

Many of you have asked for a page such as this, so here are just a few of the many letters we receive from all over the world really, I will try to post more as they continue to arrive on a regular basis.

Thank you so much for taking the time and for your interest in The Rhythmic Arts Project.

**- Eddie Tuduri/ Director**

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"As a drummer, I know the importance of RHYTHM in one's life. TRAP is bringing RHYTHM to a population normally excluded. I not only respect Eddie Tuduri as a musician, but I am learning more about compassion seeing his unconditional love as a teacher in dealing with these kids."

**- John Densmore, "The Doors" TRAP Board Member**

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"Shave and a Haircut"

From Mike Tempo, Special Ed Teacher, Percussionist

She has multiple severe disabilities and was always curled up in her wheelchair in a closed, egg-shaped posture: looking down; deformed hands with missing and fused fingers covering her ears so only the top of her head was visible. I knew she was blind and didn't think she could or would speak. But at a TRAP "learning curve" session with other students I saw her in the back of the room and noticed that she rocking in her wheelchair; so I knew she could hear! We put a drum in front of her and placed her hands on the head of the drum and I played a classic... "Bomp-Da-Da-Bomp-Bomp" and then the two beat answer "Bomp bomp!" (Shave and a haircut, two bits!) Much to everyone's surprise she picked up on it and played it back to me perfectly. And finished with a big laugh! We had this conversation many times, switching parts back and forth. I marveled at her facility and cognition. She has since learned increasingly complex beats with much joy, and has also become more verbal and social. Rhythm has given her a means of expression and helped bring her out of isolation. Now seeing her makes my day. She raises her head and greets me with a loud and clear "Hola Mike!"-then yells "Bomp-Da-Da-Bomp-Bomp." And waits for my answer.

**- Mike Tempo, Sofia T. Salvin School, Los Angeles**

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Eddie,  
It was great meeting you, also, and I'm glad that you had a good time. Your presentation brought the members to their feet!!! What a way to end the conference.

- **Mary Alice Willis CEO, DDNA**

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Hi Eddie,  
You have created a great outreach and I am proud to be a part of it. I wanted to thank you in person for all you have done for so many, as I have seen first hand what the rhythmic therapy can do and it has amazed me this past year. But, it looks like my written words will have to do for now. I hope next year to make it and perhaps The ARC will help fund the cost.

With Love,

**Katie**

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Hi Eddie my name is June Saada, I work with "A Little Drop of Milk Society" in Damascus and I attended your program in the Four Seasons Hotel. First of all I am glad you had a safe journey home and second of all I would like to thank you for taking the time to come to Syria and to enrich our lives with the knowledge of TRAP. We have a lot of children who love music (especially Downs Syndrome) but it never entered my mind before that we could teach these children through music. What an inspiration you were to me. We hope soon to start a program with our children with musical instruments. I would like to thank you on behalf of a Little Drop of Milk Society for introducing us to TRAP and I hope in the future we can meet again or be involved in the work your Organization is doing in the Middle East. Bye for now and I look forward to hearing from you soon. If we can be of any help to introduce TRAP here in Damascus please let me know.

- **TC June Saada**

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RE: Your Visit to Damascus - L'arche Al Safina

Dear Eddie,

Thank you very much for your precious time and your training it was a real success. As promised we are waiting for you next year for a longer workshop.

Hope you and Hani got good memories from AISafina and AIMina Workshop.

Hope to see you soon.

Regards,

**Rima Absi**

**AISafina**

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Good Morning Eddie,

It was great running in to you yesterday at Starbucks. As promised, please see the attached photos of one of our T.R.A.P. groups at the park in Santa Maria. I spoke with our Director of that program today and he mentioned that we have been serving a woman with severe behavior issues for years and recently there was a dramatic decrease in incidents – upon investigating the reason for the marked decrease in incidents, they found that it began the day she joined the drum circle – pretty miraculous!

Again, good to see you and look forward to seeing you soon at Girl's Inc.

All the best,

**Kathy**  
**Kathy Webb, Executive Director**  
**UCP/WORK, Inc. 5464 Carpinteria Ave., Suite B**  
**Carpinteria, CA 93013**

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Ron and Eddie,

While I have your email addresses at the tip of my hands I wanted to send a quick thank you for all your work and contributions to the transition fair in March. A hand written note awaits on my desk to be mailed today as I finally took the time to sit down and get them all written out. I had many people to thank for helping out with the transition fair. What a team effort!

I loved the "Trap Program" presentation! Evaluations indicate a great response from kids! Melanie's photos are fabulous and add so much to what we have accomplished. Best to both of you and may our paths cross again in the future! You are two awesome gentlemen with many gifts and talents to keep sharing with the world.

**Kathryn Rotter VISIONS Program  
Chehalis School District  
1265 SW Pacific Ave.  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
(360)740-9796**

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Hi Eddie,

Katie has experienced a number of "breakthroughs" with the drums. I pass this along because its part of your story too. A new addition came to the ARC and Katie's drumming class recently. His name is Roger and he has Fragile X Syndrome. I don't know much about it. Apparently he is missing a chromosome. At the beginning Katie was getting everyone to beat their drum and say their name. He simply had to go boom, boom, and say, "Rog-er" but he couldn't do it. He was afraid to touch the drum. He would get close to it and then start to shake and sweat. He'd plead, "can I just tap my fingers," and finally jump up, tear off his jacket, pace around them room and holler, "its hot in here Katie." (You can't take their hand and make them touch the drum or they'll panic) But Katie looked into his eyes and zeroed in with encouragement saying "you can do it, Roger, I know you can do it Roger," over and over and finally, after about 15 minutes, he lightly touched the side of the drum. When he tapped the side something magical happened. Roger started beating the drum - he has good rhythm. He went through the entire book and ended up leading the group. By the conclusion he was laughing and dancing and saying to Katie, "I'm really cool, aren't I?" Its amazing.

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Eddie

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!! I can't believe how much our children love this music program. This would have not been possible for us with out you and the Myerson Foundation. It takes a very special person to see what we see children doing the impossible. We would love to have you back any time every one thought the world of you. Please keep in touch and let us know of any up dates to your curriculum. We will also do the same and let you know what we are doing here in the center.

Sincerely,

**Shawna Estrada**  
**Pope's Kids Place**  
**230 Washington Way**  
**Centralia WA 98531**

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Thank you Guitar Center

Please accept our gratitude and thanks to the Guitar Center Foundation for the recent donation of the TRAP Pack to the Shaking Ray Levi Society, a non-profit music presenting and educational organization in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The percussion instruments have already been put to good use in providing drumming workshops at several area non-profit organizations through The Rhythmic Arts Project. Without this donation, these underserved (but very deserving!) audiences would have had to wait for complete funding to implement TRAP; now, these instruments provide temporary use for a number of new programs and will encourage other organizations to begin programs of their own. The local schools and organizations benefiting from this generous donation include the Dawn School for severely developmentally challenged children aged 8-16, the Scenicland School for children with ADD, ADHD and autism, TC Thompson's Children's Hospital, part of Erlanger, the region's largest hospital system, the Creative Discovery Museum, Chattanooga City Parks and Recreation disability programs, including GoFest and the Zoo Ability camp for children with disabilities, and all Hamilton County schools. A conservative estimate is that 6,000 children and adults will be able to participate in and perform music as a result of Guitar Center Foundation donors. In the past six months, the Chattanooga TRAP

program has been featured in a number of media articles, including those in the "Chattanooga Times Free Press", "Chattanooga" business magazine, "Blush" lifestyle magazine, "In The City" arts magazine, "Chattanooga Pulse" arts and music alternative newspaper and on several radio and newspaper news and talk programs. TRAP always provides recognition for sponsors, which include Pearl Drum, Allied Arts of Chattanooga and now, the Guitar Center. Thank you again for your generous support, and please contact me if you need additional information or testimonials; we have plenty to share!

Sincerely,

**Bob Stagner**

**shakingray@shakingray.com**

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I have a success story for you: I have been facilitating a one-on-one TRAP class with a young gentleman from our program who is supposedly "non-verbal", (what a crock that is!). We've been getting together twice a week for the last month to have 30 min sessions and he is one of the most fascinating guys to watch. He has the disorder that causes him to have "word deafness", so he has a hard time with spoken directions, but processes things very easily if the instructions are written down or in visual form. You can just imagine how well the booklet works for him! I've been working a lot with him on using his visual skills (he's a total master with the colors) and adding in spoken directions to really challenge him. Then I ask him to speak the words with me and have him watch me form the words with my mouth, just as I've seen you do. It's like I can see progress every lesson with him, and I can almost see the synapses firing in his brain as he charts new territory in the lessons. I am so proud of him and I am continually blown away as he reminds me just how bright he really is. I watch him go from a very "stuck" repetitive place with seemingly violent tendencies, to a smiling, coherent, focused young man. Did I mention he's 350 lbs?!?

If you have any interest in filming him, his mother is very supportive of this program, and you never know where it could lead to... Putting a bee in your bonnet.

And in Santa Maria, Anthony and Richard have really stepped it up, and now they take groups out 3-5 mornings a week (usually the same group for two weeks, then rotate). They go to the park, to people's group homes and out in the community. I just love how they are getting out there.

I hope you are well and enjoying the music this season.

Anne

**Anne Dupee**  
**Health & Wellness Coordinator**  
**UCP/WORK, Inc.**  
**Santa Barbara, CA**

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Eddie,

Thank you for the Christmas update. It was so assuring to see how the program continues to grow. How exciting for everyone involved but especially you. To have a dream and see it catch hold is awesome.

Thank you,

**Mary Ann Hagstrom**  
**ARC-Taft**

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Hi Eddie,

Please give the folks at the Guitar Center Music Foundation our deepest appreciation for their generous donation which we received earlier this week. The work you have done to introduce TRAP to the children and adults we serve has been marvelous. This donation will help our preschool children's program learn and grow in a way that is fun, exciting and soooooo engaging. Thanks for thinking of us and once again, please give the folks at the foundation a big thank you from all of us here in the Catskill Mts.

Best regards,

**George Suess, CEO**

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Hi Bob,

Hope all is well with you. I just want to share that Macon County received their drums yesterday. Putnam County (Cookeville) has had its first rhythmic arts session, and I hear they had a blast! Also, Joyce Sievers sent the program brochure to one of her friends in Wisconsin who has a son in a program similar to ours, and she has requested that agency start a rhythmic arts program. You may remember that our program has the traponline site listed. She also sent it to two

other friends. We are spreading the beauty! Our church also donated its monthly tithe to Pacesetters Rhythmic Arts Program! We are so blessed and so grateful. J Gail

**Gail Dial**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Pacesetters**

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Hello everyone. I wanted to share some exciting information with you...

Our TRAP program fired up again last month. We have been going into Sutter Middle School and serving their special needs program the last few weeks. This is a new group of kids and they are loving the program. We also will be going into Blanche Sprentz Elementary School soon.

A couple of months ago, the leadership of Oak Hills Church gave us an wonderful opportunity to address the congregation and ask for help getting connected in the community. We had many people respond. Some knew of families who had special needs kids and were looking for more learning opportunities for them and some had connections with community service organizations. So, we ended up with a lot of leads.

One of those leads was with a community organization called, Odyssey Learning Center. This is a school for special needs individuals ages 3 to 22 years old. Most of these kids there are autistic. They are bussed to this facility from eleven local school districts in the greater Sacramento area. Wow! There is a huge need there and an amazing opportunity to serve.

I just met with the administrator Cindee Shapton today. She was very interested and enthusiastic about us coming in and serving them with the TRAP program. There are a few details to work out but we should be working with them soon. This program has a lot of connections that could lead to many other opportunities. All that to say, please be thinking about your ability to help us in some capacity. Even if it is just once a month for a couple of hours. I can see our TRAP program taking off and we need volunteers to form several different teams to help with what I think will be a great demand soon.

I'll be in contact soon to let everyone know about specific opportunities. Until then please consider serving and spread the word with friends, co-workers and family about a need for volunteers. Feel free to forward this e-mail to your contacts...

Blessings,

**Steve Liberti**

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Bob,

Here's a recap of what transpired this morning at Cardinal Cushing in Hanover. A TRAP class was held in the auditorium with twelve students that lasted about 45 minutes. Following the class, I gave them a 10 minute drum demo with a question and answer period as well. Most of the school and faculty attended, making my best estimate to be well over 100 people in attendance.

What was most exciting to me was to see how they have embraced this program. There are two primary facilitators who have been instructing sessions on a weekly basis in a designated TRAP room. The room is located in a separate building and is exclusively for the TRAP program. With probably about a month before it's complete, the room is half the size of our performance center and a perfect place to conduct classes.

Patricia Nelson, who is a special needs coordinator, was proud to show me some of the added features they use to help measure students progress. In areas such as, identifying objects and colors, following patterns, and many other categories, they are utilizing the TRAP program to its fullest. The room and their success is a tribute to the Zildjian family commitment in supporting this important work.

**John**

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To Whom It Concern:

I am writing to express our extreme satisfaction with the development that we've seen in those adults that we support as a result of our use of The Rhythmic Arts Project (TRAP). By using this program with its drums and other percussion instruments we have witnessed people who now learn the importance of taking turns, the excitement of having opportunities to be leaders, and the rewards of participating as a team member. As a local provider of services we have many adults

today that are aging and unfortunately experiencing the physical and mental effects of that process. Many of the adults that we support have Downs Syndrome and are showing signs of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The TRAP experience has shown great promise for these individuals as it helps to sharpen memories and maintaining focus. We truly believe that we have assisted in slowing down a process that can quickly become debilitating if not addressed.

Thanks to everyone at TRAP for all that they have done to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities!

**Cliff Doescher, Executive Director  
Arc of Greater New Orleans**

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Hi Gail & Eddie,

First let me bring Eddie up to speed on what's been happening on my side of the street. After purchasing the TRAP gear from Pearl, (which went really well) I taught a 6 week class (summer session) at The New School of Montpelier where I work. The class was once a week for 40 minutes. The class was a huge success and the school has asked me to continue the class for the upcoming school year! I am not charging the school any fees above my normal salary. I have to compliment you again Eddie for this outstanding curriculum you have created. The 2 special educators at the school who observed some class time thought it was a great teaching tool. Now for the important news..... the students LOVED IT! The students are used to being taught 1 on 1 with no group classes. So everyone, me included, were anxious to see how the group would work. It went well except for a few minor skirmishes, and 1 major fight which came to a head during class BUT originated out of a dispute earlier in the day. One of the things I love about group work is when these sort of things occur they are a great teaching opportunity. I followed the exercise booklet and the students made progress with it each week. For some it was learning left from right, others made progress with counting, colors, and of course learning group dynamics.

Knowing the students, the thing that surprised me was the role reversal that took place. The students who are usually loud & cocky became quiet & reserved during class. And the ones that are reserved & timid really enjoyed taking on the leadership position. As always, I would imagine, the hey-hey/ho-ho was the big hit of the class! We are

extending class time to 60 min as the 40 went by too fast. This will afford me the time to get into things like the obstacle course etc.

I have taken on a new position at the school as the vocational director. In putting my new contract together, I have created a 4 day work week so I can have some time to work on expanding our TRAP opportunities. As much as we would love to, it has been difficult for both Gail & I to find the time necessary to dedicate to TRAP interests. I hope this will help us to move forward. As far as your help Eddie I can't think of anything immediate. Just knowing you are there to continue to help and support us makes the process less intimidating. Our plan is to get some material (brochure) together and start contacting people about TRAP classes. There is one thing you could do Eddie. Would you give my e-mail address to Michael and ask him to send me his photos from our Mass. trip? I got some from John Pappone and would love to see his too. Thanks. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Be well,  
**Danny**

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Hi Eddie,  
Hope all is well with you and the TRAP family and friends-we are very well, busy readying for the upcoming holiday season. Just wanted to update you on your program here. The Brookwood citizens continue to find such pleasure in and security within their participation in the TRAP program here. At least one day each week the citizens are welcome to come up and have a jam session after lunch. It is interesting that the ones that come up are the ones who really need structure in their lives. And also some that although may not like random or everyday sounds, the sound and volume of the sessions are truly savored. They like it that we always start with the basics that were taught by you and Marty, beginning with playing the name game, then continuing to practice 1 beat, 2 beat, 3 beat etc. Their favorite part is when one of their peers uses hand and body motions to go faster and slower, and again using handgestures to go from soft to loud. We have now included a song to play drums by and everyone in the class can join by singing, letting the percussionists provide the beat. At the end of the session each person on the drums does their solo and to see the faces of the individuals playing and watching is still a magical moment. We have also made the instruments available at other times in an impromptu way for staff and citizens alike and the connections are

made-friends of similar interests, and levelized competency, sharing musical gifts.

We have also put on a "show", demonstrated for other groups, tours and visitors. We are going to use the drums in our Open House Christmas play, attended by as many as 700-800 people over a two day period, the first weekend in December. Imagine what it would be like if the shepherds who visit Jesus on his birthday all had drums and a chance to play their solo as a gift to Him! Please come see it! I look forward to seeing you in Austin in November, God-willing and the creek don't rise!

**- Rick**

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Mr T, Had a great morning at Health South...it could not have gone any better...very happy..we all sent you the good vibe as we wrapped up...everybody seemed really happy..about 10-12 clients all ages..all smiles...thanks again for helping me find this work..it has really enriched my life...God Bless.your friend in shuffles,

**Bob Stagner**

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Eddie-This morning I received your nice package! I just wanted to thank you for the thought that went into that, I am looking forward to listening to the CD, and the cover and booklet inside looks great! Also, another thank you, I spoke with Glen Caruba and he immediately sent me the new program guide. I certainly appreciate the timely manner in which my questions and concerns were addressed. With the knowledge gained about customer service from being in such a demanding field, it is so nice to see it from others! I will keep you updated on our drumming program!

Have a safe and happy holiday season with family and friends!

**Lindsay Southard, Recreation Supervisor  
The Arc of Schuyler County**

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Hello Eddie,

Hope you returned home safely and that all is well with you. I want to thank you for inviting me to be a part of your advisory board. I was inspired by your presentation for us at Mercy Home, and

I think that you brought an excitement to our staff that will help us get TRAP up and going. In regard to working with you on the advisory board, I am ready whenever you are. Please let me know what you need from me. I am happy to review any new materials you have. I would also be pleased to run some training classes for you here on the east coast as you might need. It may even be possible for me to stop in and help you out in Delaware at the ARC.

So lets keep in close touch and work together again real soon.

Many thanks again.

peace,

**Michael**

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Eddie,

I just wanted to say thank you again, it was amazing having you here! You really inspired our instructors to incorporate drumming into our clients lives, let the beat go on! Just in the two days since you left I have had about 15 clients, some who didn't even attend but walked by, ask about the next class. Keep up the amazing work and please let us know what we can do to help.

Thanks again,

**Stacy**  
**The Arc of San Francisco**  
**1500 Howard St**  
**SF, CA 94103**

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Dear Eddie,

Just want you to know that everything went very well with BOB! I am sure he will tell you what a great welcome he had and how much the kids want him back. He became a father in a short time to 60 wonderful children. Thanks for everything including Bob and Flo.

Best regards,

**Sharon Metzelaar**

**Ava Marie Preparatory School  
Sarasota, Florida**

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Eddie,

WE ARE GRATEFUL! You exceeded my expectations. I love you and love your program and I am forever charmed.

**Donna Basden Akins  
Executive Director  
The Arc of the Shoals**

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Hi Eddie,

Thank you for your guidance everyone is still raving about your visit. We will look forward to seeing you soon. Good luck with you grant projects.

**Beth Atton, MRA  
Executive Director  
Napa Valley Support Services  
650 Imperial Way, Suite 202  
Napa, CA 94559**