

SPRINGFIELD CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Springfield Children's Choir: An Initiative of the Springfield Choral Society **Launching in Fall 2026**

The Springfield Children's Choir is an exciting new program aimed at providing top-quality choral education to children in grades 2–5 across Springfield, with a special focus on reaching students in East Side elementary schools. Partnering with District 186 and the Salvation Army, the Springfield Choral Society will provide free musical training based on proven teaching methods, supported by a dedicated team and advisory board.

Launch Date	Fall 2026
Schedule	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 PM
Season Length	30 Weeks
Groups	Group One: 2nd & 3rd Grades Group Two: 4th & 5th Grades
Maximum Enrollment	35 Students Per Group
Tuition	Free
Venue	Salvation Army Community Center



Equity and Access

Springfield Children's Choir is **open to all students in grades 2–5**, with **targeted recruitment and transportation support** for the following District 186 East Side elementary schools: Feitshans, Lincoln Magnet, Wilcox, McClelland, Fairview, and Ball Charter.

The uniquely accessible nature of singing inspires our goal of making the Springfield Children's Choir a truly barrier-free activity, including free tuition.



Team & Teaching Philosophy

Leadership

Springfield Choral Society Music Director, Jacobsen Woollen, will oversee the Springfield Children's Choir and will be guided by a team including a Springfield Children's Choir Director, two Teaching Assistants, an Accompanist, and an Administrative Assistant. Additional support will be provided by a **Springfield Children's Choir Advisory Board**, comprised of many of Springfield's most respected music educators, including **Lynn Gilmore, Josh Spear, Tiffany Williams, and Linda Younkin.**

Pedagogical Approach

Grounded in the **Kodály** and **Dalcroze** methods, students will experience joyful, game-based, skill-building musical instruction, supported by an **eclectic repertoire** that celebrates musical excellence and cultural diversity.

Budget & Funding Goals

We are committed to launching in the **2026–27 season without relying on grants**, recognizing the longer timeline required to secure them, but we are confident that grant support will become a sustaining funding source starting in the **2027–28 season**.

Our ideal sponsor would commit to being designated as the Founding Sponsor of the Springfield Children's Choir's **Inaugural Season**.

This would be a philanthropic designation to underwrite the entire season and start-up expenses, totaling approximately \$40,000.

An alternative scenario would involve **three organizations** becoming shared **Founding Sponsors** at the **\$10,000 level**, helping to lay the financial foundation for this exciting initiative.

The projected budget for our 2026-27 Launch Season is below:

ITEM	COST
Director (30 Weeks x \$400)	\$12,000
Assistant Director (30 Weeks x \$200)	\$6,000
Administrative Assistant (30 Weeks x 10 Hours, \$30/Hour)	\$9,000
Pianist (30 Weeks x 4 Hours, \$30/Hour)	\$3,600
Music Licensing & Scores	\$3,000
Supplies	\$3,000
Marketing & Recruitment	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$39,600

Will you commit to helping us spread the gift of singing to our community's next generation? Your support would be deeply appreciated and have a profoundly positive impact!

About the Springfield Choral Society

The Springfield Choral Society is a pillar of Springfield's arts community, pursuing its mission of Community Through Harmony and seeking to fill every corner of our capital city with song. Anchored by its **95-member flagship chorus**, the Springfield Choral Society also has several **smaller vocal ensembles** under its umbrella, as well as the **dementia-friendly chorus *Sing by Heart***, which recently launched in partnership with SIU Medicine and Westminster Presbyterian Church. A **2024 Best of Springfield Winner**, the Springfield Choral Society takes pride in being a specifically Springfield choir. Recent concerts have featured collaborations with the Illinois Audubon Society, Lincoln Memorial Garden, Sangamon County Historical Society, Dana-Thomas House Foundation, Central Illinois African American History Museum, and the Matthew Project.

