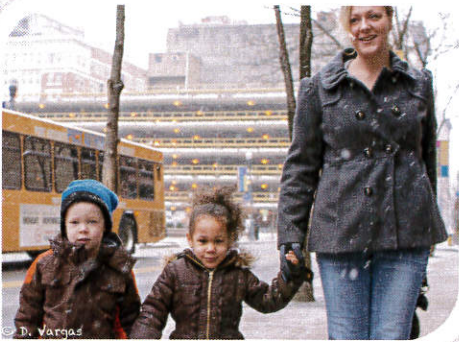


Fiddlesticks Concert

A Sojourner House MOMS Field Trip
Feb. 2, 2013

Photos and article by Nick Vargas, Sojourner House MOMS family support specialist



On a chilly February morning, three families set out to see a lovable cat named Fiddlesticks and the Pittsburgh Symphony. None of the families had ever been to Heinz Hall and all of the children believed ketchup had something to do with it.

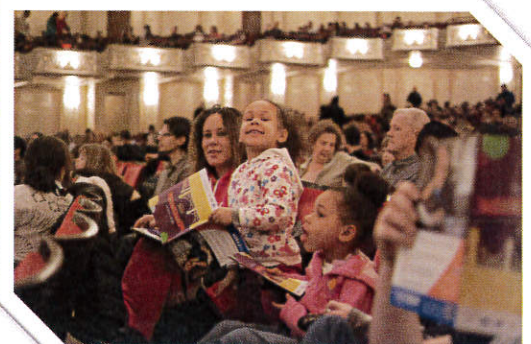
We parked a few blocks away and made our way through the Cultural District of Downtown. The children held each other's hands as they crossed the street.

When we arrived, there were many activities families could participate in before the concert began. There were arts and craft, sing-a-longs, and hands-on instrument workshops. Each child was able to full engage in the wonderful opportunities offered by the Symphony. The mothers were also able to create lasting memories with their families as they worked together on projects that would later decorate the refrigerators of their apartments.



At left, you can see several of the children looking over a balcony to get a view of the sing-a-long below. The mothers were able to stand behind them and sing with their energetic families. At no point did anyone look bored or unhappy.

When they walked into the main hall, the instruments were all playing as they tuned and prepared for the main event. The little boy at the left had a prideful look on his face as he found his seat that matched his ticket. This was *his* place among the crowd.





On the way back to the van, one mother said, "Can we have our picture taken by the fountain so we can remember today?" I think the smiles on their faces said it all. Even the boy on the left couldn't help but crack a smile.

The mothers at Sojourner House MOMS were so grateful for the opportunity to experience something new and unforgettable.

NOTE: The field trip was made possible by Shadyside Presbyterian Church.