



Overture Youth Advocacy through the Arts  
Forte Drum and Bugle Corps  
Grand Prairie, TX

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Dear Board Members and Extended Associates:

We are well into the beginnings of a monumental first year for OYAA and Forte Drum and Bugle Corps. It thrills me to no end having been asked to participate in these organizations in the capacity of which I now serve. Moving forward, expectations are high. Decision making is purposeful. More importantly, responsibility and accountability for operational and financial success are the highest priorities in building the foundations for the future and making these organizations viable for years to come.

Members of the Board, as well as leadership of Forte, will continue its pursuit of becoming a first class operation by not conforming to the norm in the world of drum corps. Every year, organizations that are poorly run and fiscally irresponsible meet their demise. Regardless of circumstances, leadership of these organizations will make the decisions necessary to survive and thrive in a difficult business. In my business, the healthcare industry, there is a misconception that patient care is the number one priority. It is not. It is A number one priority. Equal to that must be taking care of your business operationally and fiscally. If equal time, equal priority, equal effort, and equal resources are not given to both, the organization will fail. In a sense, no money equals no mission.

This same concept is true in any business, including drum corps. Everyone knows our stated purpose. However, I challenge that we will fail in that purpose if we do not remain responsible and plan our growth. Growth requires expense, but it also requires sacrifice and patience. For example, it is completely unrealistic for Forte to compete on an even playing field with the Cadets. It would be irresponsible for us to try. That is how organizations shut down. Rather, we will continue to move forward steadily and responsibly, building on the foundations of years before.

The answer is patience, perseverance, and responsible investment. It is for this reason that I strongly encourage everyone that has committed their time, expertise, and passion to the goal of realizing the full potential of these organizations to find ways to focus on the operational and financial stability of OYAA and Forte. There are multiple ways to contribute other than just writing a check. Let us be creative in finding ways to support these organizations in building a venue suitable for promoting the arts to our youth. For Forte Drum and Bugle Corps, the time is now. The season is here and new ideas and opportunities, as well as financial contributions, are needed now in order to insure the success of an activity that absolutely shapes and changes the lives of people, as it already has in many of us.

If you have questions about ways that you can contribute to the success of these organizations, please contact members of the Executive Board or members of Forte's Administrative Team. Let's build something we will be proud of, and let's build it the right way.

Respectfully,

Landon N. Tooke  
President and Executive Director  
Overture Youth Advocacy through the Arts