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Marsh Supermarkets Partners with Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to Collect Donations for ISO's Metropolitan Youth Orchestra through July 15

INDIANAPOLIS – Marsh Supermarkets and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra have announced that between now and July 15, Marsh stores will invite customers at checkout to donate \$1, \$3 or \$5 with proceeds benefitting one of the ISO's flagship Learning Community programs, the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra.

"The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra is so grateful to its partners at Marsh Supermarkets for recognizing the importance of MYO in transforming the lives of urban youth," said ISO Learning Community Vice President Beth Perdue Outland. "Growing up in our society offers so many challenges, and we know that the students that are best prepared to navigate those challenges are those with a positive peer community, caring adult mentors and the experience of setting goals for themselves. MYO provides those experiences in a fun and musical atmosphere. This program with Marsh is great, because it parallels what we teach the students. Everyone can contribute to making the world better; your gift doesn't have to be large to be important."

The **Metropolitan Youth Orchestra** is a youth and family development program that provides individual and chamber music lessons to inner city youth ages five to 18 and uses the process of making music together to develop the life skills necessary to graduate from high school, continue education and become responsible citizens. Under the auspices of the ISO, the programming of MYO is shaped to encompass music, responsibility, expectations, and other key factors in the development of local youth as they navigate a complicated world. In addition to the children, adults also participate and perform as a key concept of the MYO program: the involvement of parents and guardians as musicians in the orchestra to build stronger families and develop positive relationships. Since 1995, 735 students and numerous adult relatives have participated in MYO, and many have achieved both academic and musical success. For example, 15-year-old Jameel Martin, a 10-year violist in MYO, was accepted to the 2011 Itzhak Perlman *Summer Music School*, a prestigious program that invites 37 exceptional string players ages 11 to 18 from around the world to study with Itzhak and Toby Perlman for six weeks. This autumn, Martin will enroll for his high school senior year in the Juilliard School of Music's pre-collegiate program. Last year, 100 percent of MYO's high school seniors graduated.

The actual costs incurred by the ISO and MYO for one student to participate is \$1,800, yet tuition is set at \$180 to ensure that no qualified young person be excluded from participating due to financial need. The Marsh-ISO partnership will help to offset a portion of those costs.

To learn more about the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and how to support it through donations go to www.IndianapolisSymphony.org or call (317) 262-4904.

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