

News Release



For Immediate Release
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Bridgestone Makes Major Grant to Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund to Invest \$750,000 in Education Over 5 Years

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Nov. 11, 2014) – In conjunction with the announcement of the new Bridgestone Americas, Inc. headquarters in downtown Nashville, the U.S. subsidiary of the world's largest tire and rubber company also announced a grant of \$750,000 to Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools via the Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund.

The company has pledged \$150,000 in each of the next five years in support of the Music Makes Us® initiative, directly impacting music education programs for local students.

"Bridgestone is honored to provide essential funding that directly impacts the education of our community's youth," said Christine Karbowiak, Bridgestone Americas Chief Administrative Officer and Chair of the Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund. "We are committed to improving the communities in which we work and live through donations, sponsorships and volunteerism. This grant to Metro Schools illustrates the importance of our ongoing commitment to growing with Middle Tennessee."

Music Makes Us® was launched in 2011 as a public-private partnership between Metro Schools, Mayor Karl Dean's office, music industry leaders and community philanthropists. Now entering its third year, the program already has demonstrated its emerging impact on achievement and engagement among students and will continue to improve the quality, equity and accessibility of K-12 music in parallel with the next generation of work with both music teachers and community partners.

"At Bridgestone, we want to make sure we do our part to support Metro schools, which are vital to preparing our children for the world of tomorrow – and of course keep Music City strong for generations to come," continued Karbowiak.

"Music Makes Us has a simple but powerful premise: Nashville is the best at music, so it should be the best at music education too," Mayor Dean said. "Bridgestone's generous contribution will allow Music Makes Us to make even more positive contributions to our schools and our young people's lives."

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Bridgestone has a strong existing presence and has developed deep ties in the Middle Tennessee community over the last two decades. Through the Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund, the company has made substantial donations to local nonprofit and charitable organizations, including United Way, YMCA of Middle Tennessee and the Nashville Public Library. Additionally, Bridgestone teammates have spent countless hours volunteering and supporting schools throughout Middle Tennessee.

“We know from national research done in our own schools what a huge impact music can have in a child’s education,” said Director of Metro Schools Dr. Jesse Register. “Music students have higher graduation rates, attendance rates, grade point averages and ACT scores. This very generous gift from Bridgestone will help ensure more results like these as music education continues to grow stronger in Metro Schools. We thank them on behalf of our students, teachers and all of Nashville.”

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About Bridgestone Americas, Inc.:

Nashville, Tenn.-based Bridgestone Americas, Inc. (BSAM) is the U.S. subsidiary of Bridgestone Corporation, the world’s largest tire and rubber company. BSAM and its subsidiaries develop, manufacture and market a wide range of Bridgestone, Firestone and associate brand tires to address the needs of a broad range of customers, including consumers, automotive and commercial vehicle original equipment manufacturers, and those in the agricultural, forestry and mining industries. The companies are also engaged in retreading operations throughout the Western Hemisphere and produce air springs, roofing materials, and industrial fibers and textiles. The BSAM family of companies also operates the world’s largest chain of automotive tire and service centers. Guided by its One Team, One Planet message, the company is dedicated to achieving a positive environmental impact in all of the communities it calls home.

About the Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund:

The Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund, the philanthropic arm of Bridgestone Americas, Inc. (BSAM), is a charitable trust established in 1952 by The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, a predecessor to BSAM. It contributes millions annually to 501(c)(3) organizations in support of causes that champion children’s issues, education, and the environment and conservation.