

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# 90th season





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# who we are

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## Mission

**To enrich the quality of life and engage the community through theatre and education.**

## Vision

**To be one of the foremost community-based playhouses in the country that serves a region through the theater, as evidenced by:**

- Consistent excellence in high-caliber, diverse, challenging theater productions compels our community to attend, participate in, and discuss the ideas and human conditions presented on our stages.
- The enthusiastic commitment of hundreds of volunteers who devote their time, talent, and treasure in a uniquely rewarding environment.
- Exceptional educational programming for both children and adults provides essential life skills through stage skills.
- The financial stability that reflects both our market value and intrinsic civic worth through maximization of earned income and diversified, robust contributed income.
- Its place as a community treasure that profoundly affects peoples' lives.

# from the directors

Dear Weathervane Family,

As we close the curtain on our historic 90th season, we find ourselves reflecting on a remarkable journey that began in 1935 and has brought us to this extraordinary milestone. Nine decades of storytelling, community building, and artistic excellence have shaped not just our theater, but countless lives throughout Northeast Ohio.

This anniversary season proved truly exceptional. With over 24,000 audience members filling our seats at an unprecedented 89% capacity—our best attendance percentage in 22 seasons of recorded data—you demonstrated that live theater remains a vital force in our community. From the record-breaking success of *Jersey Boys* to *Beautiful's* status as our fastest sellout ever, each production reminded us why theater matters.

Our education programs continue to transform young lives, providing over 60 scholarships to ensure accessibility for all. The success of our Weathervane Musical Theater Company speaks volumes—ten students secured their first professional jobs, while our senior gained acceptance to a competitive college program. These achievements reflect our unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of artists and engaged citizens.

Yet as we celebrate, we remain mindful of the evolving landscape facing community theater. Like many arts organizations, we're working to balance our mission with financial realities. The challenge of maintaining artistic excellence while building sustainable revenue streams requires strategic thinking and continued community support. We're exploring new programming opportunities and planning future capital improvements that will expand our capabilities.

The changes we've witnessed over 90 years remind us that adaptation and growth are essential to our survival and success. We've embraced technology through our archive digitization project with the University of Akron, enhanced accessibility with new facilities improvements, and strengthened community partnerships that extend our reach beyond our walls.

Looking ahead to our 91st season, we're committed to elevating the quality of every aspect of our work while thoughtfully balancing our programming to ensure both artistic integrity and financial sustainability. Our upcoming season promises the same diverse, challenging, and entertaining theater that has become our hallmark.

But none of this is possible without you—our remarkable Weathervane family. Whether you support us as subscribers, donors, volunteers, or advocates, you are the heartbeat of this organization. Our top volunteer, Ozwald Casiño, along with 24 other extraordinary individuals, contributed countless hours to make our season possible. Our donors, from Diamond level to Contributors, provide the foundation that allows us to take creative risks and serve our community with excellence.

As we embark on our next chapter, we invite you to deepen your connection with Weathervane. Consider becoming a season subscriber, volunteer your time and talents, make a donation that reflects your belief in the transformative power of theater, and bring friends and family to discover what makes Weathervane special. Most importantly, continue to be part of the conversations, connections, and community that theater creates.

The past 90 years have proven that Weathervane Playhouse is more than a building or a series of shows—we are a living testament to the power of community, creativity, and collaboration. As we look toward our centennial celebration, we're excited about the stories we'll tell, the artists we'll nurture, and the lives we'll touch together.

Thank you for making our 90th season extraordinary. Here's to the next 90 years of exceptional theater and enduring community. With gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead,



Melanie YC Pepe  
Executive Artistic Director



Kevin Lambes  
Executive Director





# Season Impact





# season impact

## **Record-Breaking 90th Season**

The 90th season established Weathervane Playhouse as a force of unprecedented achievement, setting new standards for artistic excellence and community engagement. Through eight diverse productions, we delivered exceptional theater while strengthening connections with our Northeast Ohio community.

## **Historic Attendance Excellence**

With 24,239 total attendees across eight productions, we achieved an outstanding 88.76% overall capacity—the highest attendance percentage in 22 seasons of recorded data. Beautiful: The Carole King Musical achieved 99.71% capacity as our fastest sellout ever, while Jersey Boys reached 98.56% capacity and set our all-time sales record. From Joseph's 22nd beloved return to the sophisticated appeal of Cabaret, our diverse programming attracted audiences across all demographics.

## **Educational Impact and Innovation**

Our education programs served nearly 1,000 students through diverse programming that develops both artistic skills and essential life competencies. The Weathervane Musical Theater Company achieved remarkable success, with ten students securing their first professional theater jobs. We provided over 60 scholarships, ensuring accessibility for all families.

The season marked significant progress through our Archival Project, digitizing 90 years of Weathervane history, and enhanced accessibility improvements including new automatic door systems and audio loop technology. Strengthened partnerships with Stand Up for Downs, Ballet in the City, and the Nect theater group expanded our role as a community cultural hub.

## **Community Commitment**

The backbone of our success remains our extraordinary volunteer community. A remarkable 223 individuals contributed 35,059 hours of service, demonstrating incredible dedication from backstage heroes to onstage stars, set builders to house managers.

## **Strategic Outlook**

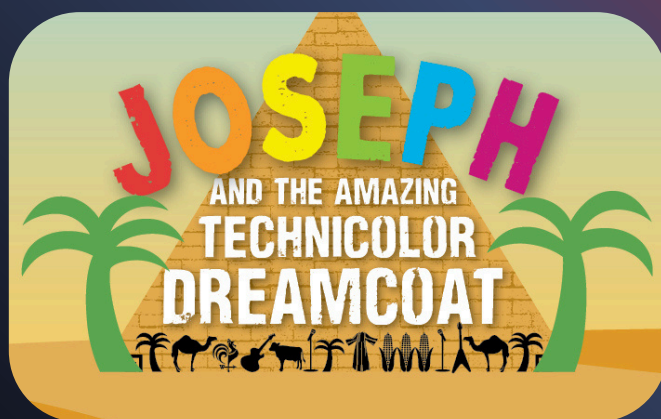
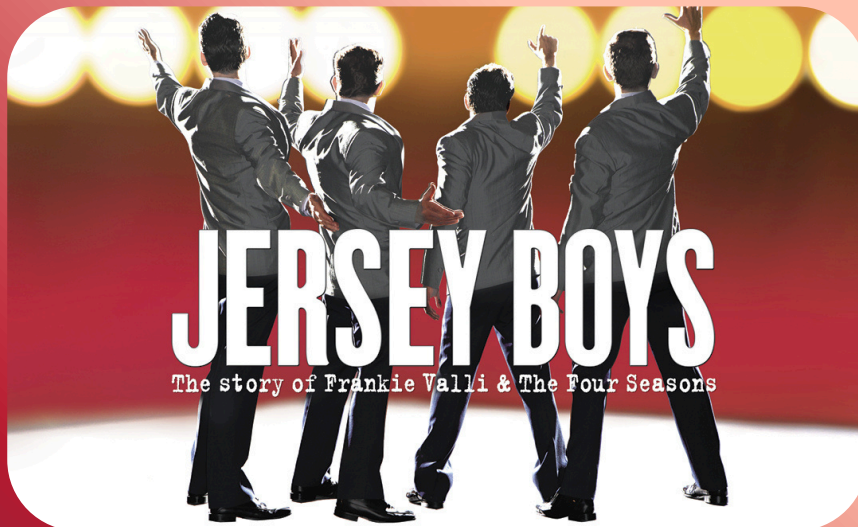
While celebrating these achievements, we remain mindful of the evolving landscape facing community theater. This season's record-breaking success provides a strong foundation as we continue balancing artistic excellence with sustainable operations, positioning Weathervane as Northeast Ohio's premier community theater for decades to come.



# Productions













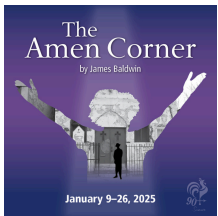
**Attendance - 3,129      Attendance % - 84.29%**



**Attendance - 2,448      Attendance % - 87.68%**



**Attendance - 4,525      Attendance % - 88.33%**



**Attendance - 1,971      Attendance % - 74.01%**



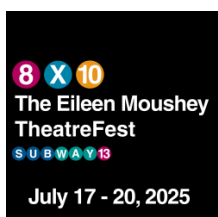
**Attendance - 4,585      Attendance % - 98.56%**



**Attendance - 3,046      Attendance % - 81.82%**



**Attendance - 3,472      Attendance % - 99.71%**



**Attendance - 1,063      Attendance % - 91.40%**



# Education





# education

## **Nurturing the Next Generation of Artists**

The Education Department continued its vital mission during the 90th season, serving nearly 1,000 students through diverse programming that develops both artistic skills and essential life competencies. Under dedicated leadership, our programs have evolved to meet the changing needs of our community while maintaining our commitment to excellence and accessibility.

### **Weathervane Musical Theater Company (WMTC) Success**

Now in its second year, WMTC has established itself as a premier pre-professional training program for teen performers. The results speak volumes about the quality of our instruction and mentorship:

- **Professional Breakthroughs:** Ten WMTC students secured their first professional theater jobs, marking a significant milestone in their artistic journeys
- **College Placement Success:** Our only senior WMTC participant was accepted into a challenging and competitive college musical theater program, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in preparing students for advanced study
- **Comprehensive Training:** Students receive intensive instruction in voice, dance, acting, and professional development skills along with Industry Professional Master classes focusing on audition skills and techniques and the business of the business.

### **Scholarship and Accessibility Programs**

We believe that financial circumstances should never prevent a young person from experiencing the transformative power of theater arts. This season, we provided scholarships to over 60 students, ensuring that our programs remain accessible to families across all economic backgrounds.

### **Community Educational Partnerships**

Our education initiatives extend beyond our walls through meaningful collaborations that enhance learning opportunities and community connections. These partnerships allow us to serve a broader audience while strengthening ties with local organizations and schools.

### **Future-Focused Programming**

As we look ahead, our education programs continue to adapt and expand, incorporating new teaching methodologies and responding to the evolving interests and needs of our students. The success of our students in securing professional opportunities and college placements validates our approach and inspires us to continue pushing the boundaries of excellence in theater education.

The impact of our education programs extends far beyond the stage, developing confident, creative, and collaborative young people who carry these skills into all aspects of their lives.





# Donors





# 2024/2025 donors

At Weathervane Playhouse, our donors are the lifeblood of our artistic mission. Contributing between one-third to one-half of our annual budget, they do more than provide financial support—they invest in community transformation. Our donors often step forward for specific needs, from emergency equipment purchases to supporting critical programming. Supporting Weathervane helps create an essential cultural space for our community to gather, share stories, and experience diverse perspectives. Each donation reflects a commitment to fostering artistic excellence and youth education, as well as to the power of live performance to connect, challenge, and inspire. The donors listed below played a crucial role in funding a theater and nurturing a living, breathing community institution that brings people together, sparks dialogue, and enriches our collective human experience.

## **DIAMOND**

Akron Community Foundation  
The Estate of Vaughn Austin  
Mary S. & David C. Corbin Foundation  
GAR Foundation  
Tom & Shelley Koutnik  
Ohio Arts Council  
Peg's Foundation  
Michael Russell

# 2024/2025 donors

## PLATINUM

Drs. Mark & Sandy Auburn  
Mary & David Bird  
Daniel & Shelley Boyle  
Frank C. Comunale  
Martha Comunale  
Michael & Christine Crites  
April & David Deming  
Bill & Eileen DeWood  
Richard & Mary Beth Ellison  
Terry & Mary Kay Finn  
Fairlawn Area Chamber of  
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Millie Keyser & Dale Gilbert  
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The Harris Family  
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Stand Up For Downs  
Jack Steele  
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Marylee Ruble Terrano  
Dr. Aileen Thong  
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Urban One, Inc.  
Marta Williger & Ian S. Oppenheim  
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## GOLD

Bob & Patty Berger  
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Dale Lindsey  
Robert & Bonnie Logan  
The Mullis Family  
John P. O'Neill  
Debbie Shama-Davis & Steven Davis  
Kent A. Smith  
Sue Smith  
Helen Vari  
Sean Vollman  
Martha Zlotnik



# 2024/2025 donors

## SILVER

Akrochem Corporation  
Stephanie Allen  
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Sharon Bortz  
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Linda R. Wilcox  
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# 2024/2025 donors

## **PATRON**

Winnie Brown  
Debra Calhoun  
Miss Eleanor A. Campbell  
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Douglas Fidler & Deborah Wissner  
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Debra Tefs  
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Adam Vigneault  
Jeffrey Waterman  
Karen L. Wood

## **SUSTAINING**

John Adams  
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Suzanne Allen  
Philip Ames  
Ted & Jenny Banker  
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Linda Berry  
Karren Brown  
Elizabeth C. Campbell  
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Karen Campbell Greenlee  
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Johnna M. Economou  
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Lucy Randles  
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Paul Rosing  
Linda Shaw  
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Tim Stewart  
Shirley & Ron Taylor  
Jeanette Thomas  
Anthony & Leigh Weston  
Diane Williams  
Carolyn Wolfe  
Lee Zeiszler



# 2024/2025 donors

## CONTRIBUTORS

Paula Adams	Bill & Phyllis Dreyer	Chris & Carol Law	Emily O'Brien
David Allin	Kevin Dunn	Kathy Lazar	Bart & Dianne Oldenburg
Ashley Andrews	Gail Dunphy	Theresa Leatherman	Jennifer O'Neill
Anonymous	Susan Edgar	Anne Lederman	Barb & Tim Osyk
Lisa Armstrong	Debrah Fabian	Jim & Louise Leek	Annabelle Otto
Cathy Baer	Sara A. Finan	Lee Lentz	Ellen Owen
Dr. Jim Bates	Antoinette Flynn	Leuty Family	Renee Ruchotzke
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Martha Carman	Kristen Hildreth	Lois Murray	Michael Snyder
Nancy & John Cervone	Jennifer Hissem	Kim Muzic	Glen Stephens
Steve Chapman	Jamarr	Marilyn Muzic	Janet M. Stewart
Cheryl Connell	Erin Johnson	Jean C. Naswadi	Jenna Swanson
Tara Corkery	Barb & Ben Kalie	Jayne Noble	Bob & Becky Ulrich
Douglas Curfman	Penny Kegg	Kathleen Nolan	Robin Ungerleider
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Thomas Deighan	Kirklyn Kuzdral	Dean L. Parham Sr.	Nancy Wheeler
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Patricia Dill	Jo Larkmanl	Richard & Diane Pilat	Janet Young
		Kristen Oberhaus	Patricia Zanin
			Bob Zeller



# Volunteers





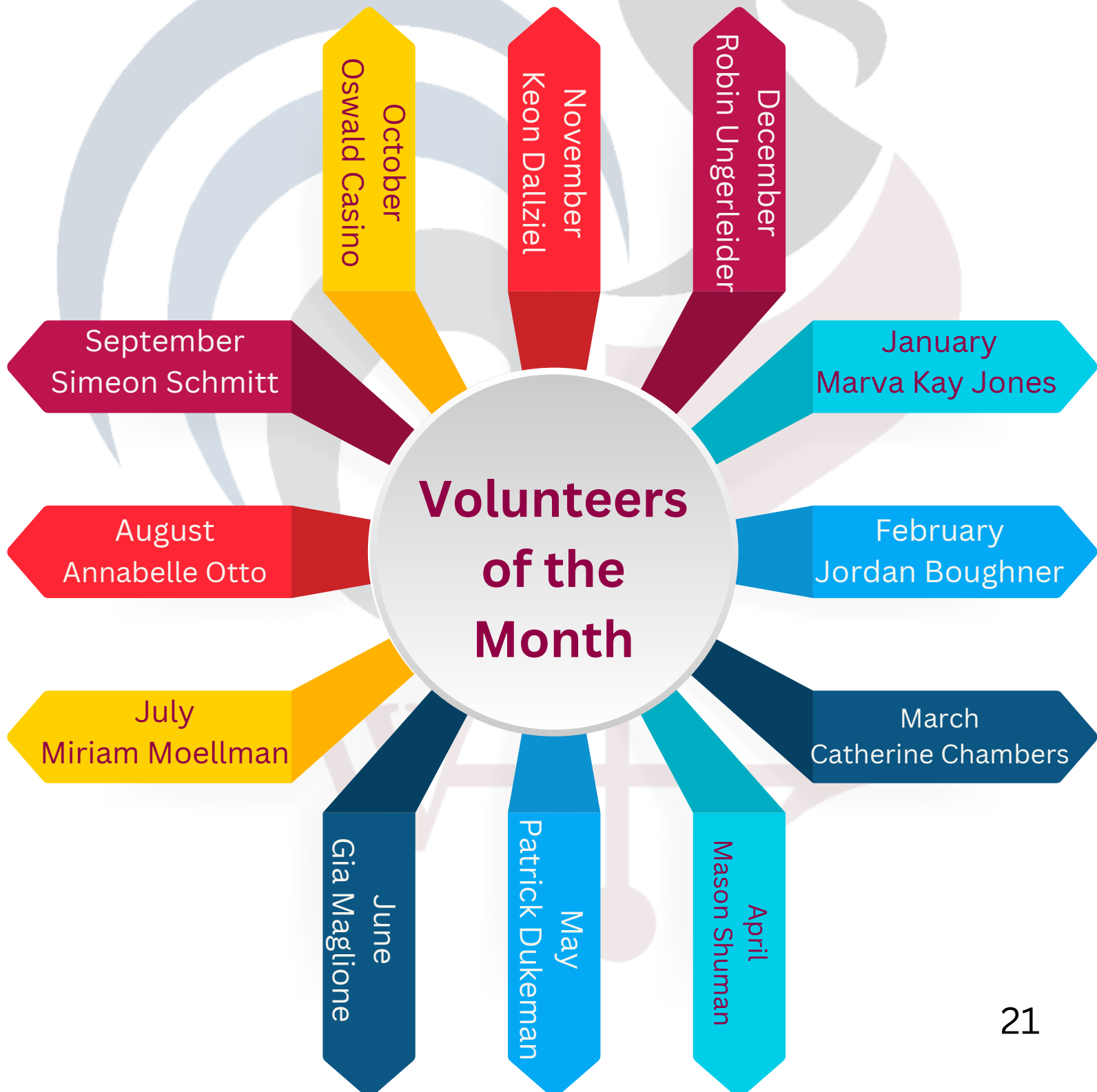
# volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. They are the backstage heroes, the onstage stars, the set builders, the prop painters, the House Managers, the bartenders, and the ushers who dedicate their time and talents to make our mission a reality. In the 90th season, a remarkable 223 individuals contributed an astounding 35,059 hours of service, demonstrating the incredible power of volunteerism and an unwavering commitment from our community.





# volunteers





# top 25 volunteers

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- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ozwald Casiño      | 14. Bekah Neubecker |
| 2. Annabelle Otto     | 15. Rick Cordaro    |
| 3. Keon Dalziel       | 16. Eric Steckel    |
| 4. Makenna Bird       | 17. Ava Marie Lee   |
| 5. Catherine Chambers | 18. Marci Paolucci  |
| 6. David Moledor      | 19. Samaria Murry   |
| 7. Benjamin DeCapua   | 20. Jordan Boughner |
| 8. Elena Klingler     | 21. Paul Means      |
| 9. Dale Gilbert       | 22. Maxwell Rees    |
| 10. Gia Maglione      | 23. David Lee       |
| 11. Carrie Lee        | 24. Simeon Schmitt  |
| 12. Layne Weakland    | 25. Van Wornkey     |
| 13. John O'Neill      |                     |



# 90th season chanticleer award winners

**Best Supporting  
Performer in a  
Musical**

**Noah Casino**

**Erin Dillon  
Youth Award**

**Isabella  
Rodeman**

**Best Supporting  
Performer in a  
Play**

**Amanda  
Vigneault**

**Best Ensemble  
in a Musical**

**Cast of Jersey  
Boys**

**Best Featured  
Performer in a  
Musical**

**Samaria Murry**

**Best Sound  
Design**

**Robin  
Ungerleider**



# 90th season chanticleer award winners

**Best Lead  
Performer in a  
Play**

**Amanda Davis -  
Vigneault**

**Best Properties  
Design**

**Laura Niehaus  
and Rachel  
Marie Watson**

**Jim Horvath  
Award**

**David Moledor**

**Top Volunteer**

**Oswald Casino**

**Best Musical**

**Jersey Boys**

**Best Lead  
Performer in a  
Musical**

**Jordan  
Benjamin**



# 90th season chanticleer award winners

**Best Lighting  
Design**

**Wittman  
Sullivan**

**Best Featured  
Ensemble in a  
Play**

**The Amen  
Corner**

**Spirit of Weathervane**

**Matt McCombs  
Catherine Chambers  
Charlene Dejournett  
Eric Steckel**

**Best Play**

**8x10: The  
Eileen Moushey  
TheatreFest**

**Best Scenic  
Design**

**Alan Costa**


**Spirit of Weathervane**


**DeAndre Karim  
Annabelle Otto  
Sean Vollman  
Ava Marie Lee**




## WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

 [www.weathervaneplayhouse.com](http://www.weathervaneplayhouse.com)

 330-836-2626

 [info@weathervaneplayhouse.com](mailto:info@weathervaneplayhouse.com)

 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313