



The United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (August 12, 2020)

Photo caption: Even during COVID, these young people are continuing their music education online through Infinity Visual and Performing Arts, a member organization of the United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County (UAA). The UAA's 2020 fund drive closes August 31.

United Arts Appeal Completing 2020 Fund Drive

Jamestown, N.Y. – The United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County (UAA) looks to the community for support as it wraps up its 2020 fund drive at the end of the month.

Even during the coronavirus shutdown UAA member organizations have found ways to offer online performances and to teach classes, both online and in person. They are making plans to resume in-person concerts, presentations, festivals, exhibits, and more as soon as State guidelines allow.

Grants awarded recently by the UAA are enabling local artists to enhance their skills and share their work, Audubon Community Nature Center to give out nature art kits for kids, and Citizens for a Better Cassadaga to fund one of its summer lake concerts.

United Arts Appeal President Julie Newell noted, “We are disappointed that our members missed out on presenting at least four dozen performances and productions because of COVID, but we intend to emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever. For that, we are looking forward to the community’s support.”

Newell noted that in addition to improving the quality of people's lives, the arts bring in visitors and generate tax dollars. For young people, arts participation raises SAT scores, improves academic performance and problem-solving skills, and helps redirect at-risk students.

Contributions to the United Arts Appeal sustain the work of:

- Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet's instruction and dance programs
- Community Music Project's Chautauqua Chamber Singers, CMP Chorale, and Children's Music Studio
- 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center's wide variety of programs in music, theatre, film, and dance
- Infinity Visual and Performing Arts's creative youth development program and community arts center
- Jamestown Concert Association's performances by internationally renowned musicians
- Lucille Ball Little Theatre of Jamestown's live theater productions, Junior Guilders, and Children Sing
- Western New York Chamber Orchestra's orchestral performances and educational programs
- UAA's Projects Pool Grants Program that awards smaller grants to individual artists and community-based arts projects

The United Arts Appeal acknowledges its supporters in numerous ways, which can be especially valuable to businesses.

Every contributor is listed on the UAA's website and in the printed programs of all member organizations, where they can be seen by thousands of audience members.

Depending on their level of support, additional recognitions include links to the donor's website, being featured on posters in the lobbies of the Lucille Ball Little Theatre of Jamestown and the 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center, free cinema admissions, and more. Details are on the Support UAA page at UnitedArtsAppeal.org.

Major contributors to the UAA's 2020 fund drive to date are Patrons Lyndon and Melanie Gritters, Mark and Donna Hampton, and Rick and Terry Turner. Special Gifts have been given by M. L. Feather, KeyBank, Lake Shore Savings Bank, Dr. Bruce Rockwell, and Lissa and Sherwood VanDewark. Donors include John and Margaret Fuchs, Lawley/Rhoe B. Henderson Insurance, Lois F. Strickler, and Wegmans.

Businesses and individuals who want to be recognized and strengthen the arts in Chautauqua County can send their contribution to the United Arts Appeal, P. O. Box 754, Jamestown, NY 14702.

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