

# CHM BIBLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER



Reflecting on 2023

## CHMBT Spotlight: Unveiling the Transformative Power of Faith and Arts

As we near the year's end, we extend heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support. Together, we've achieved milestones, aiming to establish a community theatre building for diverse theatrical and art programs. Since 2008, our 501(c)(3) organization has offered innovative stage plays, emphasizing inclusivity with diversity and unity in the community.

Collaborations with notable organizations expanded our impact, including nationwide virtual theatre programs. Our Bible Theatre and Music programs nurture artistic growth, guided by experts and peers. Amidst crises like the pandemic, our programs provide a positive outlet for expression and healing, benefiting vulnerable groups. At CHM Bible Theatre, community and artistic exploration drive our mission towards universal access to artistic resources.



Visit <https://www.chmbibletheatre.org/>





# Marking Milestones

## Youth Development Programs

Our Youth Development Programs offer comprehensive training in theater, leadership, and creative arts for young individuals. Participants have the opportunity to lead various community projects, including directing stage plays, crafting sets, and leading art initiatives. Rehearsals and leadership classes cover all aspects of production, enhancing public speaking, teamwork, and presentation skills while fostering self-esteem and confidence.

This training platform serves as a gateway for participants to showcase their talents both on stage and virtually, potentially leading to future job opportunities with CHMBT and other art and leadership institutions. Our annual Summer Art & Theater programs (June-August) feature diverse classes, community productions, and networking opportunities, allowing participants to earn community service credits and connect with peers who share their passion for the arts and leadership.



## Innovative Programs

At CHMBT, we're dedicated to crafting a unique and impactful presence. Through innovative strategies, we aim to better serve our community and youth with the following initiatives:

**Non-Perishable Support:** Each production offers complimentary non-perishable items, ensuring immediate assistance for attendees.

**Gifts for Those in Need:** Generous donations of books, toys, school supplies, clothing, and more are freely distributed during our events, catering to individuals in need.

**Online Learning Hub:** Our online platform provides comprehensive Art, acting, leadership, and drama classes for both kids and adults, ensuring accessible educational opportunities.

**Community Engagements:** Our dedicated performers present uplifting Christmas skits at nursing homes, schools, and churches, spreading joy and festive cheer.

## Dinner Theater and Community Plays

## Summer Youth Art Workshops

At CHMBT, we embark on an enriching journey through diverse cultures via art and crafts, fostering an adventure in tactile learning. Our hands-on activities are designed to unlock children's creativity—an essential element for holistic well-being, self-awareness, and global connectivity.

Our Arts & Crafts program encompasses a wide array of visual expressions, encouraging children to explore drawing, painting, collaging, sculpting clay, writing poetry, cake decorating, and more. Through our commitment to delivering top-tier art and design education, we aim not just to engage and inspire, but also to challenge children, enabling them to experiment and craft their own unique artistic pieces.

## Achievements Unlocked

The existence of CHMBT thrives on the invaluable support from our local community. Every year, we hold a special event—a splendid dinner meticulously crafted to express gratitude to our diverse supporters and donors.

This exclusive evening offers our esteemed guests a remarkable experience. Amidst a delectable dinner, attendees have the privilege to witness our captivating stage plays, immerse themselves in melodious music, and marvel at mesmerizing special effects.



## Obtained grant funding for youth development initiatives

We have successfully secured a grant totaling \$435,000 from ICIJIA to further empower our Youth Development Programs. This funding is a testament to our commitment to nurturing and empowering the youth within our community. With this grant, we're excited to expand the reach and impact of our programs, providing even more opportunities for young individuals to explore theater, leadership, creative arts, and invaluable life skills. This generous grant enables us to enhance our initiatives, offering comprehensive training, diverse workshops, and hands-on experiences that will inspire and shape the leaders of tomorrow.



# Hiring of Youth Development Director

## i2i Award

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority celebrated the first graduates of its Institute to Innovate (i2i) program, providing 18 months of technical assistance to grassroots organizations dedicated to violence prevention. CHM Bible Theatre received an award through i2i, recognized by Governor JB Pritzker and the Lieutenant Governor's office. This award likely acknowledges CHM Bible Theatre's efforts and achievements in enhancing its organizational capacity, which could include aspects such as improving its programs, expanding community outreach, enhancing operational effectiveness, or fostering partnerships to better serve its mission and goals.

Receiving such a recognition from the Lieutenant Governor's office and Governor J.B. Pritzker is a significant testimony of CHM Bible Theatre's dedication and impact within the community. It underscores the organization's commitment to excellence and its contributions toward enriching the cultural landscape and capacity-building efforts in Illinois.

## Restore, Reinvest, Renew

We're excited to announce the appointment of Tanya White as our new Youth and Development Director. With extensive experience in mentoring and program management, Tanya brings invaluable expertise to our team. In her role, Tanya will lead the enhancement of our youth programs, focusing on leadership, creative expression, and holistic growth. Her appointment signifies our commitment to empowering the next generation and ensuring our programs meet evolving community needs. Join us in welcoming Tanya as we embark on this journey to inspire and support the youth in our community.



Crystal Hogue, an individual dedicated to making a difference, has been a consistent leader in her various roles. Currently leading the Champaign County Christian Health Center and serving as CEO of CHM Bible Theatre Productions for over 23 years, Hogue's commitment to healthcare and the arts is unwavering. Her leadership in a free clinic and a nonprofit organization focusing on Bible-based plays and leadership demonstrates her passion for making an impact. Hogue will be honored among five recipients at the annual Pink Panache Scholarship Gala, hosted by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and the Winding Ivy Community Development Foundation, on September 15 in Champaign.



A photograph of three children, two boys and one girl, standing outdoors in front of green foliage. They are holding strings of balloons. The boy on the left is holding a blue balloon, the girl in the middle is holding a pink balloon, and the boy on the right is holding a purple balloon. The title 'Future Endeavours' is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font, underlined.

# Future Endeavours

## Embracing novel ventures on the horizon

### Secure our own community theater infrastructure

Securing a community theater space is pivotal for CHM Bible Theatre Productions, facilitating a central hub for diverse artistic and cultural programs. This dedicated venue consolidates workshops, performances, and educational initiatives, promoting accessibility for the public and fostering a vibrant arts community.

Furthermore, the acquisition of this theater enhances community engagement, providing a space for collaboration, events, and outreach initiatives. It serves as a catalyst for expanding artistic expression, enabling artists and participants to explore creativity and share their work with a broader audience. This milestone represents a significant leap forward in amplifying cultural impact and establishing a dynamic artistic space within the community

### Expand after - school initiatives

Our after-school initiatives in dance, music, and theater create a holistic and enriching experience, fostering creativity, discipline, and a profound love for the arts in students.

#### **Dance Classes:**

Offering a diverse array of dance styles—ballet, praise dance, Liturgical and more—students explore fundamental techniques and artistic expression, enhancing not only physical fitness but also self-assurance through performances.

#### **Music Lessons:**

Introducing various instruments like piano, guitar, drums, and vocals, tailored music lessons cover theory, techniques, and performance skills, encouraging exploration of genres and culminating in recitals or ensemble performances.

#### **Theater Workshops:**

Providing a platform for acting, stagecraft, and storytelling exploration, these workshops delve into improvisation, script analysis, character development, and stage presence, fostering teamwork and communication skills, often culminating in small-scale productions.

## Recruit youth and adult cast for all the plays

The primary goal is to recruit a diverse group of youth and adult performers to partake in our theatrical productions. This recruitment drive aims to create an inclusive and vibrant cast, fostering a rich tapestry of talent, age, and diversity. Our objective is to curate a dynamic and captivating theatrical experience, providing a platform for individuals from varied backgrounds and ages to exhibit their creativity and skills on stage. This ensemble will contribute to the multifaceted nature of our plays, ensuring a compelling and engaging performance for our audience.

## Fueling Passion

# Bringing Generations Together



### A note from our CEO

As we near the close of this remarkable year, I am filled with immense gratitude for each of you who have contributed to our journey at CHMBT. Your dedication and passion have been the driving force behind our achievements, propelling us through highs and lows. As we reflect on the milestones we've reached together, I'm inspired by the resilience and creativity you've shown, especially in the face of challenges. Your unwavering commitment to our mission has been the cornerstone of our success.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about the opportunities that await us. Let's continue to innovate, collaborate, and create transformative experiences for our community. Together, let's embrace the new year with enthusiasm, determination, and a shared vision for excellence. Thank you for your hard work and unwavering support. Here's to a bright and prosperous year ahead!