Chiming in with cheerful kindergarten chirps to stepping out new choreography with the high school Select Choir, K-12 vocal music instructor Marcia Dalton inspires with her love of music every day.

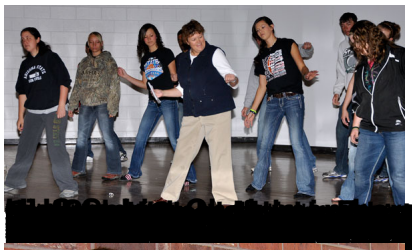
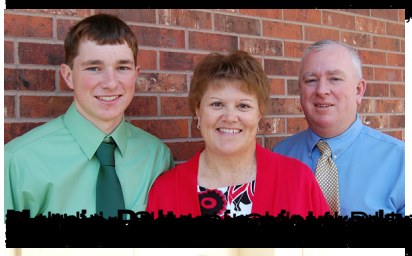
She puts herself wholeheartedly into the school music program, lending encouragement and support for every level.

“She has amazing vision and enthusiasm for her program that is contagious,” said elementary school art teacher Christina Martinez in nominating Dalton for the 2012 Heart Award.

“Every time I see her teaching in action, I learn something new,” added Martinez.

Describing a recent concert directed by Dalton, Martinez said she could feel the time commitment, effort and inspiration with every song.

She said the concert sparked her every emotion that night—from happy to tears and everything in between. “Music moves people, but nothing moves people more than seeing a person laying their passion out for everyone to see.”

It goes far beyond sheer music for Dalton. It’s about giving youth opportunities to be proud of themselves.

“Nothing is more gratifying than seeing a student react to applause and compliments for a performance they’ve worked hard on,” said the proud music teacher. “It’s all about the kids, not about me,” she said humbly.