

# TUNED IN

**Notes for Notes** is making a positive change with access to music



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ian Bankhead, Parker Oswald, program director Ian Putnam, and Alvaro Jaimes jam in the MusicBox.

instruction. With the help of songstress Natalie Noone and her father, Peter Noone (of Herman's Hermits fame), Notes for Notes opened the MusicBox—its first fully staffed, musically decked-out recording studio at the 1235 Teen Center—a year later.

Since opening the doors to its first studio, the program has grown exponentially with guidance from founding board president Roderick Hare and vice president Michael Marans as well as financial support from the likes of the Santa Barbara Bowl Education Outreach Committee and fund-raising concerts featuring Notes for Notes-trained kids and special guests such as Jeff Bridges. A collaborative partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Barbara brought the nonprofit to yet another level, and this year—with support from a grant by Jack and Kim Johnson's Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation—the organization opened its third MusicBox at the Santa Barbara West Boys & Girls Club, offering youths another venue to experience guitars, drums, DJ gear, music software, and a full recording studio. "I was able to form a band and my parents let us practice in my bedroom. I had that support," says musician Jack Johnson, who has stopped by the studio to jam. "A lot of kids don't have that reality, or they might not have instruments at home. To have a place that welcomes them, where they can pick up instruments—it urges them to keep learning."

By the end of the year, Notes for Notes will expand even further. In collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs in Tennessee, Gilley is heading east to open two more MusicBox studios in the vibrant music community of Nashville. Through the use of Skype and cloud storage technology, "kids in Nashville and Santa Barbara will be able to interact and form musical relationships regardless of where they live," says Gilley. "At the heart of the organization, it's all about building personal relationships through music." ■

When Philip Gilley volunteered to be a part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Santa Barbara, he used to take his "little brother" to a local music shop to teach him drums on a demo kit. It wasn't long before the significant value of music in his relationship with his little bro became clear, and with music and arts on the chopping block at local schools, he was struck with the idea to create a safe space for youths to pick up instruments and learn to play tunes. In 2006, Gilley and his friend—and fellow Big Brother—Daniel De Angelis founded **Notes for Notes**, which provides local kids and teens with an opportunity to experience the universal language of music with free access to instruments and in-