



## School of Piano Technology for the Blind launches Piano Adoption Program

News Release from **School of Piano Technology for the Blind**  
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The School of Piano Technology for the Blind will formally launch a community-wide piano adoption program aimed at finding homes for gently-used pianos at the August 28 Grand Opening of the Hough Early Learning Center.

“We receive approximately 15-20 calls a week from generous community members wanting to donate pianos to the school,” said Cheri Martin, Executive Director. “While we are grateful to these donors and would like to accept every single piano, we are simply bursting at the seams and unable to house them.”

Rather than see them sent to the “piano graveyard,” the school decided to launch a piano adoption program designed to pair donated pianos with families unable to afford a piano, as well as churches, community centers, nonprofit organizations, and schools.

The school will work closely with ESD112 in identifying potential families and locations for piano placements. Tim Merlino, ESD112 Superintendent, commented, “ESD 112 is pleased to be among the first recipients of a piano for our new Hough Early Learning Center. The 120+ ECEAP children and their families will enjoy the piano for many years to come, thanks to the Piano Adoption Program. Music will be a big part of our early learning focus, so this instrument is a welcome addition to our new center.”

“While it is relatively easy to come across a ‘free’ piano,” said Martin, “there are costs associated with accepting a piano many people are not aware of. The goal of the piano adoption program is to not only place donated pianos, but also to secure funding to provide a thorough evaluation, the piano move, and a tuning.”

One such “**Piano Patron**” has stepped-up in a big way through a donation that will provide for placement of at least four pianos. “I am thrilled to support this program,” said Paul Christensen, President of Realvest and founder of the Hough Foundation. “I applaud the school’s dedication and commitment to providing the community with increased opportunities to experience the joy and fulfillment music brings to our lives both through the piano adoption program and the many other events and activities they sponsor.”

The first piano placement through the program, a Kawai studio donated by David and Jean Akers, will be presented at the Hough Early Learning Center's grand opening on Friday, August 28, from 10-11:30 a.m. To learn more about the piano adoption program and/or to sign on as a "Piano Patron", please contact the school at 360-693-1511 or [www.pianotuningschool.org](http://www.pianotuningschool.org).

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*The School of Piano Technology for the Blind was founded in 1949 by Emil Fries, a blind teacher and tuner who had a vision to start a school that would teach blind and visually impaired students the skills of piano tuning and repair so they could earn a good living and enjoy independent, productive lives in a financially rewarding profession. Since the School's inception, more than 300 graduates have gone on to good careers in universities, music stores, school districts, and most often operating their own business.*