Children's Theatre Company

BEHIND THE CURTAIN BEYOND THE STAGE

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

FALL | 2026

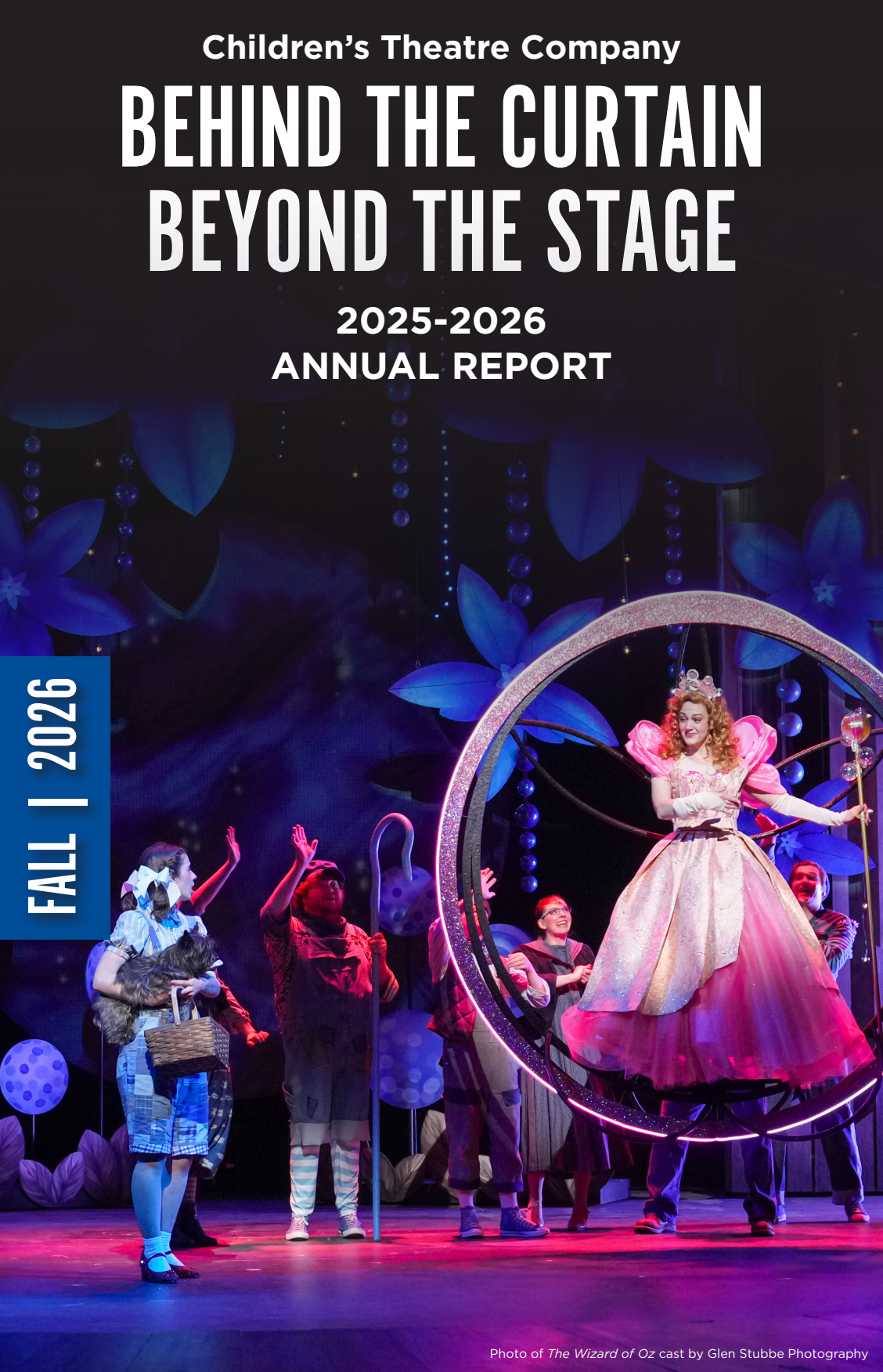


Photo of *The Wizard of Oz* cast by Glen Stubbe Photography

A Message from Leadership

Dear Friends,

Every year at Children's Theatre Company, we strive to create extraordinary theatre experiences that spark imagination and inspire audience members of all ages. And every year, we are filled with gratitude at how you—our closest friends and advocates—make it possible.

Over the last season, we enjoyed beloved classics and traditions, amplified new stories, and connected thousands of children and families to the magic and joy of live theatre and educational programs. Whether it was their first time or 50th time at CTC, every member of our community had access to the transformational power of the arts because of you. We are grateful for all the ways your investment in CTC has created life-changing experiences for the young people we serve, and we are pleased to share with you our 2025-2026 Annual Report.

We hope every moment highlighted in this special edition of *Behind the Curtain, Beyond the Stage* reminds you of the difference you make every day at CTC. We're proud of what we accomplished over the past year, and we can't wait to see what we achieve together in the season ahead. Thank you for helping us to create a better world with, for, and through young people—one story at a time.

With deep gratitude,

Rick Dildine
Artistic Director

Ryan French
Managing Director



Photo of Rick Dildine and Ryan French by Meghan Doll Photography

A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends of CTC,

It is my honor to serve as Chair of the Children's Theatre Company Board of Directors. This beloved theatre is a national leader in producing exceptional artistic and educational experiences for young audiences, and it is all thanks to your continued commitment to CTC and the next generation of artists and leaders.

There was so much to celebrate in the 2025-2026 Season. The past year featured Artistic Director Rick Dildine's CTC directorial debut with *Treasure Island*. We brought back beloved classics like *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *The Wizard of Oz*. We introduced Minnesota audiences to new works like *Go, Dog. Go!* • *Ve Perro ¡Ve!* And through it all, thousands of young people got to experience live theatre—many for the first time—through CTC's world-class educational programming, classes and camps, and student matinees.

None of this would be possible without your partnership and dedication to CTC's mission. I hope you are as proud as I am of the highlights you will see in this special edition of *Behind the Curtain, Beyond the Stage*. Thank you for supporting CTC, and for joining us in creating extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire.

Warmly,

Stefanie Adams
Chair of the CTC
Board of Directors



Photo of Stefanie Adams by Natalie Jennings

A Bright Future for CTC

Who We Are

During the 2025-2026 Season, Children's Theatre Company engaged in a strategic planning process to chart the next chapter of the theatre's mission and programming. In partnership with our board, staff, artists, community, and those who know us best, CTC identified five core pillars of who we are: the central tenets that guide our work, our vision, and our service to young people and their communities. Our commitment to these principles will shape and guide our next chapter, and we look forward to continuing to lead the field in creating work for multigenerational audiences across our region and beyond.



Mission

Children's Theatre Company creates extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities.

Vision

Creating a better world with, for, and through young people.

Values

Curiosity
Growth
Kindness

"**The support I've received here has given me belief in myself:** courage, passion, and a much bigger sense of what might be possible for my life. I've met people who have changed how I see myself and see the world. But maybe most importantly, **because of CTC, I am more of the me that I already am**."

– Mason Yang, Former CTC Young Actor and Theatre Arts Training Graduate

A Welcoming Space

Children's Theatre Company is a home for all people and all families, reflective of our community.



Educating the Future

Across Theatre Arts Training classes and camps, workshops, school residencies, programming in libraries and community centers, and our Student Matinee program, CTC serves as the most significant provider of theatre education in the region.

An Industry Leader

As the flagship theatre for multigenerational audiences in North American, CTC maintains a steadfast commitment to artistic excellence. We remain the only multigenerational theatre to have ever been awarded the Special Tony Award® for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

Producing from the Ground Up

Over our 60-year history, CTC has commissioned over 200 new works, continually expanding the canon of stories for multigenerational audiences and investing in the next generation of artists and playwrights.

Engaging the Community

CTC collaborates with organizations throughout the Twin Cities metro and beyond, sharing the power of theatre beyond its walls. We are responsive to our community, centering our work in a desire to be indispensable to all Minnesotans.











Photos by LaurenB Photography, Kaitlin Randolph, Glen Stubbe Photography, CTC teaching artists, and Pixel Dust Photography

YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION







52,423

children, teachers, and chaperones attended Student Matinee performances, all at little to no cost to schools and families.

304 artists were involved in new play development at CTC and making the magic of our 2025-2026 Season possible.

666

individuals engaged with CTC through off-site workshops and library events.

"I think it is so important for students to participate in theatre programs like CTC because it really makes you a well-rounded human being. Whether you go on to pursue a career in the arts or not, the experience teaches you so many essential life skills that I feel like most kids don't get to learn as young."
-Theatre Arts Training graduate





$905,757

was raised at the Curtain Call Ball in support of CTC's Opening ACT program, ensuring every 2nd grader in Minneapolis Public Schools can attend a student matinee for free.



75

75 of Minnesota's 87 counties were represented by audience members over the course of the season.

3,382

audience members of all ages enjoyed a Sensory Friendly performance of a show, ensuring every member of our community can comfortably access the arts.



183,799 children and adults attended public performances, student matinees, or participated in educational programming through CTC.

16,028

children experienced their first show at CTC.

3,664

households generously supported CTC's mission on- and off-stage through donations of all sizes.



10,220

children and families participated in our ACT Pass program, which provides low-cost tickets to families with limited incomes.







1,757

students enrolled in classes and camps, with 194 receiving scholarships through our ACT Pass program.

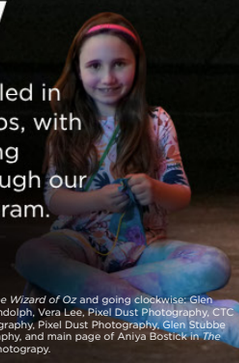


Photo credits beginning with *The Wizard of Oz* and going clockwise: Glen Stubbe Photography, Kaitlin Randolph, Vera Lee, Pixel Dust Photography, CTC Education Staff, LaurenB Photography, Pixel Dust Photography, Glen Stubbe Photography, LaurenB Photography, and main page of Aniya Bostick in *The Wizard of Oz* by Glen Stubbe Photography.

Financials

The CTC Board of Directors approved a revenue neutral budget for the 2025-2026 Season. The fall production of *Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile The Musical* exceeded our sales expectations, and ticket revenue for the holiday tradition, *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* broke theatre records. However, like many neighbors and nonprofits, CTC was severely impacted by the federal presence during Operation Metro Surge in early 2026. Between cancelled performances, postponed field trips, and the simple proximity of our theatre home to the sites of protests and memorials, the theatre faced a significant attendance drop and related revenue shortfalls in the early part of the calendar year, offsetting gains made in the first few months of the season. The philanthropic support of our community and partners held steady, and thanks to the careful fiscal stewardship of our staff and board, the theatre ended our 2025-2026 Season with a small surplus.

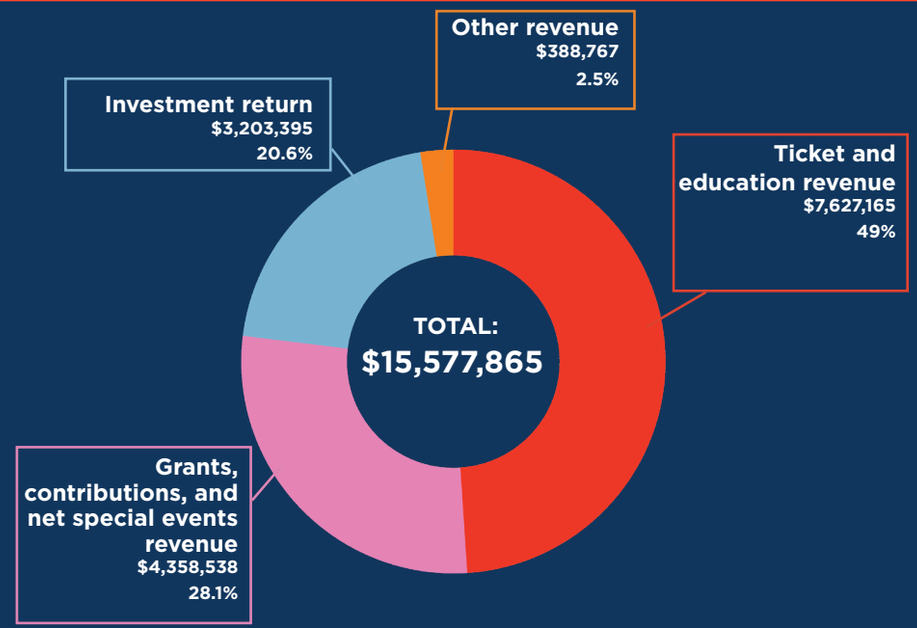
Statement of Financial Position	**2026**	**2025**
Assets		
Cash and equivalents	508,557	897,126
Promises to give, net	964,341	1,274,713
Property, equipment, and leases, net	12,277,529	13,082,144
Investments	20,356,199	18,956,008
Other assets	246,805	321,949
Total Assets	**34,353,431**	**34,531,940**
Liabilities		
Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and lease liabilities	1,979,077	2,282,342
Deferred revenue	1,343,464	1,280,153
Term loan payable	148,010	178,232
Total Liabilities	**3,470,551**	**3,740,727**
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	8,600,074	9,912,235
With donor restrictions	7,760,003	6,396,175
With donor restrictions, perpetual in nature	14,522,803	14,482,803
Total Net Assets	30,882,880	**30,791,213**
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**34,353,431**	**34,531,940**

Statement of Activity

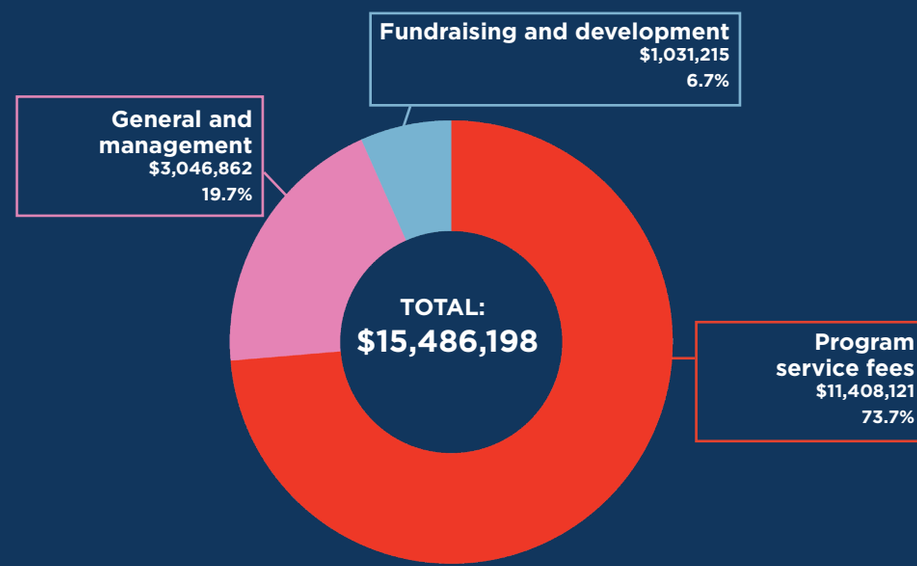
	2026	**2025**
Revenue, Support, and Gains		
Ticket and education revenue	7,627,165	8,143,739
Grants, contributions, and net special events revenue	4,358,538	4,492,648
Investment return	3,203,395	2,082,695
Other revenue	388,767	618,778
Total	**15,577,865**	**15,337,860**
Expenses		
Program service fees	11,408,121	11,687,989
General and management	3,046,862	3,391,020
Fundraising and development	1,031,215	1,060,462
Total	**15,486,198**	**16,139,471**
Total Change in Net Assets	**91,667**	**(801,611)**

Statement of Activity

2025-2026 Revenue, Support, and Gains



2025-2026 Expenses



Our Generous Community

Individual and Family Foundation Gifts

As a nonprofit organization, CTC relies on your generosity to create extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities. We gratefully recognize the following donors and our entire donor community, who make everything we do possible.

The following gifts were made to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

Leadership Circle
$50,000+

Halloran Family Foundation
Bill and Jane Johnson, Noreen Charitable Trust ♦
Gail Munsell

Producer
$25,000 - $49,999

Edward R. Bazinet Charitable Foundation ○
Ruth and John Bergerson
Michael J. Blum and Abigail Rose ♦
Morgan Burns ♦
C. Curtis Dunnavan Fund
Ron Frey and Steve Thompson ♦
Conor Green and Quannah Parker-McGowan ○
Chad M. and Rafina Y. Larsen/Larsen Fund ○
Louise Leatherdale
Kit Schmoker ○
Bonnie Scott

Director
$10,000 - $24,999

Stefanie Adams ♦
Jill E. Applebaum ♦
Gulzar Babaeva and Bobak Ha'Eri ♦
Corie and Martin Barry
The Bendel-Stenzel Family ♦
Kwadwo Boadi-Aboagye ○
Karen Bohn and Gary Surdel ○
Karen L. Braun
Joe Carroll and Caroline Ullom ♦
Michael and Ann Ciresi ○
Charles H. Clay Family CLAT Trust
Gregg and Beth Cummings
Scott and Tracy Cummings ♦
Sue and David Cummings
Mary Anne Ebert and Paul Stembler
Jean Freeman and Chris Raih ♦
Ryan and Jenny French
Robert and Sharla A. Frenzel ♦
Betsy Frost and Charlie Anderson ♦
John Geelan and Megan Feeney ♦
Lili Hall ○
The Hanifl Foundation
Andy and Melissa Ho ○
Hoyt and Zhen Zhen Hsiao ○
Dominic and Cassie Iannazzo ○
Katherine Johnson ♦
Melissa and Robert Leick ○
Anne Lockner Bernat and Brian Bernat ♦
Ralf and Mary Loeffelholz ♦
Trisha L. and Steven London ♦
Gaby and Joe Long ♦
Wendy Mahling ♦
Martinsen Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Kunal and Emmanuelle Mehta ♦
Jennifer Melin Miller and David Miller
Kelly and Jon Miller ○
Sonny and Amy Miller ♦
Nnamdi and Karla Njoku ♦
Todd Noteboom and Nancy Brasel ○
Marri M. Oskam
Silvia Perez and Marcelo Valdes ○
Donald and Katie Porter ♦
Maria and David Reamer ♦
Gordon H. Ritz, Jr./Larsen Fund
Jack and Marilyn Rossmann
Anne Sempowski Ward
John L. Sullivan Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation ○
Margaret Wurtele
The Yoshikawa Family ♦

Patron
$5,000 - $9,999

Anonymous
Brynn and Daniel Anderson
Jim and Julie Chosy ○
Joseph and Lois Duffy
Meredith and Jacob Englund ○
Lisa and William Finley
Fleetwood Foundation ○
Kathleen Flynn Peterson and Steve Peterson ○
Richard and Carrie Higgins ○
The Hodder Family Foundation
Paul Johnson and Jennifer Goodman Johnson
Lindsay J. Kruh
Melissa and Matt Ostrom ♦
Kristine and Matt Rauenhorst
Jeff and Susie Rissman
Hillery Shay ♦
Wendy C. Skjerven ○
WMN Foundation
Thomas and Julianne Youngren

Artist
$2,000 - $4,999

Anonymous (3)
Suzanne Ammerman
Barbara C. and Van O. Anderson ○
Gregory C. and Penny J. Anderson
Kay and Rick Bendel ○
Kari Blotske
Gary and Janet Christenson
Heather Cox
Jeff and Ann Davidman ○
Cy and Paula DeCosse Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Tami Diehm ♦
Peter and Lisa Diessner ○
The Dixit Family ♦
Henry and Hazel Dow
Meghan and James Dunbar
Nathan Dungan and Susan Hawks
Mark Fiecas and Renae Barilar Fiecas
Jim Hale ○
Gretta Hanson and Jeff Martell
Rachelle Haroldson and Matt Fransen
Dr. Brian Harrison
The Head Family Foundation ○
Sandy and John Hey ○
Josh and Alissa Hilman
John and Andrea Hutchinson
Jill and Mark Jensen
Scott and Julie Kammer
Rick Kassing
Gloria and Ivars Kauls
Joe and Anne Keeley ○
Charlie and Emily Kelley
Justin Kirk
Kimberly Krohn and John Fishpaw
Liz Lapetina and James Huang
Kathy and Allen Lenzmeier
Diane Lindquist and Jeff Huggett
Caroline and James Loken ○
Mary Meyer and Gordon Haugan
Bill and Katie Miller
Bruce and Tracy Mooty
Drew Moratzka and Anne Stephenson Moratzka
Luke and Laura Motschenbacher
Jeb and Charlene Myers ○
Jonathan Nygren and Anna Horning Nygren
Michael and Heather Olivier
JoAnne Pastel ○
Ronald and Kathryn Peterson
Kay Phillips and Jill Mortensen Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Andrew and Lisa Robertson
John Rodriguez
James and Joanne Smith
Rebecca and Mark Sorensen

KEY

♦ Member of CTC Board of Directors
○ Former member of CTC Board of Directors

Corporate, Foundation, and Government Supporters

Our institutional giving partners provide annual support for Children's Theatre Company's productions and programs, including new play development, community engagement, and arts education. Corporate, foundation, and government supporters enjoy a special relationship with CTC, and we are proud to recognize them. The following annual, capital, and multi-year gifts were made for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

$100,000 and Above

Joyful Noise Charitable Foundation
Mellon Foundation

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

The Shubert Foundation Inc.
Travelers
UnitedHealth Foundation

$50,000 to $99,999

Ameriprise Financial
Best Buy
Cargill
Carlson Family Foundation
Ciresi Walburn Foundation
Delta
PNC Bank
Treat & Company

$25,000 to $49,999

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
chrōm Expo Services
Dorsey always ahead
faegre drinker
knock
National Endowment for the Arts
Seidl Foundation
The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust
usbank
Winthrop & Weinstine
Xcel Energy

$10,000 to $24,999

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
BeEvents
Boss Foundation
Deloitte LLP
Engelsma Family Foundation
Ernst & Young LLP
Hansen Family Foundation
Jones Day
Kraus-Anderson Companies, Inc
James B. Linsmayer Foundation
M.A. Mortenson Company
Peregrine Capital Management, Inc. Fund of The Mpls. Foundation
Piper Sandler Companies
Robins Kaplan LLP
Simon Construction
Stinson LLP
Thrivent Financial
Zambezi

$5,000 to $9,999

Bucheron
Dellwood Foundation Joyce Award
The Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation
Margaret Rivers Fund
Sheltering Arms Foundation
Sit Investment Associates Foundation
Tennant Company Foundation

$2,500 to $4,999

Ballard Spahr LLP
The Dampfwerk Distilling Co.
Joseph C. and Lillian A. Duke Foundation
Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.
Joel Gott Wines
Mutual Of America
RBC Wealth Management

You Make the Magic Possible

As the nation's leading theatre for multigenerational audiences, we believe we can create a better world with, for, and through the young people we are honored to serve. And we can do it, thanks to you.

Because of generous friends like you, we can provide low-cost tickets for families with limited incomes, offer hundreds of scholarship opportunities for the next generation of artists in our classrooms, and welcome thousands of young people to student matinees throughout the season, all at little to no cost to schools. Your dedication to our mission is removing barriers and ensuring every child has access to the magic of live theatre.

Through bold and inclusive storytelling and educational programming, we can ensure CTC remains a beacon of hope, where young people can build confidence and creative agency that will serve them long into their bright futures. From all of us at CTC, thank you for investing in the power of the arts.

childrenstheatre.org/give



Photo of Truman Bednar in *Treasure Island* by Glen Stubbe Photography