

# What Happened in Vegas

A Magical Night, and other Highlights from Summer/Fall 2011



Las Vegas is famous for exciting activities, which are often the result of hard work from the people who live there. Both “working hard” and “exciting activities” would be appropriate descriptions of Music for HOPE’s late Summer and Early Fall in the city. The most high profile event, of course, was when superstar singer Josh Groban recognized Music for HOPE from the stage of his August 20 concert at the MGM Grand Arena.

“A magical night,” describes Las Vegas Director Ginger Reed (**pictured backstage with instrument recipient Allyson**), “We took some of the recipients backstage to meet with Josh. He briefly spoke about the [Find Your Light Foundation](#). He spoke with the kids and was so kind and attentive.”



Next, it was time for the show. “The kids were excited and watched his concert with joy,” Ginger said, “They were even featured during a moment of the concert!” The children proudly watched on as Josh shared Music

For HOPE's message with the audience and mentioned the friendly faces he had met backstage earlier.

"Josh told the audience if it weren't for programs like Music for HOPE, he didn't know where he'd be today," Ginger added. "As a result of this exposure, we received a monetary donation from a private party, a volunteer, and several instruments from locals here in Vegas."

While Josh Groban's show was a great public celebration of Music for HOPE's efforts, and a memorable night for everyone, it was certainly not the only highlight of the last few months. Music for HOPE also went to the Boys and Girls Club to give the children there an opportunity to play music.

Ginger gave us a report from the scene: "The kids were so involved. Those that played instruments were quick to help and share what they knew with those that wanted to learn." Ginger also confirmed what we concluded from viewing the pictures, "We had a blast!"

In our July Music for HOPE newsletter, Ginger told the moving tale of a young girl who had been the victim of abuse for 5 years before courageously coming forward. The brave girl, currently in therapy, was given a piano from Music for HOPE as part of the *encore*. program. "This piano," Ginger said, "will give her an avenue to express herself as she goes through this journey. She has always wanted to learn the piano and now she can."

The Vegas chapter continues to collect instruments for the *encore*. program. This past month, they presented a local student with a saxophone.



Ginger promised that the Vegas chapter—much like the city—shows no sign of slowing down in the coming months. "Great news," she said, "we start our outreach to the [Shade Tree Shelter](#) this month. We are on their calendar every month to go in and share the power of music. We also are going into the school district with our outreach programs. Look for pictures and followups to these events in next months newsletter!"