



March 19, 2024

Maude's Awards for Innovation in Alzheimer's Care
1023 Columbia Street
Seattle, WA 98104

To Whom It Concerns:

I am writing on behalf of United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore (UWLES) to express support for Stories Love Music's application for the Maude's Award for organizations. Stories Love Music has been a UWLES partner agency in good standing since 2021.

Stories Love Music provides *The Joy of Creative Engagement* caregiver support program to professional and family caregivers on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This innovative program provides caregivers with tools for stress management and handling challenging behaviors.

The Joy of Creative Engagement trains caregivers for those with dementia and Alzheimer's to use music and storytelling to foster positive interactions with the person in their care. These techniques are shown to reduce anxiety and depression in those with dementia. The program has demonstrated results in supporting the health and wellbeing of both patients and caregivers. Through a study conducted in partnership with a local hospital, Stories Love Music further assessed the impact of the program in a healthcare setting. Support for employee wellbeing can help address the staff shortages and retention issues for senior care workers that continue to affect our state.

I enthusiastically support Stories Love Music's application and can attest to the positive outcomes for those who participate in its program. As the population of seniors in our region increases, a program like *The Joy of Creative Engagement* is critical to provide support, resources, and community during an experience that can be distressing and isolating. Receiving a Maude's Award would allow the organization to grow and create an even greater impact in the community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our partnership with Stories Love Music. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Pam Gregory
President/CEO
pam@uwles.org