

Actors' Summit
Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 611, Hudson, Ohio 44236

April 6, 2010

addr

Dear:

Northeast Ohio has always attracted world-wide attention for its premier arts and cultural assets. In these challenging times, when the arts everywhere are watching their budgets shrink by the day, performing arts and museums in Northeast Ohio are finding more and more creative ways to keep the arts alive and well.

A good example of a theater using a high level of creativity to stand as a beacon for the arts is Actors' Summit in Hudson. This professional theater which employs only *Ohio* actors, has been an anchor in our community for ten years now. Neil Thackaberry and Mary Jo Alexander, co-artistic directors, have created a masterful litany of outstanding productions - shows that speak to the times and appeal to a diverse audience. People from all over the region travel into Hudson, knowing that they will have an evening of great theater. The arts, and theater in particular, connect a community with a common voice. What we witness on the stage often reflects our own personal struggles and triumphs. We come away with a renewed spirit and a fresh outlook. Actors' Summit is a theater that does that time after time, in a remarkable fashion.

How they do it

Hard work and financial prowess - that's how they do it. Drop in on any given afternoon and you will find Neil, Mary Jo, a few actors and a couple of board members toiling away - building sets, cleaning bathrooms, re-potting flower boxes - you name it - they're doing it. Stop by on off evenings and you'll catch them rehearsing for one of the eight performances they provide each season. On another day you might find Neil hunched over his computer balancing the books, while checking up on the marketing, and daily correspondence. In the background, you'll hear a steady whirr of a sewing machine. Yes, Mary Jo designs and creates all of the costumes - and - has won many prestigious awards for her work.

Why they need your support

Even with such capable management, talented actors and dedicated board members, Actors' Summit is not yet self-sustaining. Funding is needed from outside sources who care deeply about maintaining the high-caliber arts that Northeast Ohio enjoys. Actors' Summit is a performing arts organization that is worthy of your consideration. They have reached a point in their progress where monies are needed for operating support. Last year, the theater had to lay off their Director of Development. It was a difficult decision to make, however, it had to be done. Right now, administrative support, a fundraising professional and a marketing consultant would fill in the gaps for the strategic plan going forward. There are also

Actors' Summit
Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 611, Hudson, Ohio 44236

equipment needs in the way of lighting, sound and other production materials. Funds from individuals, corporate sponsors and philanthropic organizations will be solicited. Total cost for the aforementioned specifics is \$275,000. Actors' Summit is asking for \$50,000 from the _____ to help meet these expenses.

How they plan to grow

Actors' Summit has a plan that you can support. They are setting a model for the future that will allow for a continuation of the outstanding work that they do. In the way of growth, they have added an exciting component which they can tell you a little of now. *It's a summer theater festival.* Yes, something like a mini-Stratford for Northeast Ohio. It's in the early stages of development. Last summer the theater rolled out the inaugural festival, "American Mirrors". This summer a modest collection of performances entitled, "Wine, Women & Song" - a cabaret of sorts - will be performed. Over time, the festival will become a multi-venue, multi-performance professional event that will benefit the regional economy.

The Board of Trustees

Actors' Summit Board of Trustees is comprised of eighteen volunteers from Hudson and surrounding communities. They are a diverse group of community leaders, retired executives, business owners and other professionals, who are determined to ensure the success of this valuable theater.

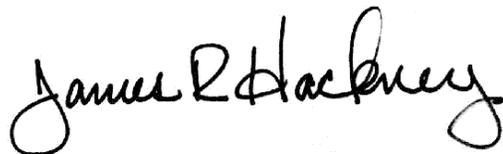
Conclusion

The generosity of your support will go a long way in helping this ambitious theater realize its goals while maintaining the great work that it does. The astute management and innovative spirit that this theater possesses is certainly a winning combination. The board is eager to present a full proposal for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to call with your questions.

Sincerely,



Den Rich
Foundation Development Chair
(330) 342-4777



Jim Hackney
Corporate Development Chair
(330) 714-6740