

New neighbors forcing music teacher to pack up

By Stephen Mayer

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PORTLAND, Ore- You don't have to watch Mike Urquhart, the founder of Every Family Needs Music, for long to realize he loves his job. But the music school he founded is more than a job to him; it's his passion, the culmination of more than four years of hard work and a hefty financial investment.

Mike and his family invested \$350,000 into his school off SE Powell, turning a once empty shell into a full blown music academy. There's a guitar studio, piano room and much more, but Mike says the most valuable things inside these walls are his students.

"They may be terrified of certain things at school but when they come into a music class they are incredible at music. It does build their self-esteem and self-confidence," Mike said.

About a hundred kids come here every week, but lately that number is dwindling. "We lost about 38% of our clients when the smoke shop came in," Mike said. A few months ago a smoke shop opened up right next door, and Mike says a medical marijuana dispensary will soon open on the other side of him.

He has no problems with those businesses, but he says the parents are a different story. "Number one they don't want to have a discussion with a seven-year-old about marijuana. They don't want to have a discussion about what a glass pipe is, and I don't blame them," Mike said.

He knows he has to move but doesn't have the money left to cover those expenses. So he setup his own Kickstarter campaign, hoping to raise \$38,000 to cover moving expenses. So far he's well behind on that goal so he's hoping you'll decide to help so his students won't have to give up what they've grown to love.

"Maybe a child has ADD, maybe a child is underprivileged, and maybe a child really is struggling with everything else. But if they have 45 minutes with me and walk out of here with all the confidence in the world, I'm not going to stop, I'm going to work harder," Mike said.