



## NEWS RELEASE

### Summary

CreativeBridge Coalition takes its *Count Me In* program back to school for special needs students in the Mahoning Valley.

### It's 'Back to School' for CreativeBridge Coalition

Students at the Rich Center for Autism in Youngstown and the Fairhaven School in Niles will again have an opportunity to participate in the *Count Me In* program delivered by CreativeBridge Coalition (CBC). CBC returns to the Rich Center for a third consecutive year and to Fairhaven School for a second consecutive year, offering its free, music-based curriculum for select special needs students.

Toni Bezdek, a Columbiana County native, will facilitate the twice-weekly music-based sessions at each location. "We're thrilled to have Toni as our new instructor," said Linda Wellendorf, CBC's local program coordinator. "Toni has a strong music background combined with years of teaching experience. She'll be great," Wellendorf added. Rosanne Morell, Principal at Fairhaven, and Melanie Carfolo, Director at Rich Center, both look forward to the return of CBC's *Count Me In* program at their locations.

Research data collected last year suggest that parents and students welcome the program's return as well. As one Fairhaven parent said: "My daughter tells me she likes this program enthusiastically. Anything she likes will help her in some way." A Rich Center parent added: "My son is more confident and more willing to come out of his comfort zone. Thank you for all you do with the kids!"

For more information about CBC programs in the Mahoning Valley, contact Linda Wellendorf at [lindaw@cbridgec.org](mailto:lindaw@cbridgec.org) or call 330-518-5872.

### About CreativeBridge Coalition

CreativeBridge Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization serving young children and those with special needs by bringing music into their lives. Music programs benefit kids by improving social skills, enhancing personality traits and developing learning capabilities. CBC raises funds through solicitation of private donations and fundraising events, and currently has projects operating in Los Angeles and the greater Youngstown area.

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