



Youth For Truth Performing Arts Company, Inc.
Portraying Truth Through Theatrics

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Dear Sir/Madam:

The pressures of our modern-day society often times leave our youth facing very difficult and unfair challenges. We are honored to introduce a non-profit performing arts company with a goal of helping young individuals face these everyday challenges and to help encourage their lives toward a brighter future!

The Youth For Truth Performing Arts Company founded in August 2006, is Western New York based, serving the region and beyond. Our current season is eight months long beginning in May 2008 and ending in December 2008. Our goal of two to three performances per month will equal sixteen to twenty-four performances this season, resulting in touching the lives of thousands of youth with a powerful message of hope.

Our talented Multi-cultural troupe of young men and women between the ages of 12-23, travel and perform in theaters, schools, churches, at youth conferences, camps and community events. Our company feels, as many people do, that performing arts is a great way to reach out to youth. With the second highest teen pregnancy rate out of every county in New York State, the youth of Erie County struggle not only with decisions related to sex and pregnancy, but also contend with the social ills of drugs, alcohol, abortion, suicide, bullying, gambling and stress related issues provoked by peer pressure. Our company addresses these specific and prevalent challenges through the impact potential of drama, music and dance.

Our company is a contributor-supported non-profit organization, and as you are probably aware, it takes thousands of dollars to operate a performing arts company. We would greatly appreciate your partnering with us! We believe that your financial donations will help make a difference in the lives of our young people, which in turn will be a contribution to the future of our society. By developing through contributions, our internal capacity will be more effective, efficient and relative, placing us in a position to continue impacting and supporting the at-risk youth who desperately need programs/services to resist negative risky behaviors and choose positive career paths and healthy life-styles.

We have attached information for you to view at your convenience. The statistical youth data is staggering and we are committed to educate youth with facts that will encourage change and decrease the negative statistics in Western New York.

Thank you in advance for your involvement; we immensely appreciate your generosity. For more information, please visit our Web Site at www.youthfortruthpac.com or contact us at (716) 667-3826 or youthfortruthpac@verizon.net.

Sincerely,

Dana LeBlanc Corvino
President
Youth For Truth Performing Arts Company, Inc.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE 2008 PERFORMANCE "A SECOND CHANCE"©

In the 2008 performance, we portray four true-life stories that were written for the stage. Four teenage strangers realize how serious their problems are when they are transported into an unknown dimension with little hope of escape. Terrified and confused as to whether their transport was mental, physical or spiritual, they struggle to find answers to explain their confinement. Throughout the performance, each character begins to realize that they have life defining decisions to make. One at a time they flash back to the specific problem that is confronting them. Each one is encouraged to choose the right course when a stranger appears to give them a second chance.

"A Second Chance" demonstrates that the battlefield between right and wrong starts in the mind. Knowing what is right is right is the first step, but choosing that step is the challenge. Our goal is to influence and convince our young and not so young audience through this impactful and energetic performance that the choices they make now will determine the outcome of their future.

Why are we so determined? Because in this country:

- 1 in 8 teens suffer from depression
- 6 teenagers commit suicide everyday.
- 135 teenagers bring guns to school everyday.
- 437 teenagers are arrested daily for drinking
- 211 teenagers are arrested daily for drug abuse.
- 3,288 teens run away from home everyday.
- 13% of all teens have gambling related problems.
- Anorexia nervosa has doubled in the last 20 years.
- 12 million teenagers are involved in devil worship or witchcraft.
- 26% of girls in grades 9-12 have been the victim of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or date-forced sex.
- 85% of sexual assaults, including rape, is committed by someone the victim knows.
- 13% of all births are to teenage mothers
- Over 1,200,000 abortions are performed every year.
- 30% of all teens are involved in school bullying.

RESPONSES TO OUR 2007 PERFORMANCE "A SECOND CHANCE"©

- "We hope and pray that you and your fine troupe realize what a calling you have been commissioned to. We attended the production expecting a cute high-school performance. What we received was Life Changing!

The performance was a light in the darkness. It touched on so many nerves at so many levels that we would be remiss in trying to explain its significance. From our own childhoods to those of our grown children and virtually any child we've ever known, we have all felt the pain and confusion and frustration of youth. Bullying, thoughts of suicide, sexual temptation and pressure, abortion, drugs and alcohol, social and societal pressures, alienation, feelings of "aleness", and last – but not least – seeking answers in mysticism, pagan rituals, demonism: You left no stone unturned! Your troupe left us with a sense of Hope, a sense of Purpose, a sense that we CAN be instruments of Love and Faith in a troubled world.

The day after the performance, we were with some friends who were telling us of the challenges they are having with their children, and we immediately remembered that you were performing again in Lewiston. Count on seeing us, our friends, and every young person we can influence at that performance! Your troupe is a light in the darkness, a union of young people who are MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

One last thought that we hope you can convey to your performers: They may never know whose lives they have touched: If a life, a baby, a soul was saved. And they may not help everyone – they certainly will not REACH everyone. But will it have been worth it for the sake of ONE? Will the hours of learning lines and blocking and music and dance, of performing with their hearts, time away from friends and family – will it have been worth it? Look into your hearts... you KNOW the answer... "FOR THE SAKE OF ONE..." Gary & Judy Rodriguez, Lockport, NY

- "Simply, Fantastic... From the thrilling suspense from act to act to the impact from the overall moral concept. A Second Chance performance is by far the BEST youth performance I have ever seen. HOW POWERFUL!!!" Tammy Cowan, Orchard Park, NY
- "You came to the Youth Music Camp that I went to and everyone in your company touched my life. I believe that teens really should be notified of the things that are effecting our generation and this is a great way to do it!" Kevina Hall, Lancaster, NY

PERFORMANCE SUCCESS

- Minister Nathan Salter and Elder Leonard Marshall from Greater Refuge Temple in Buffalo, NY, attended our theatrical performance in June 2007. They were so moved by the message and talented cast, that they gave us 20 scholarships, worth \$400 a piece to attend their Music Camp in Ellwood City, PA from August 27 – September 1, 2007. We implemented theatrical workshops for their campers and performed the production "A Second Chance". The final outcome was electrifying and many of the inner-city students that attended the camp joined the cast in 2008!

SERVICE AREA

Our target population is at-risk youth between the ages of 12-19 who are attending Public and Private Middle and High Schools in Western New York. This includes:

- Economically disadvantaged youth
According to the US Census Bureau, in 1999 the poverty rate for the city of Buffalo was 26.6% versus the poverty rate for New York State which was 14.6%. The general condition of the city has been ongoing and is getting more difficult. In March 2007, eight years later - according to the City of Buffalo Living Wage Ordinance - Section A. Legislative determination of intent - (3) The City of Buffalo has a limited amount of taxpayer resources to expend; and even in promising economic times, far too many working Buffalo residents and their families live below or near the poverty line. The City of Buffalo Living Wage Ordinance states in Section A. Legislative determination of intent - (8) that the City is presently facing a grave financial crisis. Because of the high percentage of families living in poverty, Buffalo qualifies as being a distressed community based on low income earnings. In the Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report it

states, "Living in a disadvantaged community strongly influences a youth's risk of victimization only if the community is severely disadvantaged." The local United Way has identified that one of Buffalo's primary needs is more development programs for youth.

- Youth who are "at-risk" (this includes youth who live in poverty, youth who are subjected to violence and youth who are tempted daily by immoral and unethical conditions/behaviors)

Buffalo, NY is in Erie County, which holds the second highest teen pregnancy rate out of every county in New York State. The Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report states, "Current projections indicate that the juvenile population will continue to grow throughout the 21st century. The Census Bureau estimates that it will increase 14% between 2000 and 2025 – about one-half of one percent per year." News Released from the University at Buffalo News Center February 15, 2007 – New Center Addresses Students' Disruptive Behaviors. The News Release states, "School violence is an issue that is of great concern to me, and one that must be successfully addressed if we hope to give our children the resources they need to succeed," Hoyt added. "Our children who want to learn deserve an environment that is free of violence and disruption."

- Troubled youth who have made wrong choices and need encouragement and solutions to the circumstances that they are encountering

Violence within the Buffalo Public Schools is rampant, with 1,046 students suspended from September 2006 to January 2007. News Released from the University at Buffalo News Center April 6, 2006 – Preventing School Violence by Solving Problems Focus of Program. The News Release states, "Recent incidents of students fighting in the Buffalo Public Schools point to a disturbing problem facing schools across the U.S., according to a nationally regarded expert in school violence at the University at Buffalo." "It's a national problem," said Lawrence Shulman, former Dean and Professor in the UB School of Social Work. "...Shulman says seventh and eighth grade are the highest suspension grades in the Buffalo school district." And, "The schools don't have enough services to help their students and it is unfair to ask teachers and administrators to try to carry the load. All of these problems are manageable, but you have to be willing to put in the effort and money. Teachers need experience, resources and support." In the Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report, "Research has found, educational failure leads to unemployment (or underemployment), and if educational failure and unemployment are related to law-violating behavior, then patterns of educational failure over time and within specific groups may help to explain patterns of delinquent behavior." In a press release during the second half of 2007, Mayor Byron W. Brown was quoted saying "... we must continue to do everything we can to ensure that our residents are safe and that they enjoy a good quality of life."

PRESENT NECESSITY

The need for the YFT program in the community is immense. Both the City of Buffalo and Erie County have suffered from severe financial hardships – both now being managed under New York State Control Boards. Due to the financial crisis of local government, fewer dollars are available for local programs while the needs of the youth continue to increase and are going unmet. The following information shows the overwhelming need for youth development/support programs. These are only a few of the desperate needs in Buffalo.

- According to the Buffalo Crime Report listed on CityRating.com, Buffalo is above the National average in every crime. Murder is 2.86 times the National Average, Forcible Rape is 1.94, Robbery is 2.58, Aggravated Assault is 1.73, Burglary is 1.69, Larceny or Theft is 1.07, Car Theft is 1.46, All Violent Crime is 2.15 and All Property Crime is 1.25 times the National Average.
- According to the National Institute of Mental Health – Treatment for Adolescents with Depression Study – “About 4% of teenagers have major depressive disorder (MDD) at any one time. Among teens, girls are more often affected than boys. MDD frequently interferes with home, school and family life, including causing a lot of family stress. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teenagers, with about half of these associated with depression.”
- According to Johnston L, O’Malley P, and Bachman J. Monitoring the Future: National Results on Adolescent Drug Use. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2003 – “Approximately 20% of 8th graders, 35% of 10th graders, and 48% of 12th graders report having consumed alcohol during the past month and about 12% of 8th, 22% of 10th, and 28% of 12th graders report binge drinking (five or more drinks on a single occasion during the past two weeks).”
- The following abortion numbers were derived from pro-abortion sources courtesy of The Alan Guttmacher Institute and Planned Parenthood's *Family Planning Perspectives* – “52% of women obtaining abortions in the U.S. are younger than 25: Women aged 20-24 obtain 32% of all abortions; Teenagers obtain 20% and girls under 15 account for 1.2%.”
- According to the Food Bank of Western New York, Buffalo, the weekly estimated number of poverty stricken clients is 43,200 and 26% is under 18 years old.