

Families and Grandfriends Making Music Together® in Cameron



FAMILIES, VETERAN'S HOME RESIDENTS SHARE MUSIC TOGETHER.

Photo from Dahl's Studio

Cameron, Missouri, October 21st, 2025— Around the country in independent/assisted living facilities and senior day programs, older adults are bonding with babies, toddlers and young parents through music-making, in Generations classes created by the international award-winning early childhood music program MUSIC TOGETHER®.

In Cameron, Missouri, one of the most successful Music Together Generations classes in the country is held each week at Cameron Veterans Home where resident

“Grandfriends” join families with children newborn to kindergarten age in a Music Together class held on-site.

Kerri Dahl, Director of Dahl Studio, explains, “This is a highlight of the week for the residents as well as the staff. Some Grandfriends simply light up when they come to class in ways the staff here don’t see with any other activity. The combination of music and children is just magical. Each elder participates in their own way: watching,

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listening and singing along, tapping their feet and shaking the instruments along with the families. And although most elders sing and dance from their chairs, some are even able to get up and boogie with us! The children and parents love it, too; it's become an important weekly ritual and an invaluable part of their family's life. There is an instant connection between elders and families that is incredible to witness. Many of our families and Grandfriends don't have family nearby so there is a kind of surrogate experience created through the Music Together class. Music Together directors like myself are so proud to be bringing people together across generations in our communities. We are bringing back something essential that's been lost: intergenerational music-making."

Music is an essential part of being human. Support for music learning in early childhood can yield both life-long skill and enjoyment in music experiences. While Music Together's core program serves families with children ages 0-5, it's a natural extension of that core mission to include intergenerational class experiences where families attend class with elders at a senior day or residential facility. These special kinds of Music Together classes have been beloved now for years as more and more

communities recognize the unique power of making music together across generations.

Kerri adds, "Strangers or not, within minutes everyone is part of our music-making family in a Generations Class. The idea that music bonds people is never more obvious and meaningful than during the time we spend at Cameron Veterans Home."

Music Together is an internationally recognized early childhood music and movement program for children birth through age seven. The Music Together curriculum was coauthored in 1987 by Kenneth K. Guilmartin (Founder/Director) and Rowan University Professor of Music Education Dr. Lili M. Levinowitz (Director of Research) and offers programs for families; schools; at-risk populations; and children with special needs, in over 2000 communities in more than 40 countries. The company is passionately committed to bringing children and their caregivers closer through shared music-making and helping people discover the joy—and educational value—of early music experiences.

Dahl Studio's instructors have been providing musical experiences to individuals and families for over 25 years and loves being able to serve the city of Cameron and the surrounding area!