

Sing the World Green Music Camp

\$1000 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - March 2019

Sing the World Green (<http://www.singitgreen.org>), founded in 2011, offers music camps for middle schoolers (next fall's 6th-8th graders), in which the campers sing songs and perform skits about caring for the planet, and also engage in Earth stewardship work. The goal of the camp is to touch the children's hearts and souls through song and story, and reach their minds and bodies through the hands-on work; the combination of song and service will hopefully inspire them to continue to engage in making our world a better place with whatever gifts they have.

Sing the World Green founder Amy Self writes:

We were able to offer this year's camp to several underserved youth because of the \$1,000 made available by the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund. There were five students, all aged 11, and one 15-year-old helper. Three of the students received scholarship money for underserved youth: one scholarship for \$275 and two scholarships for \$225. A total of \$725 was given in scholarships (Another camper had registered and applied for a \$275 scholarship but had to cancel at the last minute).



The remaining funds were used for rental of the Avalon (Sodal Hall) for the final meal and concert on Friday, June 21; a tour of Cure Organic Farm; and partial reimbursement of advertising costs.

The 2019 Sing the World Green camp took place June 17-21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Amy Self's home. (A larger venue had been reserved but was cancelled due to the small turnout.) This year's theme was organic farming and why it is healthy for ourselves AND the planet. On the Monday of the camp, each camper received a notebook with



lyrics of six songs about different aspects of organic farming and healthy eating. The songs had titles like "Planet Earth," "Compost Song," and "The Story of Our Food." Some of the songs had been written by Amy; others were by other composers. In each notebook was a CD with accompaniment and full-performance tracks for the songs.

Over the next several days, students sang along with the full-performance tracks until they knew each song; later in the week and at the performances, they sang with the accompaniment tracks or with Amy providing accompaniment on guitar.



On Monday the kids took a tour of Cure Organic Farm and, on Thursday, they volunteered there, planting peppers and tomatoes. The kids and Amy sang in the van as the farm worker drove them to the site and, once there, they sang as they planted tomatoes and peppers. “They were very proud to share the songs with the other workers, and they knew most of the words by heart,” Amy says.

They also got a tour of Amy’s home garden, and her husband Ed taught them about composting. Finally, they picked veggies from the garden and got eggs from the farm. The students made kale chips, fresh garden salsa and deviled eggs. They also went to Boulder Manor Care, painted garden rocks with the seniors and performed their songs for them.

The final meal and concert for the parents took place Friday afternoon in Sodal Hall at the Avalon. The campers prepared a dinner of pasta with garden spaghetti sauce, deviled eggs (using eggs from the chickens at the farm where the kids had worked), and fresh fruit kabobs for dessert. “It was served after they sang the song called ‘A Rainbow on My Plate,’ about healthy eating,” Amy says. “Then we served up a rainbow on their plates!” The campers performed all their songs, including some drumming, dancing and solo performances.

“The camp was very successful in terms of the students being engaged with the theme,” Amy says. “The thing that was the most enjoyable was how deeply the kids connected to each other and to the material. I was disappointed to have such a low turnout (I was hoping for at least 12), but it turned out to be lovely, and as Sing the World Green grows, I can imagine having two different types of camp offerings—one for a group of 12 or more, for a larger groups experience, and one for smaller groups, for a more intimate experience.”

Sing the World Green is planning for a 2020 camp theme related to recycling.

