



## The Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra helps fight hunger in our community

GREENFIELD, MA (May 22, 2017) – The **Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra** (PVS Youth Orchestra) has started a new initiative to help fight hunger in Western Massachusetts. In lieu of admission at the orchestra's last concert on May 6, audience members were asked to donate non-perishable food items. The concert's food drive was hugely successful, raising one hundred and forty pounds of food to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

On May 19, PVS Youth Orchestra members, along with the group's music director, Luca Antonucci, visited the Food Bank in Hatfield, MA to drop off the donation, tour the Food Bank facility and learn about hunger in Massachusetts.

"I think it is wonderful to be able to use our concerts as a vehicle for supporting our community. Not only are we teaching students how to play in an orchestra, we are also teaching them the importance of using music to giving back to the community," said Luca Antonucci, PVS Youth Orchestra Music Director. "We are so grateful to those who donated and plan to make the food drive a regular part of our concerts next season."



Youth Orchestra members are astonished about the quantity of food at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. From left to right: Barbara Tardif, Jacob Johnson, Luca Antonucci and Christine Johnson with young friends

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**About the PVS Youth Orchestra:**

The Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra, lead by music director, Luca Antonucci, provides a fun and supportive environment for young musicians up to age 18 to hone their skills and improve their musicianship. Through partnership with the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, students also have the opportunity to work with experienced musicians in the context of sectional rehearsals, side-by-side concerts, and in coachings as part of the PVS Youth Orchestra Chamber Music Program. For more information about the program please visit <https://www.pvsoc.org/youth-orchestra>.