The UMass Lowell String Project is a vanguard music education and community engagement initiative that provides music instruction to students from Lowell Public Schools. While learning to play stringed instruments, students discover how music can build positive relationships with their peers and within their community. In January 2014, the American String Teacher’s Association and the National String Project Consortium nationally recognized the UMass Lowell String Project as the 2013-2014 String Project of the Year.

We are growing by leaps and bounds. The UMass Lowell String Project is working tirelessly to provide a music education to our public school children as well as use music as a tool to help them understand and identify their place in our local community and culture.

Founded in 2001, the String Project continues to play an integral role in our community by bridging the gap after music education was deeply cut from the curriculum in Lowell Public Schools. The String Project centers on students from economically challenged neighborhoods in Lowell. Many of our students’ families cannot afford the tuition fees of the String Project or provide their own instruments. With support from our community, we are able to offset the cost to participants by offering scholarships and subsidizing instrument rental fees.

The UMLSP serves not only the youth of the city but also those enrolled in the university as musicians, as the teaching artists and class instructors of the Project are UML students. By being active participants in the program, students are given hands-on experience with classroom philosophy, management and pedagogy. UMLSP staff are evaluated and mentored by the Project’s Master Teacher, and leave the program knowing invaluable concepts of class management and teaching strategy.

The String Project uses music to engage parents and community members as well as its students and in addition to providing high-quality music education, the String Project seeks to add cultural value to the University and to the community of Lowell. Last year, the String Project presented a collaborative concert that featured the UML Cambodian Music ensemble. Additionally, the String Project used music to celebrate and connect to the flourishing Cambodian community within the city of Lowell.

Your gift would have a tremendous impact on the String Project as we grow and create new opportunities for learning, music-making and community service.