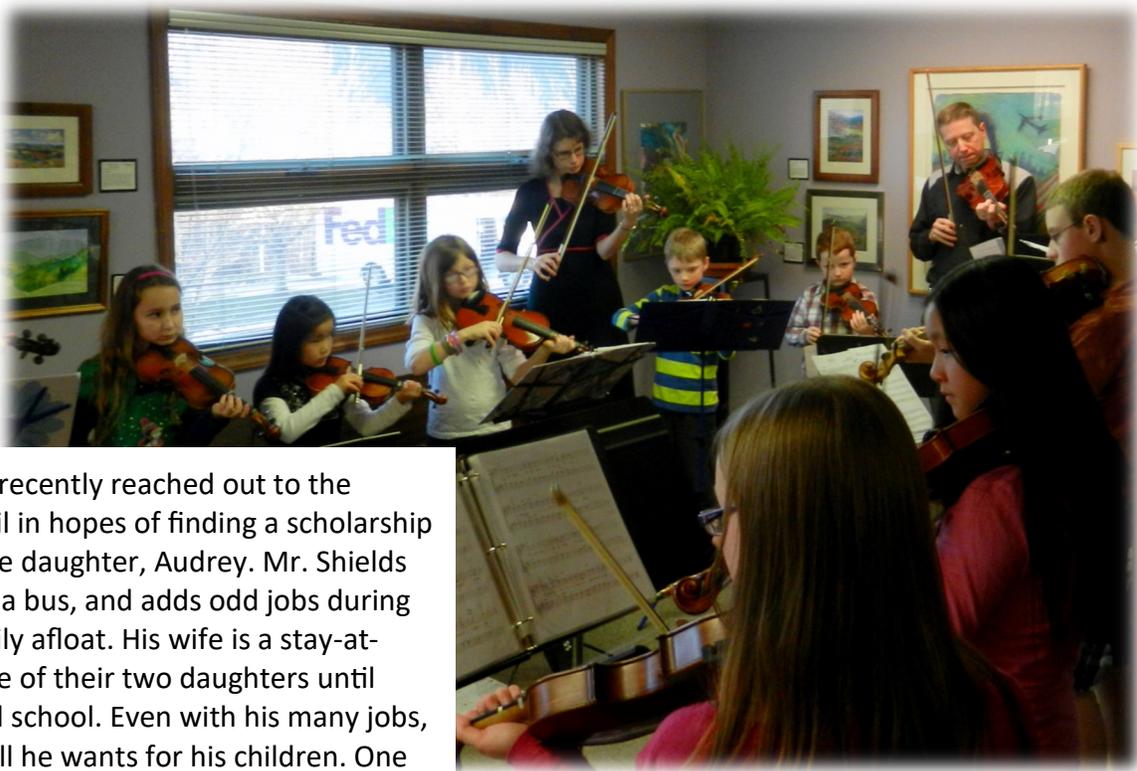


**HELPING TO MAKE
LEARNING IN THE ARTS
POSSIBLE THROUGH
SCHOLARSHIPS OR
GENERAL SUPPORT OF
COMMUNITY ARTS
PROGRAMMING**

The following story is shared with the full permission of the family mentioned.

Special-needs teacher and father of two, Dean Shields, recently reached out to the Watauga County Arts Council in hopes of finding a scholarship for his musically inclined little daughter, Audrey. Mr. Shields also works part-time driving a bus, and adds odd jobs during the summer to keep his family afloat. His wife is a stay-at-home mother who takes care of their two daughters until they're old enough to attend school. Even with his many jobs, Mr. Shields isn't able to do all he wants for his children. One



of those things is pay for violin lessons.

The Arts Council has met with his daughter, Audrey, who has a strong enthusiasm for violin and appears to be a promising student. The family had received a violin as a gift and, without knowing the cost of lessons or that the violin was the wrong size, got their hopes up as well as their daughter's.

While we do offer scholarships as often as possible, since it is so late in the school year, that fund is virtually depleted. We weren't able to give this family a scholarship big enough to make it possible for them to afford Audrey's lessons. Despite the disappointing news, the Shields family wasn't ready to throw in the towel on giving their daughter this opportunity and

made plans to even borrow money, if necessary, to make it possible for her.

Their determination to give their daughter violin lessons has tugged on our heartstrings as well as one of our board member's, who after hearing this family's story, has offered to pay a portion of the payment in order for little Audrey to achieve her dreams of playing the violin.

We get stories like this all the time. Unfortunately, we aren't able to provide the funds for every child to take lessons. We're telling you Audrey's story in hopes that it will tug on your heartstrings just like it did ours.

The Arts Council has multiple scholarship funds....for violin lessons, for vocal music, for guitar and piano lessons, and a general fund to help anyone who wants to take lessons, classes, or workshops but simply cannot afford them. Your donation to one of our scholarship funds helps families just like Audrey's have the opportunity to take music lessons and achieve their dreams.

Another Way You Can Help The Arts Council is always tight financially....sometimes so tight our Executive Director has to delay cashing her paychecks until more funds come in. But we still keep finding ways to bring programs in the arts to our community. Any contributions to the Arts Council are very helpful to us and enable us to continue to provide the programming and services we've all come to know and love. Your Arts Council needs your help and we're greatly appreciative of any support you can provide. We are a 501-c-3 organization and so all your contributions are tax-deductible. Please consider making a donation.