

IDEA CHANGEMAKER FELLOW

Taller de Guitarra at Sterling Meadows

I am passionate about Mariachi music because it is the music that reminds me of growing up in Michoacán, Mexico. I am also passionate about sharing the music I love with other people, whether that be performing, forming conversations around it, or helping produce a song and sharing it among social media outlets. The reason why I remember Mariachi music from my childhood is because of the passion each song carries within it. It is a beautiful combination of great lyrics, powerful voices and melodies that can be produced from the most experienced to beginning artists. I truly believe that this combination is the reason why people say mariachi music can touch your soul. I am running a guitar program at Sterling Meadows, an apartment complex for migrant families, with the objective of giving an opportunity to my students to come into contact with Mariachi music and its history.

Taller de Guitarra at Sterling Meadows

I am offering an opportunity for migrant youth to come in contact with the culture of mariachi through the learning of classical mariachi songs using an instrument that is essential for a mariachi ensemble, the guitar. Currently the program has two groups that alternate for 90 minute classes. Group A has class every Monday and Thursday from 4:30pm to 6:00pm, while Group B has class every Wednesday and Friday from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. Each group has five students enrolled.



DID YOU KNOW:

- 95 % of the families that live at Sterling Meadows are from a migrant Latino background.
- Most of the Children at Sterling Meadows are second generation migrants whom have assimilated to a life in the United States.
- Assimilation primarily affects language and culture.
- Easter Washington University & Central Washington University recruit high school students to their campuses through their mariachi clubs.



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Juan Galvez is in his fifth year at WWU and is double majoring in Sociology and Spanish. He was born and raised in Michoacán, Mexico. Ever since Juan can remember he has loved music, but it was not until recent years that he started to develop a passion for creating his own music and sharing the music that he loves. When he joined Mariachi de WWU in his junior year, he knew that mariachi music can be a powerful tool to get people excited about Mexican culture and also a safe place where people who feel like they do not belong at this university can start meeting people who share their same passion and culture. Two years later Juan inherited the leadership of the mariachi club and is enthusiastic about creating a solid structure not only the mariachi club but also the Taller de Guitarra in order for the future generations to have an opportunity to come in contact with mariachi music at WWU.