800.687.4227 (West Coast), 877.626.2748 (Central) and 877.303.6962 (Northeast).

MusiCares has become a leading force in the effort to identify, raise awareness of and address the problems of addiction in our industry. In addition to the financial assistance that is available, MusiCares also provides addiction recovery support through its Safe Harbor Room. MusiCares established its first Safe Harbor Room backstage at the 39th Annual GRAMMY Awards telecast to provide a support system to artists and crew members struggling with addiction issues. Staffed by qualified chemical dependency and intervention specialists, the Safe Harbor Room offers a support network to those in recovery while they are participating in the production of televised music shows and other major music events. MusiCares has expanded the Safe Harbor Room program to include the annual GRAMMY and Latin GRAMMY Awards, the CMA Awards, South by Southwest, Bumbershoot, BET's Annual Awards Special, Academy of Country Music Awards, the Native



American Music Awards, and the NAMM Convention.

MusiCares operates an Addiction Recovery Program that recognizes those issues unique to musicians in recovery, at any stage of their career, and whether they are on tour or performing locally.

MusiCares organizes and supports a number of outreach activities to educate members of the music industry and the public-at-large about available human service opportunities. These include health care referrals, publication of its Directory of Human Services and self-help guides, a national ad campaign, addiction recovery symposiums, panel presentations, health fairs and financial wellness workshops. To further its reach among our youth, MusiCares, along with the Recording Academy's Nashville chapter, publishes the Youth Yellow Pages, an adolescent crisis resource guide distributed to 60,000 teens in the central Tennessee region.

MusiCares, in partnership with Gibson Guitar and Guitar Center Music Education Foundation, has developed a campaign to provide replacement instruments and accessories to musicians affected by the hurricanes that devastated the Gulf Coast region. The campaign's goal is to put musical instruments back into the hands of all musicians who lost everything in the hurricane disasters and to help them regain their livelihood. Gibson and Guitar Center spearheaded the initial effort by collaborating on the design, manufacture and sale of an exclusive Gibson guitar with all proceeds going directly to the Music Rising program. The guitar will be available through Guitar Center and a very limited quantity will be produced. All proceeds will benefit Music Rising.

There are sponsorship and donation opportunities throughout the year that allow you to make a real difference in the lives of less fortunate members of our cherished music family. If you would like to know what you can do to help MusiCares continue serving as the heart of the music community, please contact our national headquarters by calling 310.392.3777 or writing to MusiCares at 3402 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California 90405. or visit www.MusiCares.com

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