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Steven Angel, President
Drumming for Your Life Institute
2132 Montana Ave., Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Dear Steven,

I am writing to express my strong support for Drumming for Your Life (DFYL)'s proposal to the NAMM Foundation requesting grant funds to bring the Life Skills drumming program into Los Angeles County juvenile detention camps.

As a Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)'s High Risk Youth Public Safety Programs, I have seen first-hand the exciting impact of the Life Skills drumming program in enabling highly troubled youth to address their negative feelings and traumatic life experiences in positive ways. For the past five years, DFYL has conducted Life Skills as an after-school program for approximately 250 LACOE students, a population which includes many young people on probation.

We have been truly amazed to see how the Life Skills drumming exercises captivate the active and enthusiastic participation of youth who typically resist therapy and counseling from probation officers, teachers, and other concerned adults. Using the appeal of drumming to "hook" the students' interest, Life Skills helps the students focus on character values like responsibility, justice, and honesty, and to think about how they can apply these values to their own lives.

Life Skills addresses a critical gap for our high-risk population: it helps these young people reflect on and begin to develop the skills they need in order to make positive choices and solve life problems. I urge the NAMM Foundation to award grant support to this worthwhile endeavor. If more information is needed I can be reached at 562. 401.5594.

Sincerely,

Dena Davis-Island
Los Angeles County Office of Education
High Risk Youth Public Safety Program/Coordinator II