



Picture a child singing into her hairbrush, or a child playing chords on an air guitar, or another child in front his mirror pretending to dance in the New York City Ballet. Now imagine these children unable to fulfill their dreams because they can't afford to take lessons. They are looking for a way to creatively express themselves, but do not have the means. They think they can only dream about doing these things, but with your help and generous support, we can give them the tools and education they need to turn their pretend world into a reality.

The mission of the Zzak G. Applaud Our Kids Foundation is to provide opportunities for children to creatively express themselves by taking lessons in the various disciplines of the performing arts.

The foundation provides performing arts scholarships in vocal instruction, dance, acting, and instrumental music to children ages 7-18. We build partnerships with local schools, as well as other community organizations, to identify students who meet the financial needs requirements. Students interested in applying for a scholarship will complete a simple application and must meet the financial needs requirements. Our Advisory Committee will review all submissions for eligibility.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of performing arts educators, social workers, business owners, theatre enthusiasts, as well as other professionals within the local community that have a love for the arts. Once a student is accepted into the program the foundation will then pair the scholarship recipient with a participating local performing arts studio.

Any student who receives a scholarship will receive weekly or biweekly lessons in the discipline of their choice. Additionally, if a student is in need of any supplies in order to be successful in their class (dance shoes or instruments), the foundation will make every effort to provide these items to the student when funding is available.

All the children we pair with local studios will participate in the foundation's end of the year showcase. This is when all those who made it possible, our generous donors and sponsors, will have the opportunity to watch our scholarship recipients share what they have learned.

Performing arts education contributes to the proactive development of an individual on many different levels. It provides children with the opportunity to find their own voice, increases self-esteem, gives them a sense of belonging, and provides an outlet for them to openly express themselves.

With your help, the Zzak G. Applaud Our Kids Foundation Inc. will be able to create an environment for students to develop their interpersonal skills, confidence, imagination, reach their creative potential and share their gifts. For more information please email [jodi@applaudourkids.org](mailto:jodi@applaudourkids.org) or log onto [www.applaudourkids.org](http://www.applaudourkids.org).

**Thank you for giving a child the opportunity to shine!**

The Grinwald Family



## Did you know?

- Students who take four years of arts and music classes average almost 100 points higher on their SAT scores than students who take only one-half year or less.
- Low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are twice as likely to graduate college as their peers with no arts education.
- Arts students are 55% more likely to attend secondary schools than those who do not participate in the arts. Low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are twice as likely to graduate college as their peers with no arts education.



The foundation relies on the generous support from community grants, sponsors, and individual donors.

A donation of just \$40-\$100 can provide one month of lessons for a scholarship recipient?

The fee scale depends on which lessons they take and how many lessons are provided per month.

## About Zzak G:



The Zzak G. Applaud Our Kids Foundation was created in honor of our Dad, Zzak G. who was a singer/songwriter and was extremely passionate about the performing arts.

Our Dad was an inspiration to us and our children as well as all those who came into his life. He always said that he practiced the religion of kindness.

He was our mentor, our best friend, our teacher, our spiritual advisor, positivity trainer, our rock, our go to guy, our sounding board, our business advisor and so much more. Everyone who met him felt the same way. He was selfless in his endeavors and supported people on their own personal journeys. He believed in the power of positive thinking and could turn any situation into a positive learning experience.

Three years ago, he was diagnosed with ALS and within 6 months he lost his battle. Throughout his disease he tried to stay strong and positive. He refused to let ALS define him. He went to work in Manhattan even when he was struggling with walking and he sang Happy Birthday to his oldest Granddaughter the week before he passed away even though he was on a ventilator. The performing arts kept him going up until the end. We love and miss him each and every day.

His passion in life was music, the performing arts and watching his grandchildren as they performed on stage as well. We know that he is so proud of each child that comes through this foundation. He is yelling “Fantastic” just like he did for his own grandkids at every performance.

Please take a moment to listen to Zzak G. perform two original songs.

Rhymes of a Child: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7lUaVdh7cc>

Homeless: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSmsJNiARxM>