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Pogue Construction Funds Capital for MISD Orchestra *Five Regional UIL students from MISD thank donors*

MCKINNEY, TEXAS – November 7, 2005 – The McKinney Independent School District took a leap of faith this academic year in creating a middle school orchestra program. The incentive came from the community in two powerful ways. First, Cross Timbers Youth Orchestra Elementary Strings program provided a wealth of talent for students wanting to continue their string music education as they entered 7th grade after playing 1-2 years in elementary school. The second was local business leaders, **Mark and Sherry Tucker David, Paul and Judy Pogue, and Tanya and Rick Franklin** who funded the first year of capital for instruments. Today, Pogue Construction received a visit from the first MISD UIL regional winners to thank them for their commitment. “We at Pogue Construction are committed to education and the young people of today who will be our future leaders. It is our philosophy to ‘Learn, Earn, Return.’ We believe these students are a bright beginning for this new program,” says Paul Pogue of Pogue Construction.

“The tremendous response from MISD parents and students to participate in CTYO Elementary Strings has been a catalyst for the MISD to move forward on offering a middle school orchestra program,” says Edith Barton, elementary fine arts specialist and chair of the fine arts council for McKinney Independent School District. “As public schools face a financial crisis and many districts are eliminating programs, MISD has made a generous commitment to initiate the orchestra program with staffing and facilities,” continues Barton.

“Research has proven that the fine arts and music are important ingredients in the overall academic and cultural development of children. This program is a wonderful example of the dedication and commitment of our community members to the quality of education and of life for our students,” states Thomas Crowe, Superintendent of McKinney ISD.

Editor’s note: Additional information is available from these sources:
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