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SAP's Chief Learning Officer Jenny Dearborn

MusiCares

# HERE COMES THE SUN



*Sue began her career more than 25 years ago as a budding songwriter. Plagued by addiction, she suffered in silence while her life's work was broadcast on radio stations around the world. Despite her professional success and the appearance of having the world at her feet, Sue, whose name has been changed to protect her confidentiality, continued to experience debilitating depression and anxiety. Out of control and alone, she lost her health insurance and was unable to get the care and treatment that she needed. She felt as if she was on the edge of a breakdown when she reached out to MusiCares®. The nonprofit stepped in and provided the funds for her to attend therapy, along with a network of support that was both all encompassing and judgment-free. Today, she is thriving, newly married, and feels like she has her life back.*

Music uplifts us, brings us together, inspires us, and gives us courage, comfort, and hope. With more than 1,400 members, the Recording Academy, the world's leading society of music professionals, is dedicated to celebrating, honoring, and sustaining music's past, present, and future.

As the music industry gears up for the 60th Annual Grammy Awards happening January 28, the Recording Academy's charity, MusiCares®, takes center stage for its efforts to provide a safety net of critical assistance for music professionals like Sue in the Bay Area and around the nation. Established in 1989, the nonprofit health and human service organization helps people in music in times of financial, medical, and personal hardship. It has been designed to bring hope into the lives of those whose music brings such limitless delight to so many.

"MusiCares® provides a safety net of assistance for music people in times of need," explains James Higa, executive director of the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation and MusiCares® board secretary/treasurer. "From emergency financial assistance, educational workshops, and disaster relief, to a variety of preventative healthcare opportunities, MusiCares® is there for the music community."

Over the past 10 years, MusiCares® has provided close to \$10 million in assistance to more than 3,250 people battling substance



James Higa

abuse. "Last year, MusiCares® provided over \$5.9 million in aid to close to 7,900 people nationwide," shares the organization's senior executive director, Debbie Carroll. "It's the largest number of dollars distributed and people served in MusiCares® history." Across all programs and services, MusiCares® has served more than 125,000 people since 1989 and distributed close to \$58 million to people in need.

The San Francisco chapter of MusiCares® hosts a Grammy Nominee Celebration every year in which chapter members recognize nominees from the local region, which includes Northern California, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado. This year's event will take place on January 16, 2018, at The Lodge at the Regency Center in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Chapter has connected MusiCares® with victims of recent tragedies, including the Ghost Ship fire in Oakland and, most recently, victims of the fires in the North Bay. "MusiCares® immediately responded to the Northern California fires in the Napa/Sonoma area via supporting members of the music community affected by that devastation," says Higa. "Financial assistance support is being provided for basic living expenses such as shelter, food, utilities, and transportation; medical expenses, including doctor and hospital bills and medications; clothing; instrument and recording equipment replacement; relocation costs; home repairs; debris removal; and more."

MusiCares®' previous disaster relief efforts assisted victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes, the Nashville floods, and Hurricane Sandy. "MusiCares® Hurricane Katrina efforts alone provided a combined \$4.3 million in aid to more than 3,500 clients, and assistance for the Nashville floods saw \$1.2 million distributed to approximately 1,000 clients," adds Carroll.

Infinitely talented and vital to providing us such joy, the music industry takes care of its own. "I want to keep music a vibrant, thriving, and living thing," shares Higa. "That's why I'm compelled to support the artists who bring this thing of beauty into our lives. That's why I'm so honored to help in the work we do at MusiCares®." ♦ —CORY COOK

*To learn more, visit [www.grammy.com/musicares](http://www.grammy.com/musicares). The 60th Annual Grammy Awards takes place on January 28, 2018, on NBC. To see a complete list of San Francisco chapter nominees, visit [www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com).*