## TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND



The famous water scene from "The Miracle Worker" as performed by the Truckee Community Theater, with Cameron Wees and Kaitlyn Barrett.

Members of the board of directors of Truckee Community Theater were recently thrilled to learn that the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation and the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund (TDGF) have joined forces to award the group a grant to purchase new equipment for rehearsals and performances. "We are the only community theater group in the Truckee area, and are proud to cast local residents of all ages in our shows," explained Courtney Simson, Producing artistic director for Truckee Community Theater. "In our last spring musical, 'The King and I,' we had

TDGF SUPPORTS TRUCKEE

COMMUNITY THEATER



over 100 performers ranging in age from 4 to 72."

Simson, a retired English teacher from San Diego, began offering theater classes in partnership with the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District in 2012. The production of full shows launched in June of 2013 with "Annie." Only two performances were planned, but these quickly sold out, and two more were added. Excited by the overwhelmingly positive response from the community, Simson went on the next year to produce a stirring production of "The Miracle Worker," and the rousing American musical theater classic "Oklahoma!" in the spring.

"The audiences were very enthusiastic. The actors in these shows were thrilled by sold out crowds and standing ovations," Simson said. "At this point, we realized we were ready to evolve to the next big step of becoming a non-profit theater group and presenting a regular, balanced season of plays. I selected a top notch board of directors, including Tahoe Donner's own Mike English, who brought a wide background in graphic design to our group."

Simson then rolled out an ambitious season of five shows. These included a Broadway concert under the stars at the Truckee Regional Park in August that drew over 500 audience members, a dramatic adult play, "The Crucible," and their first youth theater production, "Into the Woods, Jr." The youth theater production was a huge hit with families, and included a chance for kids in the audience to meet the young stars, get autographs and talk with them about the show," Simson explained.

Like any new theater group, Truckee Community Theater is on a constant mission to attain a level of excellence in their performances that will delight the audience and enrich the lives of the performers. This combined grant from TTCF and the TDGF will allow the group to purchase three new microphones, a powerful amp for dance rehearsal music, new mirrors for the dressing rooms, three large shelf units for props, and a new iPad to be used to run lights for all productions.

"The TDGF committee felt strongly that we should support the arts in our community and this was an opportunity to impact hundreds of residents, including many from Tahoe Donner," said Dick Gander, co-chair of the TDGF operations and grant committee.

"We are so very grateful for the new equipment this grant provides,"



Truckee Community Theater's actors performed "Bye Bye BIrdie" to a packed house with an enthusiastic audience and standing ovations.

Simson said. "These funds will impact our organization in a positive way for years to come! We hope to see lots of Tahoe Donner homeowners at 'Bye Bye Birdie' this spring," she said, adding that performances will be May 27-29 and June 3-5. Tickets will be available online at truckeecommunitytheater.com.

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is chartered by the TD Board of Directors. All contributions are voluntary tax deductible gifts from TD members and friends. The TDGF is administered through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. For more information on the TDGF or to make a contribution visit our web page at tahoedonner.com/giving-fund/. Contact tdgf@tahoedonner.com with questions or to volunteer for the committee.



## SAVE THE DATE: "BACK TO THE LAND" BENEFIT DINNER JUNE 18

The TDGF invites you to their "Back to the Land" Dinner, Saturday, June 18, at the Alder Creek Adventure Center. You'll enjoy a simple, elegant family-style dinner with a special menu sourced from local farmers through the Tahoe Food Hub, a 2015 grant recipient of the TDGF.

Tickets will be available online. Stay tuned for more information in future Tahoe Donner newsletters or visit tahoedonner.com/ giving-fund/events/ for updates. Proceeds will benefit the Tahoe Food Hub and the TDGF.







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