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**Contact Information:**

Donn Smeragliuolo, UAA Administrator

United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County

(716) 244-0657

UAAofCC@gmail.com

**Website:** www.unitedartsappeal.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Photo caption one: A capacity crowd fills the 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center for the Small Business Revolution rally in 2020, one example of the many community events held in the venue.

Photo caption two: THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG is the most recently completed production at the Lucille Ball Little Theatre of Jamestown. Up next is LITTLE WOMEN.

**2023 United Arts Appeal Fund Drive Underway**

Jamestown, NY – February marks the kick-off of the 2023 fund drive for the United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County (UAA).

At this month’s meeting, board members sent letters primarily to local businesses, asking for support for the hundreds of concerts, performances, classes, and exhibits their organizations present in Chautauqua County that are enjoyed by thousands of people each year.

“The contributions we receive from local businesses are so very important,” said UAA president Julie Newell, “and in return, we are happy to give them a lot of public recognition.”

Both individual and business donors to the United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County receive a wide range of benefits for their generosity. Regardless of the amount of their contribution, they are listed on the UAA’s website and in theprinted programs of the United Arts Appeal member organizations, giving them exposure to thousands of audience members.

Depending on the level of contribution, additional benefits include links to the donor’s website, being featured on posters in the lobbiesof UAA member organizations, free movie admissions, and more. Details are on the Support UAA page at UnitedArtsAppeal.org.

United Arts Appeal member organizations include the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet, Community Music Project*,* 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center, Infinity Visual & Performing Arts, Lucille Ball Little Theatre of Jamestown, and Western New York Chamber Orchestra.

As a group, this is the only request the UAA makes of the local community.

“We are also extremely grateful for the support of the County, local foundations and individuals,” Newell said.

In 2022, the United Arts Appeal received major support from Chautauqua County, the Jessie Smith Darrah Fund, the Hultquist Foundation, and the Holmberg Foundation.

Among their 2022 supports, contributors included Patrons Phin & Sara DeMink, Lyndon and Melanie Gritters, Mark & Donna Hampton, Dr. Bruce Rockwell and Terry and Rick Turner. Special Gifts were received from Century 21 Turner Brokers, M.L. Feather, KeyBank, Lake Shore Savings Bank, Lissa & Sherwood VanDewark, and Wegmans. Donors included Falconer Funeral Home, Inc., Margaret S. Fuchs, Mary & Kevin Laumer, David & Betsy Shepherd, John & Elaine Sherwood and the Weinberg Financial Group.

In addition, the United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County is now accepting applications from Chautauqua County artists and non-profit organizations for grants up to $500 from its 2023 Projects Pool Grants Program. Artistic disciplines can include, but are not limited to crafts, dance, film, fiction, poetry, printmaking, sculpture, painting, video, play writing, performance, music composition and photography. For details and an application, visit [UnitedArtsAppeal.org/grants.html](http://unitedartsappeal.org/grants.html).

Businesses and individuals who want to help fund the arts in Chautauqua County can send their tax-deductible contributions to the United Arts Appeal, P.O. Box 754, Jamestown, NY 14701.

For more information, visit www.UnitedArtsAppeal.org.

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