Dear Friends of A.R.T.S.,

When Julian and Maria’s son, Miguel, (names and details have been changed to protect privacy) turned four, they were determined to get involved in his education, especially since his Spanish-speaking family felt it would be a difficult road giving Miguel the same equal start in school as his peers. Tony Medina, the Assistant Principal of Palatine High School, wants you to hear their inspiring story:

“Everyday I have the pleasure of working in the discipline office at Palatine High School with students who have a wide array of behavioral issues. Although every student has their own unique situation, I’ve found that the most common patterns I see among the high-risk students are a lack of involvement in school and activities, a lack of parental support, and low socioeconomic status. What I tend to find with these students is that despite our best efforts, many interventions with these kids by the time they reach high school, are simply too late.

At A.R.T.S. classes, I’ve seen shy and unsure moms light up with a smile when their child reaches out to grab an instrument for the first time. I have seen kids clinging to mom’s leg and too nervous to participate, but three weeks later they are pretending to be a squirrel digging up an imaginary nut from the ground. There are truly so many benefits these kids are getting from A.R.T.S. class. They are learning language, listening, and social skills such as taking turns and following directions. They are also learning to use their imagination, and express their creativity through art and movement. These are all things that will help them be ready for school.”

~ Lisa Medina - A.R.T.S. Volunteer

Not familiar with A.R.T.S.? Visit the “Mission” page on our website and watch the video to see it all in action!