

# Marching Mountains

## 2010 Annual Report



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## Early in the year

Marching Mountains first instrument donation came in January 2010. An email came in from a lady just outside Minneapolis. She had a trumpet to donate and could meet us after work to pick it up. We met her at a gas station parking lot in the dead of Minnesota winter: dark, icy and frigid. She arrived with her husband. We took a few minutes in the bitter cold to talk about the project and exchange a few smiles before they left the trumpet in our hands.

Around the same time, we wrote letters to the schools in distressed counties in Appalachia. We didn't have a solid list of band directors and schools. We tried to find as many as we could using internet searches and research. We invited the band directors to visit our web site and tell us about their projects. Over fifteen band directors filled out a survey online to give us insights into their programs and challenges. This was our first step in reaching out to our stakeholders in Appalachia.

Several months passed before we were contacted about more instruments. Winter had gone. We picked up a saxophone in Minnetonka, Minnesota. We drove to south Minneapolis and picked up a French horn donated by a father whose son had already lent it out to a neighbor and was no longer using it. A surgeon in Seattle shipped three new trumpets to us. A casual walk through the neighborhood yielded a flute donated by a friendly neighbor.

In August, we had received close to ten instruments in total. We had written to the band directors that reached out to us and asked them to prioritize their current instrument needs. From that point we matched programs with instruments based upon our inventory and the ranking that a band director gave an instrument in our possession. Arrangements were made to ship most of the instruments directly to the schools. Some band directors we arranged to meet in person and deliver the instruments so we could get to know them a little and see the communities. A short video documentary was made of the trip and posted to the web site (<http://marchingmountains.org/video>).

“The video was a good testimony to the need for instruments in that area of our country. Thanks for all you are doing to help those kids and their school band programs!”

- musical instrument donor from the Twin Cities.

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700 Douglas Ave #602  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Phone: 612-232-9766  
E-mail:  
[ianfelton@marchingmountains.org](mailto:ianfelton@marchingmountains.org)



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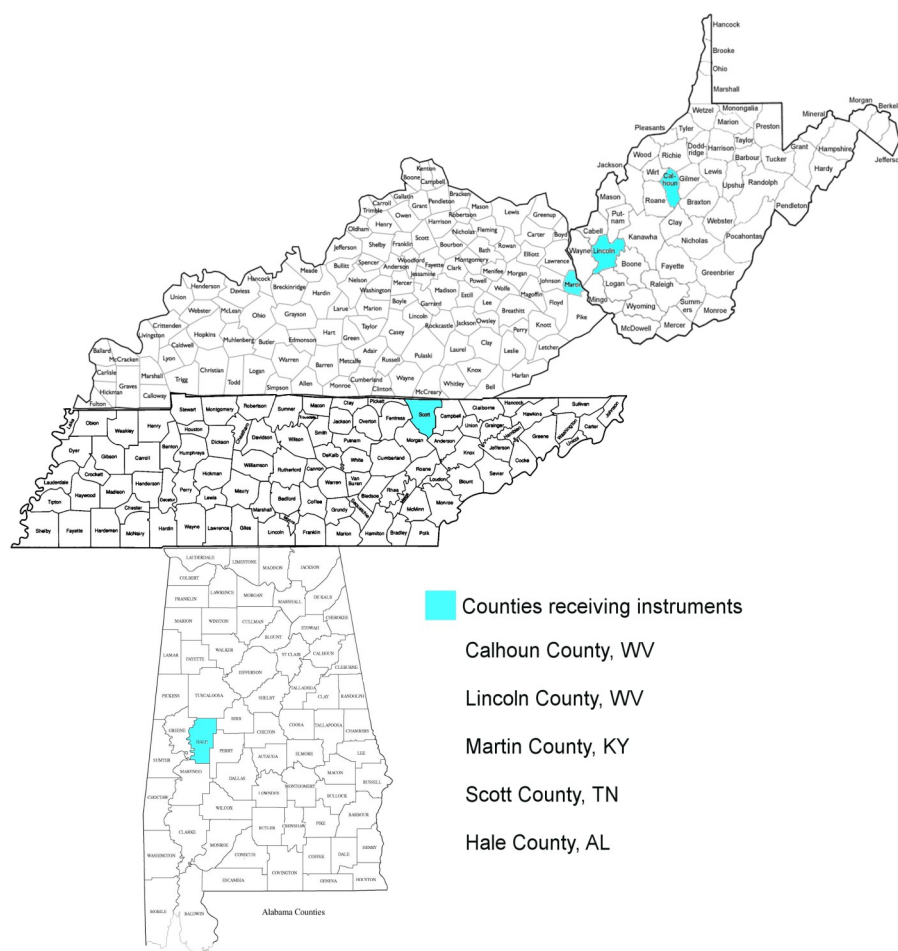
## Instrument Distributions

Our project was highlighted by The Huffington Post (one of the most widely read online news sources) in September which resulted in several small, but much needed donations of cash. In addition, the exposure of the project raised awareness about the need for instruments in the areas we are focused on.

“There’s a great need in our area for instruments and Marching Mountains is fulfilling that need,”

- Jeanette Oldaker,  
Band Instructor for  
Harts Middle School  
in Harts, WV

Figure 1. Counties receiving instrument donations in 2010



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## Instrument Distributions

The schools that received instruments were:

Harts Middle School, Harts, WV

Sheldon Clark High School, Inez, KY

Calhoun County Middle/High School, Mt. Zion, WV

Burchfield School, Oneida, TN

Winfield School, Winfield, TN

Fairview School, Huntsville, TN

Hale County High School, Moundville, AL

In December, we had an outpouring of donations from around the country. A young man who saw the article on The Huffington Post talked to his father, a professional trumpet player. He asked his father to talk with his friends and find out if they had any instruments to donate. All told, the young man from Arizona shipped five instruments to us to distribute to schools in distressed areas in Appalachia. We had many more instruments shipped at the end of the year from: Illinois, Philadelphia and other places around the country. A woman and her daughter drove to our location in West Virginia and delivered a wonderful percussion donation.

These donations and the ones we have yet to receive will go to more schools this year. We plan to make another documentary detailing our time and hope to continue to meet kind people and band directors who are giving children the gift of music.

“We received the flute today. The young lady said today was better than Christmas. She is very excited to have a nice instrument to use. Thanks again.”

- Bob Sheehan, band director Hale County High School

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## Be a part of Marching Mountains

Band Directors: join our network by visiting <http://marchingmountains.org> - register your band's program to get started

Community: Donate an instrument - Please send us your used marching and concert band instruments in good working condition to:

Marching Mountains  
1449 Andmore Ave.  
Morgantown, WV 26505

If you live in the areas [listed on the site](#), we can arrange to pick up your donation.

Donate funds - Currently it costs about \$25 to pack and ship an instrument to a school in need. Please [donate here](#).

Spread the word! (through FB, word of mouth) Sign up for future newsletters/updates, follow us on facebook / twitter

Marching Mountains is also in search of talented individuals with expertise in Graphic Design, Web application development, Law and [many other areas to volunteer to be part of our project](#).

“Thank You!  
To all of our  
donors and  
volunteers!”

- Marching Mountains

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