

Calithumpians: Scholarship Program

Information

GOAL

In our 30th season of operation, Calithumpians has initiated a program dedicated to helping sponsor underprivileged children, so that they might attend our summer drama camps.

BACKGROUND

For those who are not aware, Calithumpians is a non-profit Theatre organization dedicated to the education and entertainment of children and families. Each summer Calithumpians puts on four shows all summer long in Officers Square based upon the promotion of values such as environmental sustainability, anti-bullying, healthy eating, New Brunswick history, community outreach, and much more.

Recently, we have also begun bringing our unique process of collective creation into classrooms; through this process we have helped students use theatre to take ownership of their education, and ultimately express what they have learned confidently and creatively.

During the summer season Calithumpians also runs drama camps dedicated to the development of confidence and creative expression in kids. During the week long camps kids are exposed to singing, writing, acting, and collective creation ultimately culminating in the performance of their own show Friday at noon in Officers Square. The shows are based around the values as mentioned above, but as the kids choose to see and represent what these things mean to them. The progress as seen from returnees each year is notable, with many going on to pursue other programs based around theatre during the year and some even becoming Calithumpians employees later in life.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Over the past several years we have received and processed requests from educators, guardians, and parents to allow their children or children they know, who would otherwise not have the opportunity, to participate in Calithumpian summer camps. We are always more than happy to take on as many of these individuals as we possibly can, and will help in any situation above and beyond what our resources allow. However, because we are a non-profit organization we find our resources do not adequately meet our ambitions.

In the 30th year of our operation we hope to expand these opportunities to underprivileged children on a more permanent basis, and in greater numbers, by

partnering with local Fredericton businesses and institutions.

RESULTS

The response thus far has been incredible, with many businesses, such as M&T Deli, Miami Tanning, Urban Almanac, and Friends of Johnny Java, sponsoring a child or multiple children. Rather than being concerned with the sponsorship fitting their brand, these companies gave simply as an outpouring of generosity and kindness.

Not only have we been able to process requests sent directly to us, we have also been able to contact schools and ask teachers to help us identify children who they believe would be suitable for the program. The joy expressed by these teachers is palpable. They, as educators, understand the importance of programs like these for a child's confidence.

We hope that this program will continue to take root in our company and community.

