DEAR FRIENDS,

Our 41st season brought a wellspring of opportunities for the Dancing Wheels Company & School. Our plan to keep operations intact throughout the pandemic proved to be a solid course of business. As soon as travel opened up, our dancers were at the ready to accept all performance opportunities that came our way!

The season began with the August 2021 in-person, live-performance premiere of A Midsummer Night’s Dream choreographed by Catherine Meredith and presented at Cain Park. Then in four months, from August to November, the company completed tours to nine cities starting in New York City and concluding in León, Mexico. After a much-needed holiday break, the dancers went into creative and choreographic mode by reimagining their experiences in Mexico with a concert entitled Memories of Mexico. The performance at Rainey Institute was a full-evening concert featuring choreography by and with Dancing Wheels Company dancers and guest appearances by the Dancing Wheels Performance Ensemble and dance students from Rainey Institute. It was a beautiful evening full of expressive experiences reminiscent of the traditions and cultures of that amazing city.

Balancing the virtual world with live audience participation has been an exciting challenge throughout the year. With many folks still tentative about in-person meetings, performances, and classes, we have remained flexible and committed to our patrons, volunteers, and students near and far with new and ever-changing technology—which we call “CyberLive”—that brings us into the homes and workplaces of those unable to attend our programming in person. This approach has broadened our reach and increased our visibility by leaps and bounds with virtual showcases, classes, and performance opportunities.

In the Spring of 2022, more nationwide performance opportunities came our way, and the creation of our National Physically Integrated Dance Festival was in full swing. Through an adjudication process, Heidi Latsky Dance Company of New York City and Karen Peterson & Dancers hailing from Miami, FL were invited to join the Dancing Wheels Company in a three-city tour entitled Beyond Barriers, Boundaries & Belief! This monumental tour was launched on June 10th in Cleveland at Playhouse Square’s exquisite Allen Theatre. The concert included our benefit gala and featured three world premiere pieces by Donald Byrd, Brian Murphy, and Mark Tomasic. The evening and subsequent tours were memorable in so many ways. It proved to be an amazing exchange of artistry and the perfect vehicle to develop new friendships and reignite precious relationships from the past.

Once again, this season demonstrated that we are a strong resilient team as a whole, and collectively we have skills, experiences, and knowledge that go far beyond our expectations for the good of all.

We have opened our hearts and minds to overcoming obstacles, and in turn a plethora of opportunities have come our way. Those of you who help us to believe in the possibilities have given us the power and strength to continue down this road to full and equal access for all, and for this we are most grateful.

Your dedication and support of our mission to educate, advocate, and entertain through our artistry has not only kept us going, but has been the catalyst for growth and prosperity. We have felt your love and encouragement in great abundance. Together, with fierce and dogged determination, we will continue to rise above all obstacles and triumphantly conquer challenges that may come our way.

Here’s to another four decades and beyond!

With Gratitude and Admiration,

Mary Verdi-Fletcher
President/Founding Artistic Director

Thomas P. Gilligan
Board Chairman

We have opened our hearts and minds to overcoming obstacles, and in turn a plethora of opportunities have come our way.
If dance is an expression of the human spirit, then it is best expressed by people of all abilities. That is the fundamental belief behind the Dancing Wheels Company & School. Considered one of the premier arts and disabilities organizations in the U.S., Dancing Wheels is a professional, physically integrated dance company uniting the talents of dancers both with and without disabilities.

Mary Verdi-Fletcher, the first professional wheelchair dancer in the U.S., founded the Dancing Wheels Company in Cleveland in 1980. Born with spina bifida, Mary wanted to offer others with disabilities full and equal access into the world of dance. An almost unimaginable concept at the time, Mary’s vision and passion have since helped to revolutionize our very notion of dance—as well as what defines a dancer.

Furthering the mission of inclusive arts and recreation opportunities for all, the School of Dancing Wheels proudly opened its doors in 1990. Its state-of-the-art studios were soon regarded as a world-class training center for dancers, choreographers and educators. That same year, a partnership with the Cleveland Ballet created the groundbreaking Cleveland Ballet Dancing Wheels which went on to delight audiences for nearly a decade.

To date, the Dancing Wheels Company’s inspirational mission has touched over 6 million people through performances, school assemblies, residencies and workshops. Millions more have enjoyed their artistry via appearances on CNN, Good Morning America, and the TV special “Christopher Reeve: A Celebration of Hope.”

Now part of Professional Flair, Inc., a 501(c) arts and disabilities organization, Dancing Wheels continues to travel the globe advocating disability awareness and entertaining 30,000-50,000 people each year. With a repertory of over 85 works from nationally esteemed choreographers and a message of inclusion and accessibility, the Company continually expands the reach of artistic possibilities while celebrating the universal spirit of dance.

Our company’s lifelong mission to educate, advocate and entertain through compelling, innovative dance was born of the goals that each of our team members shares a heartfelt commitment to:

- Enhance integration and diversity in the arts with works uniting people of all abilities.
- Provide successful, independent and creative role models for those with disabilities.
- Erase negative stereotypes about people with disabilities in professional careers, primarily in the arts.
- Instill greater understanding and professionalism in individuals of all ability levels.

**HISTORY AND MISSION**

**COMPANY MEMBERS**

McKenzie Beaverson, Matthew Bowman, Catherine Krakowec*, Cody Krause, Sara Lawrence-Sucato, Brian Murphy*, Kimberly Ocampo, Craig Sams III, DeMarco Sleeper, Celina Naima Speck, Kayla Thomas*, Marissa Thomas, Mary Verdi-Fletcher, Morgan Walker
*Guest Artist

**SCHOOL OF DANCING WHEELS & OUTREACH TEACHING ARTISTS**

L. Taylor Ashton-Beil, Andrea Belser McCormick, Matthew Bowman, Kimberly Crislip Payne, Sara Lawrence-Sucato, Amanda Meder, Dominique Patton, Mary Verdi-Fletcher, and Feather Weldon; teaching assistants Catherine Krakowec and Kimberly Ocampo; and substitutes Cody Krause, Jonathan McVey, and Ron Dale Simpson

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Mary Verdi-Fletcher, President/Founding Artistic Director
Thomas P. Gilligan, Board Chair
Ross Cameron and Greer Gibbons, Co-Vice Chairs
Bruce Baum, Treasurer
Kathleen J. Pantano, P.T., Ph.D., Secretary
*Advisory Board Member
**Emeritus

**STAFF MEMBERS**

Mary Verdi-Fletcher, President/Founding Artistic Director
Dana A. Kuhn, Manager of Development and Communications
Sara Lawrence-Sucato, Rehearsal Director and Director of Outreach & Community Engagement
Matthew Bowman, Director of the School of Dancing Wheels and Archives, Marketing, and Social Media Manager
Marissa Thomas, Tour Manager
Kimberly Crislip-Payne, Administrative Assistant
Mary Ann Grof-Neiman, Administrative/Operations Manager
Stacy Windahl, Marketing Services
K. Pakelis & Company, LLC, Accountant
Singer, Berger, Press & Co., Accountant
KMP Artists, Artist Representative

**MVP ARTISTS**

Lisa Black, Adrienne Boissy, Jill Butts, Kittie Drops, Linda Evans, Gabriel and Julia Galletta, Marita Gilligan, Margie Gilroes, Mary Ann Grof-Neiman*, Suzanne Joseph, Wendy Kelley, Dana Kuhn*, Nancy McSeveney, Katie Pantano, Joyce Pope, Emily Scott, Bob Solich, Mary Verdi-Fletcher*, Stacy Windahl + indicates staff

**EVENTS COMMITTEE**

We thank our Board of Directors who reached a 100% contribution level for our 2021/22 Season!
MEET OUR DANCERS!

Mary Verdi-Fletcher (41 years), founded the Dancing Wheels Company in 1980 and continues as a leading dancer. Mary is the inspiration and energy behind the nation’s first and foremost professional physically integrated dance company. Mary's resilience and perseverance has guided Dancing Wheels in 41 years of artistry and excellence beyond barriers, boundaries, and beliefs!

Celina Naima Speck (4 years) joined Dancing Wheels for the 2018-2019 season while completing her studies in dance through the University of the Arts (Zürich, Switzerland) and has been a full company member ever since. Celina choreographed "Home, or Home Home?" for Dancing Wheels in 2022. She holds a Level 1 & 2 teacher certificate in the Dancing Wheels method of physically integrated dance and has been a regular teaching artist for the company.

Marissa Thomas (3 years), has three seasons as a dancer and Tour Manager for the Dancing Wheels Company. Although born in Las Vegas, NV, she graduated from Cleveland School of the Arts and The Ohio State University. Marissa has also received her Dancing Wheels Physically Integrated Dance Level 1 Teacher Certification.

Morgan Walker (3 years), a Toledo, Ohio native, danced with the Dancing Wheels Company in 2016-2017 and returns for her second season in 2021-2022. McKenzie has performance experience with Verb Ballets (Cleveland, OH), Full Radius Dance (Atlanta, GA), and as a back-up dancer for Maya Kodes.

McKenzie Beaverson (2 years), has three seasons as a dancer and Tour Manager for the Dancing Wheels Company. Although born in Las Vegas, NV, she graduated from Cleveland School of the Arts and The Ohio State University. Marissa has also received her Dancing Wheels Physically Integrated Dance Level 1 Teacher Certification.

Kimberly Ocampo (1 year) recently moved from Florida to dance with the Dancing Wheels Company. She loves to share her passion for music, rhythm, and dance and hopes to encourage others along the way.

Craig Sams III (1 year+), aka Lil Craig of 2Reel, is the CEO/Audio Engineer and featured Recording Artist of 2Reel Music Entertainment. Craig has performed as a guest artist with The Dancing Wheels Company in story ballets including Pinocchio!, Babes In Toyland, Helen Keller: A Tribute to Her Teacher, and The Snowman since 2018. Craig joined the company as a full-time dancer for the 2021-2022 season and continues to perform as a guest artist.
PERFORMANCES TIMELINE

2021

August 6 | Cleveland Heights, OH
A Midsummer Night's Dream at Cain Park

August 18 | New York, NY
2021 Battery Dance Festival

September 11 | Cincinnati, OH
Vulcan's Forge PAC

September 25 | Miami, FL
“Forward Motion 3” Dance Festival

October 21 | Norfolk, VA
Old Dominion University

October 2 | Edison, NJ
“Abilities Expo” New York Metro

November 6 | Pittsburgh, PA
Point Park University

November 24 | León, Mexico
“Festival Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo” at Teatro Manuel Doblado

VIRTUAL 2021

July 22-31
“Quest for Equality” at BorderLight Fringe Festival

August 18 | New York, NY
Battery Dance Festival

October 2
Arts Without Borders

2022

February 11 | Cleveland, OH
“Memories of Mexico” at Rainey Institute

March 3 | Ashland, OH
Ashland City Schools

April 29 | Cleveland, OH
“Beyond Barriers, Boundaries, and Beliefs” Gala, Performance, and kick-off National Physically Integrated Dance Tour at Allen Theatre, Playhouse Square Performance

April 19 | Chagrin Falls, OH
Gurney Elementary School

May 7 | Charleston, WV
Mid-Atlantic Dance Initiative (MADI)

May 12 | Garfield Heights, OH
Garfield Heights High School

May 27 | St. Louis, MO
Spring to Dance Festival

June 10 | Cleveland, OH
National Physically Integrated Dance Tour

June 14 | New York, NY
National Physically Integrated Dance Tour

June 25 | Miami, FL
National Physically Integrated Dance Tour

LECTURES 2022

March 3 | Ashland, OH
Ashland City Schools

April 19 | Chagrin Falls, OH
Gurney Elementary School

April 29 | Rocky River, OH
Magnificat High School
TOURING

24 PERFORMANCES

Breakdown:
• 7 Lecture Performances
• 9 Guest Appearance Performances (6 in-person, 3 virtual)
• 2 Mini-Mainstage Performances
• 6 Mainstage Performances

Highlights:
• A Midsummer Night’s Dream premiere performance at Cain Park (August 2021)
• International tour to León, Mexico to perform at the “Festival Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo” (November 2021)
• Memories of Mexico Performance at the Rainey Institute, featuring 8 premieres choreographed by Dancing Wheels dancers
• National Integrated Dance Tour of Beyond Barriers, Boundaries & Belief! to Cleveland, OH; New York, NY; and Miami, FL (June 2022)
• Performances at BorderLight Fringe Festival (July 2021); Battery Dance Festival (August 2021); Forward Motion Festival (September 2021); OhioDance Festival (April 2022); Mid-Atlantic Dance Initiative (May 2022); and Spring to Dance Festival (May 2022)

Premiere of 3 new works by Donald Byrd, Brian Murphy, and Mark Tomasic

9 WORKSHOPS & 1 RESIDENCY

Highlights:
• Residency in New Orleans, LA for New Orleans Ballet Association Veterans Dance Program (8/30-9/30/21)
• Workshops for dance programs at Old Dominion University (October 2021) and Point Park University (November 2021)

3 KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

• 2 virtual and 1 in-person in Miami, FL at Forward Motion Festival (September 2021)

AUDIENCE BREAKDOWN

• 3 Performances with global virtual audiences
• 5 Performances in Cleveland-area
• 1 International performance in Mexico
• States toured: FL, LA, OH, MS, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV
• Reached thousands of audience members worldwide
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021, VIRTUAL

The Dancing Wheels Company held its second annual “Team Trivia Tournament” night, a virtual trivia event that brought families and friends together to test their trivia knowledge. Teams gathered in the comfort of their own homes to go up against other contestants in a friendly competition that also helped raise funds for the Dancing Wheels Company & School.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022 AT SS ROBERT AND WILLIAM CATHOLIC PARISH, EUCLID, OH

After a one-year hiatus, Dancing Wheels was able to bring back everyone’s favorite night of gaming, “Night at the Races,” to benefit Dancing Wheels’ education and outreach programming. This year was extra special because of a live performance by the School of Dancing Wheels Performance Ensemble! Family and friends gathered to enjoy a casual evening of food, drinks, betting on horse races, and other games and entertainment.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022, VIRTUAL

To put a spin on the previous year’s “Bourbon Barrel Blitz Raffle,” this year the Dancing Wheels Company held “Bundles of Booze and Bounty,” a raffle of eight fantastic collections of high-end spirits accompanied by tantalizing accoutrement. Because this event was hosted in Ohio, we were required to abide by and honor the State of Ohio Division of Liquor Control regulations, therefore, our raffle reflected high-quality spirits available solely from Ohio liquor stores. All bundles were valued between $300-$500. Participants could purchase tickets for individual bundles or go “all in” with a ticket submitted for each bundle.

41ST ANNIVERSARY GALA
“BEYOND BARRIERS, BOUNDARIES, AND BELIEF!”
ALLEN THEATRE, PLAYHOUSE SQUARE, CLEVELAND, OH

To honor Dancing Wheels’ more than four decades in dance, this gala performance launched a national touring festival featuring three extraordinary physically integrated dance companies. Joining the Dancing Wheels Company & School was Heidi Latsky Dance from New York City and Karen Peterson and dancers from Miami, FL. After the eye-opening performances from these three creative forces, guests were invited to the beautiful Allen Theatre lobby to continue the festivities with a champagne and dessert reception and artist meet-and-greet.
Our classes challenged each student to grow in their individual artistic expression, and as a greater community of artists of all abilities while supporting each other.

School of Dancing Wheels

For our 2021-2022 season, School of Dancing Wheels students participated in a wide variety of physically integrated dance classes. Our classes challenged each student to grow in their individual artistic expression, and as a greater community of artists of all abilities while supporting each other.

Our April 9, 2022 Community Dance Day brought together additional and returning friends to try classes at the School. By the end of the year, our student base grew to 20 regular students—an increase of five students from last year. With an average of eight classes offered per week, and with 36 weeks of classes held in three 12-week sessions, the School conducted a total of 288 classes throughout the 2021-2022 season. These classes included:

- Ballet
- Combo
- Contemporary
- Hip Hop
- Jazz
- Performance Ensemble
- Tap
- Wheelchair Technique
- Yoga

Classes remained available in a convenient and safe, hybrid in-studio and virtual model for the 2021-2022 season. This not only allowed for students who require additional precautions to take class from the safety of their own homes, but it also allowed for students from across the country to join us!

With students participating online from Burlington, WI and Pittsburgh, PA, the School of Dancing Wheels classes extended physically integrated dance to even more students.

The School of Dancing Wheels Performance Ensemble explored the 2021-2022 season theme of “Beyond Barriers, Boundaries, and Beliefs!” with two pieces created collaboratively by the dancers with direction from choreographer and teaching artist Dominique Patton and with assistance from Director of the School of Dancing Wheels Matthew Bowman and School Administrator Sara Lawrence-Sucato. “We can break boundaries!” premiered at the Memories of Mexico performance and was performed in-person at Dancing Wheels’ “Night at the Races” event. The second piece, “Rockets,” premiered at the annual gala and performance.

Outreach & Community Engagement

Throughout the 2021-2022 season, The Dancing Wheels Company & School's outreach department alone conducted 434 classes, and these were primarily in-person. Three programs were conducted online only. Our number of classes increased from the previous season in part by teaching at a second Medicore Transportation and Achievement Centers location and being welcomed back to teach at MetroHealth hospital since the onset of the pandemic. We had a student base of 2,681 including participants ages 5 to adult. We conducted 33 programs this year. We attended 3 vendor fairs in the 21-22 season, reaching 150 people.

Here are some programming highlights:

- The year’s outreach theme was “Distinguished Differentials: Beyond Our Skin,” a program for students in Grades K-12 to consider and learn about the similarities and differences of human bodies beyond what is perceived by looking at a person. Through a scientific lens and by using dance and movement, visual art, language arts, and technology, students discovered components of the body such as bones, muscles, and organs; explored wheelchair mechanics and composition; and shared aspects of their own stories to validate their unique contributions to diversity.
- We conducted programs at and with the support of the following community partners—Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation, Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, The Centers, City of Cleveland Neighborhood Resource and Recreation Centers, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland School of the Arts, Fun4theDisabled, Girl Scouts of North East Ohio, Kennedy Center, Luis Muñoz Marín, Magnificat High School, Mandel Jewish Day School, Medicore Transportation and Achievement Centers, MetroHealth, Open Doors Academy, Rainey Institute, and UCP of Greater Cleveland.
- We produced a video as part of the Kennedy Center’s Teaching Artists Present series, where our video had 591 views (as of August 19, 2022).
## Statement of Financial Position

**Ended June 30, 2021**

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<th>6/30/2021</th>
<th>6/30/2020</th>
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<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Restricted cash</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td>$372,506</td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable &amp; accrued expenses</td>
<td>38,035</td>
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<td>Line of credit</td>
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<td>Deferred support</td>
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<td>Note payable - SBA Paycheck Protection Program</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Without restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>With restrictions</td>
<td>18,567</td>
<td>23,816</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$433,184</td>
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## Statement of Activities

**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Restrictions</th>
<th>With Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
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<td><strong>Revenue and Support</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support</td>
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<td>Government grants</td>
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<td>Businesses, individuals and foundations</td>
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<td>Special events</td>
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<td>Workshop and lecture fees</td>
<td>31,393</td>
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<td>Tuition</td>
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<td>Investment income and other</td>
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<td>440</td>
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<td>Rental and gift shop sales</td>
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<td><strong>Reclassifications</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Supporting services</td>
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<td>Management &amp; general</td>
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<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>50,090</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets, Beginning</strong></td>
<td>217,629</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets, Ending</strong></td>
<td>$267,719</td>
<td>$18,567</td>
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PROFESSIONAL FLAIR INC. DBA DANCING WHEELS COMPANY & SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021
WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020
PRODUCER ($1,000 - $4,999)

Violet Abad
Karen Agnis
Anonymous Donor
Anonymous Donor
Applied Industrial Technologies
Arts Midwest Inc.
Arson Family Foundation
Bonnie M. Bigley
Buch Cremation Funeral Home

Kenneth Buzek
Ross Cameron
Community West Foundation / Bill Daley
Edna Ruth Fletcher
Robert Fletcher & Mary Verdil-Fletcher
Harry K. & Emma R. Hoss Charitable Foundation
Anne Galletta
Julie & Gabriel Galletta

GPD Employee Foundation
The Higley Fund
Jewish Community Federation
Wendy Kelley
Vil & Ann Luce
Catherine McCann
Mike & Lindsay McCarthy
Samuel H. and Maria Miller Foundation

MobiliteWorks / Bryan Everett
DAC Artists with Disabilities
Access Program
Peter Doernar
So Robert & William Catholic Parish
Spahr Family Charitable Fund
Trois’ Vidlova
James Verdi
Mary Lou Ventimillia

DIRECTOR ($500 to $1000)

Barbara Berzini & Salg Barsanovich
James Collins
James & Karen Dakin
Sally Davis
Thomas Decker
Michael & Mary Kathryn Drops
Monica Duizi
Louis & Ann Marie Frangos

Greer Gibbons
Margaret Garros
Louis Grube
Frank Holman
Valerie Kancherko
Dana & Kevin Kuhn
Jerry Lynch

Amanda Mayan
Miller Family Foundation
PNC Foundation
Barbara Robinison
Barb & Jeff Rosenbarg
Marilys Schneider
Corrie Somerville
Michael Tenenbaum

TOY THOMAS
Joseph & Patricia Verdi
Bryan Williams
Stacy & Jeffrey Woonald
Steven Webber & Anita Ritholtz

FAN ($250 to $499)

Barbara Berzini & Salg Barsanovich
James Collins
James & Karen Dakin
Sally Davis
Thomas Decker
Michael & Mary Kathryn Drops
Monica Duizi
Louis & Ann Marie Frangos

Clayneesa Barnes
Frank Barresi
Rachel Beattie
Amy Beaveron
Michael & Shannon Bell
Jeremy Bennett
Karen Bennett
Brian Bethune
Prachi Byrd
Paul Bischoff
Adrienne Boley
Brice Bowman
Szymon Bravos
Christina A. Brum
Lillian Candley
Karen Capelli
Katherine Carlson
Sawan Carson
Patricia & Beate Carvanunun
Marie Chamber
Anabell Chandler-Naves
Cleveland State University
Michael Cole
Emily Corran
Blake Cord
Robert Crozier

tess Dally
Audrey Dedenten
Krystal Dennis
Cori Delano
Gary E. Dewall
Carla DiBacco
David Dombrowski
Elizabeth Dreben
Kris Drops
Sarah Durham

Jennifer Epifano
Ivana Fielding
Frage Fielding
Marri Gede
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Benny & Suzanne Joseph

Jeff Linton
Lublinski Foundation
Joy McGee
Janice M. McCarthy
Network Building
Joyce Pope

John Thomas
Joseph & Patricia Verdi
Bryan Williams
Stacy & Jeffrey Woonald
Steven Webber & Anita Ritholtz

FRIEND (Up to $250)

Jennifer Adams
Barbara Albright
Kenza Alloro
Shanaya Almeen
AmazonSmile Foundation
Adrienne Ashwell
Clayneesa Barnes
Frank Barresi
Rachel Beattie
Amy Beaveron
Michael & Shannon Bell
Jeremy Bennett
Karen Bennett
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