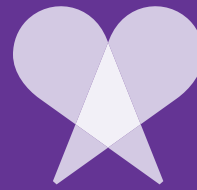


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What We Accomplish Together

Fall 2025, Vol. 3



**Entertainment
Community Fund**
Formerly The Actors Fund

ESSENTIAL Campaign Exceeds Goal

As of April 30, 2025, the Entertainment Community Fund successfully concluded its **ESSENTIAL** fundraising campaign having raised \$164 million, surpassing its three-year goal of \$160 million.

The **ESSENTIAL** Campaign was a comprehensive effort to allow the Fund to serve more people in more places. Dollars raised are being utilized by the Fund for significant expansion of services, for our emergency relief reserve fund and to address mission-critical capital projects.

What the **ESSENTIAL** Campaign made possible:

• Expand and Sustain Services

- Increase the number of people the Fund serves.
- Execute an innovative digital engagement strategy that includes the roll-out of a new client portal funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies.
- Reach more people in additional communities with services such as scholarships, mental health services, insurance and career counseling.

• Grow the Emergency Relief Reserve Fund

- Support for our emergency relief reserve fund allowed the Fund to respond immediately to the work stoppages and Southern California wildfires with grants to more than 20,000 individuals.

• Support Mission-Critical Capital Projects

- Upgrade the Actors Fund Home, the Fund's assisted living, skilled nursing and rehabilitation residence for seniors in New Jersey.
- Modernize The Schermerhorn and The Dorothy Ross Friedman Residences in New York.
- Create the Glorja Kaufman Vision Fund to stimulate investment in new projects.
- Support the construction of The Hollywood Arts Collective, a complex that combines 151 units of affordable housing with an arts building and a new home for the Fund's Western Region offices.



The Actors Fund Home, Englewood, New Jersey

Campaign leadership included Honorary Co-Chairs Annette Bening and Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Co-Chairs Hugh Jackman, Chris Keyser, Kenny Leon, Matthew Loeb, Shonda Rhimes and Robert Wankel.

Leadership donors are the late Glorja Kaufman, Jane Friedman/The Gerald J. & Dorothy R. Friedman Foundation, John Gore Organization, Seth MacFarlane, The Shubert Organization, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Greg Berlanti, IATSE International, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Netflix, Ruth Nerken/The Jean & Albert Nerken Foundation, Perenchio Foundation, Elizabeth and Kenneth Whitney, Phil Rosenthal & Monica Horan/The Rosenthal Family Foundation and Jonathan & Lizzie Tisch.

However, even with the success of the **ESSENTIAL** Campaign, there is much more to be done as our community responds to ongoing and future industry changes.

For more information on how you can help, please contact Katherine Freedman at 917.281.5924 or kfreedman@entertainmentcommunity.org or visit entertainmentcommunity.org/ESSENTIAL.

— A Message from the President & CEO —

The state of the Entertainment Community Fund is strong and filled with promise as we extend our reach throughout the country.

At the June Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, we approved a new strategic plan built on the cornerstones of how we help. These cornerstones are familiar to Fund supporters: providing financial assistance in times of need, bridging access to health care and health insurance, supporting seniors, offering rehabilitation services, helping arts workers develop meaningful parallel careers and guiding those we serve to secure affordable housing. In the coming months and years, we will uphold our commitment to programs and services directly impacting our clients' lives—work that your donations have and will continue to make possible.

There are numerous structural and geographic changes occurring in the entertainment industry, with unpredictable circumstances facing our clients on a daily basis. The challenges are real, but with your generous and steadfast support, the Fund will continue to be a safety net for those who need us.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Benincasa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph P. Benincasa (he, him, his)
President & CEO

Staff Spotlight: Jordan Strohl Executive Director, Actors Fund Home

Our Actors Fund Home in Englewood, New Jersey provides superb short-term rehab, assisted living, skilled nursing and memory care—plus supportive services—for entertainment industry veterans. Executive Director Jordan Strohl is understandably proud when he describes the Home as an innovative leader in providing care and “one of the best facilities in the country.”

Much of the credit goes to Jordan himself—and to your generosity.

Jordan started working at the Home 25 years ago as an intern fresh out of college. He recalls how he “loved the work and the facility. But I didn’t know if I wanted to stay here and what my career path would be.” Fortunately, his journey became clearer, and he was soon hired as Admissions Coordinator, then as Director of Admissions. He’s been the Home’s top administrator since 2006.

Jordan stresses, “The sad truth is the majority of residents have nothing in terms of assets. One of the reasons I’m still here after all these years is that I love



Jordan Strohl with Brian Stokes Mitchell at the celebration of Jordan’s 25th anniversary working at the Actors Fund Home.

Photo credit: Emily Louick Photography

the mission—to take care of people regardless of their ability to pay and to put care first.”

He explains that the most rewarding part of the job is “interacting with residents and hearing from them about their quality of life. I can’t sing. I can’t dance. I can’t perform. I’ve always had this amazing appreciation for people who are talented. I don’t have that talent. I have talents and skills in other ways.”

Thank you, Jordan, for using those talents and skills over your quarter-century of service to the entertainment community!

Personal Stories from the Southern California Wildfires

In January, the Entertainment Community Fund mobilized quickly to provide comprehensive support to entertainment professionals who were displaced due to the California wildfires—including Jane* and Travis.

Travis Ference is a self-employed Grammy-nominated mixer, producer and recording engineer. Until the devastating Eaton fire hit, he worked out of a fully equipped studio in the garage of his home in Altadena, California.

Travis, his wife who was eight months pregnant and their toddler evacuated safely. Their house survived but sustained significant smoke damage. Unfortunately, the garage burned down, destroying the studio and all his professional equipment.

His now family of four has been renting a two-bedroom apartment while waiting for insurance money to repair their home. Travis uses one bedroom as his studio. The Entertainment Community Fund was able to provide him with emergency financial assistance to take the first steps towards replacing necessary gear and rebuilding his career. Travis wants to thank you and other donors, confiding, “It’s overwhelming to think of a stranger being so supportive of someone else.”

Jane also struggled after the Eaton fire. A director and filmmaker, Jane first reached out to us a few years ago for financial assistance due to a lack of work during the pandemic. We also helped her keep her health insurance after being diagnosed with a serious heart condition.



Travis Ference with his wife and two children. Travis says, “It’s overwhelming to think of a stranger being so supportive of someone else.”

Photo credit: Travis Ference

She faced difficulties again during the Hollywood strikes in 2023. She sublet her apartment and moved in with a friend in Altadena, where she could stay for free. But when her friend’s house burned down in the fire, our client had nowhere to go.

Jane was finally able to move back into her apartment, and the Fund helped her afford her rent payments. Through our housing services, she found a roommate to share the cost.

“I genuinely want to thank every single person that made these funds available,” she says. “I don’t know how to say this enough. Thank you. I can’t find a different word for it, but it truly has saved my life.... And I just hope one day I can pay it forward.”

**Name changed to protect individual’s privacy.*

Recent Entertainment Community Fund Events



Brooke Shields, Annette Bening and former trustee Kate Edelman at an event celebrating Brooke’s new book *Brooke Shields Is Not Allowed to Get Old*.

Photo credit: Nina Prommer



Glynn Turman, Jay Haddad and Alfred Molina at the Edwin Forrest Day Celebration in Los Angeles.

Photo credit: Nina Prommer



Pam Sabrin, Andrea Martin, Lynne Halliday and B.H. Barry at the Edwin Forrest Day Luncheon in New York.

Photo credit: Natalie Powers



J. Harrison Ghee accompanied by Seth Rudetsky at the Broadway Brunch in May.

Photo credit: Tricia Baron



Entertainment Community Fund

Formerly The Actors Fund

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—Your Newsletter Enclosed—

A Chorus Line Official 50th Anniversary Celebration

Benefits Fund Programs for Dance Professionals

On July 27, the Entertainment Community Fund, along with Tony Award-winning producers **Christopher Ketner** and **Hunter Regian**, produced the one-night-only special event of *A Chorus Line Official 50th Anniversary Celebration* at the Shubert Theatre—the Broadway home of *A Chorus Line* for 15 years when it opened in 1975. Original cast member **Baayork Lee** directed the evening, which featured appearances by herself and fellow original Broadway cast members **Scott Allen, Kelly Bishop, Wayne Cilento, Donna Drake, Brandt Edwards, Patricia Garland, Priscilla Lopez, Donna McKechnie** and **Michael Serrecchia**.

The Fund currently has two programs responding to the unique needs of dancers: Career Transition For Dancers and The Dancers' Resource. You can learn more about these programs by visiting entertainmentcommunity.org/ctfd and entertainmentcommunity.org/dancersresource.



Left to Right: Wayne Cilento, Donna McKechnie, Baayork Lee, Kelly Bishop and Priscilla Lopez.

Photo credit: Jenny Anderson



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