*Copy and paste the information below into the subject line and body of an email to send to employees at your workplace*

**Subject Line: Your gift improves youth mental health and paves the way for success**

Our 2022 [United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF)](https://upaf.org/) Campaign is underway — thank you to those who have already donated!

Something that people may not know about our region’s exceptional local performing arts organizations is that they educated more than 160,000 local kids in 1,280 schools last year — amazing!

Arts education programming teaches life skills like leadership, resourcefulness, teamwork and problem-solving, which help youth succeed in school and life. Arts education also increases engagement in the classroom, helps youth connect with themselves and others, offers new ways to engage with curriculum that suit different learning styles, and so much more.

This programming is all the more important now as kids contend with the events of the past two years, including transitioning back to in-person school after missed social-emotional learning time with their peers, mental health challenges they may have experienced, reckoning with societal injustice and their role in bringing about change, and dealing with ongoing uncertainty.

One local student positively impacted by the arts is high school junior Zindzi Frederick, who is involved with UPAF Member Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO). Zindzi started in the MYSO Progressions Program, aimed at increasing access to the arts for youth that may face barriers of access and equity in music study. Now, Zindzi plays violin with MYSO’s Senior Symphony and also plays in MYSO’s Steel Pan groups. Plus, Zindzi is in her school orchestra and is working on a musical at school too.

“I think the performing arts have always been a place of refuge where music can fill all of my senses and there’s nothing else to worry about,” Zindzi said.

“I love seeing other people my age who have a common and genuine love for music or the arts in general,” Zindzi said. “It’s very empowering to be surrounded by a large community of people who are all intent on achieving a common goal.”

Your donation to UPAF supports programming for youth like Zindzi. Please donate today.