

# MARQUEE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ACTORS FUND

SPRING 2009 ISSUE: VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1



## Helping More Every Year

*A Special Look at 2008 and How We're Facing the Challenges of the Recession*



**W**hen The Actors Fund looks at how we're helping our community – the professionals who make sacrifices each and every day to work in performing arts and entertainment – there are many ways that signify growth. There's growth in the number of people we assist and support. Growth in the number of programs we create and develop. Growth in our effectiveness. In all of these measures, 2008 was an amazing year of growth for The Actors Fund.

**We reached a milestone.** In 2008, The Actors Fund helped 10,987 people. That is 16% more than 2007 and 23% more than 2006. And this growth came in many ways – all around the spectrum of services and programs provided by The Actors Fund.

With the writers strike impacting people in every part of the community – and the resulting increase of awareness that we're there to help the film and TV communities on the West Coast – our **Emergency Assistance Program** gave **\$3.8 million** in grants (not loans) to help people keep their homes, pay their critical bills and support their families. That's \$1.6 million more than the \$2.2 million we gave in 2007.

We developed new programs in the area of **Financial Wellness** – which are providing critical education and guidance for our colleagues around the country during this time when the economy is in freefall, and so many are out of work or have even less than before.

The **Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative** grew, helping 427 women diagnosed with health problems ranging from breast cancer to multiple sclerosis and depression to stroke. PNWHI provided \$241,000 in assistance to these women as well, an increase of 31% over 2007.

The **Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic** conducted 10% more clinic visits than in 2007 with 2,269 visits in support of 1,298 patients. And that doesn't even include the hundreds who participated in health fairs and received free flu shots or mammograms.

More than 2,200 people were directly assisted by the **Health Insurance Resource Center**, up 8%, and The Fund held insurance workshops in eight states and completed 10 guides to finding health care in various cities across the country. And now there's



also an expanded, more user-friendly website for "HIRC", which in its previous incarnation reached almost a million people looking for health care and insurance resources in every state.

With a 9% increase overall **The Actors Fund Work Program (AWP)** helped 2,489 professionals maintain their careers in performing arts and entertainment by giving them opportunities for parallel and sideline work.

And in its first full year **The Dancers' Resource** established new groups and programs and 785 dancers or choreographers used our services.

The program formed collaborative relationships with ten dance service organizations, distributed materials at theatres and dance spaces and met with over 25 dance companies.

And this is only a snapshot of our growth in programs and growth in people served. As for growth in effectiveness, The Fund spent 87 cents of every dollar raised or earned on our programs – this high degree of program care, stewardship and efficiency is one of the reasons The Fund was rated by Charity Navigator – the leading rating service for non-profit organizations – as Four Stars, the highest rating they bestow.

2009 is already proving to be both an opportunity and a challenge for The Actors Fund. With the need increasing – and more and more people understanding the scope of our programs around the country – we remain dedicated to serving our colleagues during all of their difficult times. To stay involved – and aware – of The Fund's expanding and evolving programs and services, please visit the website at [www.actorsfund.org](http://www.actorsfund.org) and join our e-mail list. There's always news – and growth – to share.

### News

**Looking Ahead**  
5 year Anniversary



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Update



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# VIEWS from Brian Stokes Mitchell, *Board President*

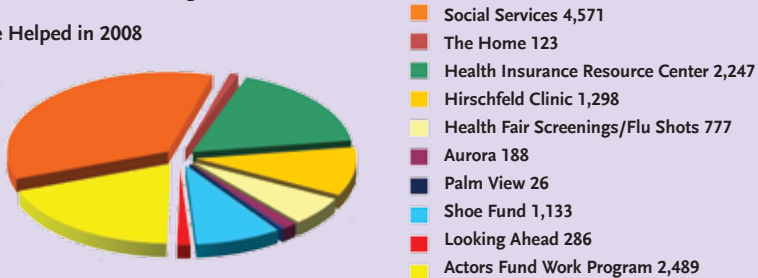


## Dear Friend of The Actors Fund,

I don't need to tell you that we're living through tough times. This recession is demanding that we pull together in new ways so that The Actors Fund can continue to help – and help more of – our friends and colleagues during difficult times. While we anticipated a drop in donations and an increase in demand for services two years ago, we honestly didn't think it would be so challenging so quickly, and earlier this year we reduced our planned operating expenses for 2009 by more than \$2 million. At the same time, we increased program spending to help more people than ever.

Facing weakening donations in 2008, we began a number of major fundraising initiatives aimed at enlisting new leaders and securing more resources. We also continued to move ahead to create more affordable housing opportunities for seniors, working professionals and people with special needs. These steps should help us maintain critical and essential program services so that we can help where – and when – help is needed.

People Helped in 2008



Last year The Fund helped 10,987 people in 46 states. We are among the most highly rated human services organizations, receiving the top rating of Four Stars from Charity Navigator, the premiere rating service. In 2007, 83 cents of every dollar was spent helping people, and that ratio has increased to 87 cents. This chart shows

how people were helped last year.

We recently completed a major expansion of our nursing home and assisted living care facility and have begun renting-up our newest affordable housing residence – in Brooklyn – and I encourage you to visit [www.actorsfund.org](http://www.actorsfund.org) to take a look at this new construction. These facilities, together with those we developed a decade ago in West Hollywood and in Manhattan, complement the three other core service areas of The Fund: comprehensive social services and emergency financial assistance, health care and health insurance counseling and employment and training.

We are tremendously proud of how we help and confident in the future, but we'll truly need everyone's support if we're going to get through these times and continue to address the needs of the many who count on The Actors Fund, and have nowhere else to turn.

As always, thank you for supporting our good works.

## Looking Ahead, The Actors Fund's now five year old program in Los Angeles

serving professional young performers ages 9 to 18, has two exciting new projects launching this spring: a new meeting space for the kids in the program and a revamped website that will automate program enrollment and archive thousands of photographs for program participants.



### 5 Year Anniversary

The **new space** was designed through a pro-bono partnership between Joe Stewart of Shaffner-Stewart Production Design and a committee of kids from Looking Ahead. It's being furnished through the

generous support of the Jack Oakie and Victoria Oakie Charitable

Foundation and will be named "The Jack Oakie Looking Ahead Center", complete with a ceremony commemorating the gift. The terrific new space provides a special place just for Looking Ahead and includes a lounge area, AV equipment and two computers for study time for our many home-schooled participants.



The **website** – which will be live in early June at [www.lookingaheadprogram.org](http://www.lookingaheadprogram.org) – in addition to launching a new program logo and a more modern look, allows potential new members to apply for program services on-line and enables current members to RSVP for events and activities the same way. The site will include press coverage, a section on the Advisory Committee – which is chaired by Fred Savage – an extensive set of links and resources for families of young performers, and a full collection of photos of current and past events and activities.

**Looking Ahead** was created in 2003 to help professional young performers make a successful transition to adulthood. It is supported by a number of donors, including leadership support by SAG-IACF and AFTRA-ICF, and includes a variety of activities that reflect the needs of kids in the business, including social events, educational planning, emotional counseling, opportunities for community service and a comprehensive leadership development program.



## Did you know

The Actors Fund has gone green?

Help us reduce paper costs by sending your email address to [tickets@actorsfund.org](mailto:tickets@actorsfund.org) or simply call 212.221.7300 ext. 133. It's the quickest way to ensure speedy notification on upcoming Special Events and Performances... and you'll receive our e-newsletter!

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The Actors Fund is a nationwide human services organization that helps all professionals in performing arts and entertainment. The Fund is a safety net, providing programs and services for those who are in need, crisis or transition.

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312.372.0989  
Fax: 312.372.0272

#### Western Region

5757 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
323.933.9244  
Fax: 323.933.7615

#### The Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic

475 West 57th Street  
New York, NY 10019  
212.489.1939

#### The Samuel J. Friedman Residences (formerly The Aurora)

New York, NY  
212.489.2020

#### The Palm View

West Hollywood, CA  
323.933.9244

#### The Lillian Booth Actors Home

Englewood, NJ  
201.871.8882

#### Schermerhorn House

Brooklyn, NY  
718.640.1845

#### Marquee

212.221.7300 ext. 176  
Fax: 212.536.7669  
[iclark@actorsfund.org](mailto:iclark@actorsfund.org)

#### Actors Fund Programs:

##### SOCIAL SERVICES

Entertainment Assistance Program  
Mental Health  
Chemical Dependency  
HIV/AIDS Initiative  
Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative  
Senior and Disabled Care  
The Dancers' Resource  
Looking Ahead  
Financial Wellness  
Conrad Cantzen Shoe Fund  
Funerals and Burials  
Partner Programs

##### HEALTH SERVICES

Health Insurance  
Resource Center  
Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic  
Brent Varner Project

##### EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Actors Fund Work Program (AWP)

##### SUPPORTIVE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Lillian Booth Actors Home  
The Samuel J. Friedman Residences (formerly The Aurora)  
The Palm View  
Schermerhorn House

For more information on Actors Fund programs, please call 800.221.7303 or visit our website at [www.actorsfund.org](http://www.actorsfund.org).

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# Actors Fund Special Performances

**2008** featured an exciting selection of Special Performances and groups of tickets made available for the benefit of The Fund. The shows our donors and patrons enjoyed included:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| XANADU                                  | WICKED               |
| ROCK 'N ROLL                            | GYPSY                |
| MACBETH                                 | THE SEAGULL          |
| JERSEY BOYS                             | LIZA'S AT THE PALACE |
| SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE          | ALL MY SONS          |
| THE LION KING (NYC and Washington D.C.) | IN THE HEIGHTS       |
| BOEING BOEING                           | SOUTH PACIFIC        |

The company of THE SEAGULL at their Special Performance for The Fund.



Julia Murney, John Lithgow and Karen Ziemba at The Seagull



The company of THE LION KING at The Fund's Special Performances in New York City and Washington D.C.



## Mark your calendars

Don't miss these exciting events:

- May 2**  
Revlon Run/Walk, New York
- May 3**  
Impressionism, Special Benefit Tickets, New York
- May 4**  
The Broadway Series at Feinstein's - Andra Burns, New York
- May 9**  
Revlon Run/Walk, Los Angeles
- May 11**  
The Broadway Series at Feinstein's - Cast of [title of show], New York
- May 18**  
The Broadway Series at Feinstein's - Julia Murney, New York
- May 15, 16**  
33 Variations, Special Benefit Tickets, New York
- June 1**  
The Broadway Series at Feinstein's - Norm Lewis, New York
- June 7**  
Annual Tony Awards Party, Los Angeles
- June 15**  
All New Nothing like a Dame, hosted by Seth Rudetsky, New York
- October 19**  
A Celebration of the Music of Frank Loesser, New York

The company of SOUTH PACIFIC at The Fund's Special Performance



The company of BOEING BOEING at The Fund's Special Performance



The company of IN THE HEIGHTS following their Actors Fund Special Performance



Heather Randall and Brian Stokes Mitchell at In The Heights



The company of WICKED in NYC before their July Special Performance



The company of JERSEY BOYS at The Fund's Special Performance



The Actors Fund, for everyone in entertainment.

# ONE highlight after the next! That's simply the best way to characterize Actors Fund Events and Special Performances across the country in recent months. Here's a snapshot:

An SRO crowd enjoyed an unforgettable reading of the classic screenplay **All About Eve** featuring Annette Bening, Keri Russell, Peter Gallagher, Cynthia Nixon, John Slattery and Angela Lansbury, directed by trustee John Erman.

The LA Tony Party, hosted by Florence Henderson, featured a presentation by Broadway legend Carol Channing of The Julie Harris Lifetime Achievement Award to Tommy Tune. Also in the Western Region, The Fund joined forces with AIDS Project Los Angeles to present **Sunset Strips** – a live strip show event with some of LA's most exciting dancers. The Pantages lobby concerts continued as the home of our **Musical Mondays** series and celebrated two gifted songwriters – Ron Abel and **Wicked's** Stephen Schwartz – each performing their work with a little help from many amazing friends, including Lucie Arnaz, Jason Graae and Debbie Gravitte.

Broadway and “**Knot's Landing**” star Michele Lee packed the house in NY at Birdland with a benefit performance of her show **Lights, Broadway, Action!** The off-Broadway hit **Celebrity Autobiography** started its road to success with a benefit for The Fund and **Auction of 1000 Stars** provided winning bidders with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities with many of their favorite stars.

And on the film front we want to give a shout-out to Miramax as our members enjoyed the premiere of the Oscar-nominated film **Doubt**, and kudos also to East of Doheny, who shared a screening of their documentary “**From East Hampton to Broadway**”, about the creation of the Broadway hit **Grey Gardens**.



Auction winner Stephanie Moskal (center) at her Chicago walk-on



Donor Thomas Wardach at his Shakespeare lesson with Lynn Redgrave

**Auction of 1000 Stars**



Donor Lis Barron at her vocal coaching session with Marni Nixon

**Acknowledgements**

**Continental Airlines**  Continental Airlines is the official airline of The Actors Fund.

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**The Actors Fund, for everyone in entertainment**

## all about eve



Peter Gallagher, Angela Lansbury, Keri Russell, Zoe Caldwell, Annette Bening and John Slattery at the after-party for All About Eve



Brian Bedford and Annette Bening celebrated at Bond 45

## Looking Ahead Anniversary



The Youth Leadership Council presented awards to Advisory Committee members in thanks for their work in creating and sustaining the program at Looking Ahead's 5-year anniversary dinner

## 12th Annual Los Angeles Tony Awards® Party



John Holly (current chair of The Fund's Western Council), Jomarie Ward (Actors Fund Trustee), Carol Channing and Tommy Tune at The Actors Fund Tony Awards Party

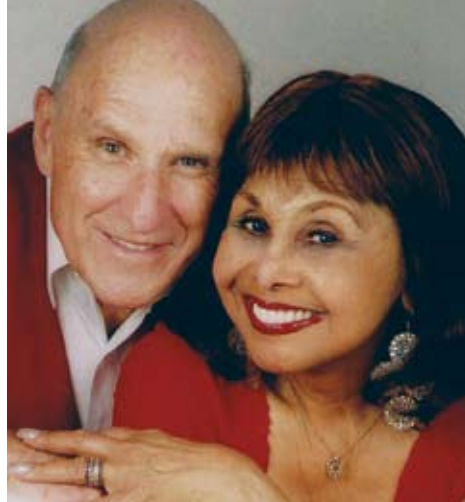


Shari Belafonte at The Actors Fund Annual Tony Awards® Party

## Donor Profile

# The Perfect Gift

Mary Louise and Bill Britten



**The Actors Fund has many donors who support us year after year, but few are as devoted as Mary Louise and Bill Britten. For 40 years they've been making annual memorial donations and attending Special Performances. Recently they started an Actors Fund Charitable Gift Annuity, and therefore became members of our Edwin Forrest Society as donors who have included The Actors Fund in their estate plans.**

According to Mary Louise, "The Actors Fund has been my number one charity since my very first show. The Fund has helped so many people I know and countless thousands that I don't." Her husband Bill adds, "When I got my first Equity Card and learned about The Fund, it immediately became my number one charity."

Bill got his start writing and directing *Soldier Shows* during his stint in the US Army Air Corps. After attending the University of Washington for graduate study in theatre, he read that Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus was holding a national competition for the "Funniest New Clown of the Year." He entered the contest, won and performed with the circus for years.

Mary Louise started her show business career early, making her singing debut when she was two. After she graduated from high school, she moved to New York to pursue a singing career. This move quickly paid off when she won a Rodgers & Hammerstein Musical Theatre Scholarship Award for promising young talent.

They met in 1960 while they were both working in Atlantic City.

Mary Louise has been in numerous Broadway shows, including playing Irene Molloy in the production of *Hello Dolly!* that starred Pearl Bailey. Mary Louise also performed with the late, great Eubie Blake at the Newport Jazz Festival and currently has her own cabaret act. Following Bill's years with the circus he worked in children's television. He was the first Bozo the Clown on WPIX, a role he enjoyed for five and a half years, and appeared on

*Wonderama*. Bill also has several Broadway credits, including the role of the "Barber" in the Tony-Award winning *Man of La Mancha*. Refusing to rest on his laurels, Bill ultimately returned to school and received his Masters in Speech Education from Hunter College. He's put his education to work by joining the faculty of the High School of Performing Arts, teaching young people who will follow in his, and Mary Louise's, footsteps.

Both Bill and Mary Louise have experienced the typical ups and downs of multi-faceted careers in entertainment, so they have a special appreciation for what The Actors Fund does to help. As Mary Louise put it, "we feel blessed that both of us were able to have successful careers doing what we love most – entertaining." Bill adds, "We were lucky to have each other. So we support The Actors Fund to do our part to help people who don't have a second income or who fall on the hard times that often come with the territory of being in entertainment."

To join Bill and Mary Louise – as a member, by making a special gift, or with a bequest, please visit [www.actorsfund.org](http://www.actorsfund.org) or call 212.221.7300 ext. 127.

**"The Actors Fund has been my number one charity since my very first show. The Fund has helped so many people I know and countless thousands that I don't."**

## Donor Profile

**A**s we move through these tough times The Fund's partnerships become even more important in providing support and helping us reach out to those who need our help. We are especially grateful for the terrific relationships we enjoy with IATSE International and New York's Local One, IATSE and are thrilled to welcome IATSE International's Matthew Loeb and Local One's James J. Claffey, Jr. to our Board of Trustees.

New IATSE International President Matt Loeb moved quickly upon taking office to build a strong relationship with The Fund and took the unprecedented step of inviting Actors Fund Executive Director Joe Benincasa to speak to IA leaders and hundreds of members of IA unions across the country at the January General Executive Board Meeting in Albuquerque. The opportunity to talk about The Fund, with details about all of our programs and service to the community, can not be underestimated, and so many people who have not yet worked closely with us had the chance to learn about who we are – and what we can provide to their members in times of need.

The long session ended with a call from President Loeb to his Locals – and their membership – to remember The Fund

by becoming members, and efforts to bring more and regular information from The Fund to all IA Locals is underway. And IA International has pledged \$100,000 to The Fund's Special Campaign (*see article on p 6*) as well – a terrific show of support.

The Fund's strong relationship with Local One has been marked by many positive moments. In 2007 Local One awarded an Honorary "Gold Card" Membership to The Actors Fund on our 125th Anniversary. We became the first and only organization to attain this honor – the highest that Local One can bestow – and it took a special resolution to their Constitution and By Laws to do so!

More recently, Local One has committed to a major gift of \$250,000 to The Fund's Special Campaign. Jimmy Claffey and his colleagues today represent a strong partnership – from ongoing financial support and special donations to comprehensive service to Local One members – and we are pleased to call everyone at the Local "friend."

All of us at The Actors Fund applaud Jimmy Claffey, Matt Loeb and all of our IATSE colleagues for their tremendous commitment ... and their actions to help The Fund today and into the future.



New Trustee James J. Claffey Jr. is welcomed by The Actors Fund's Barbara Davis, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Joe Benincasa

## A Growing Partnership with IATSE



Matthew Loeb recently joined The Actors Fund Board of Trustees

# Join

The Actors Fund's  
Premiere Giving Society

And enjoy the highest quality ticket service, access to the best seats in the house and more...

In the  
**Spotlight**  
The Actors Fund Premiere Giving Society

For more information call 800.221.7303 ext. 108  
or email [mquinn@actorsfund.org](mailto:mquinn@actorsfund.org)

# Special Campaign

*to help those in need in performing arts and entertainment.*

**The Fund** is thrilled to formally announce *The Actors Fund Special Campaign 2009*. The Campaign will help us gain the resources needed to expand our programs – and our ability to assist so many more of those in our community in need – and has a goal of \$12,500,000.

The Campaign has been created to:

- » Strengthen our ability to respond quickly to evolving social and emergency financial needs
- » Increase access to health care and insurance services
- » Offer more affordable, supportive and senior housing opportunities
- » Expand employment and training opportunities

Led by Annette Bening, Kevin McCollum and Jonathan Tisch, the Campaign has already raised \$6,422,500 and is expected to be complete within the year. Annette is the Academy Award-nominated and Golden Globe- and SAG Award-winning actor. Kevin is a leading Broadway producer (*Rent*, *Avenue Q*, *In The Heights*) and trustee of The Actors Fund. Jon is CEO of Loews Hotels and Co-Chairman of Loews Corporation. With the support of our Board of Trustees and a dedicated Campaign Cabinet, our next steps are to broaden the scope of the Campaign and reach new donors. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress.



**CAMPAIGN CABINET**  
Annette Bening, *Co-Chair*



Kevin McCollum, *Co-Chair*



Jonathan Tisch, *Co-Chair*

Jed Bernstein  
Jeffrey Bolton  
John Breglio  
J. Nicholas Counter, III  
Rocco Landesman

Matthew Loeb  
Kevin McCollum  
Kara Medoff Barnett  
James L. Nederlander

Daryl Roth  
Scott Rudin  
Abby Schroeder  
Charlotte St. Martin

## Great News at OUR RESIDENCES

The Fund is celebrating two major accomplishments that address the crucial housing and care needs of our community. You'll find a full update – with lots of pictures – in the next issue of *Marquee* but, in the meantime, here's just a bit of our news.



At the **Lillian Booth Actors Home** in Englewood, New Jersey we're celebrating the completion of our renovation on **April 24th**. This important, \$11 million project – covering both the assisted living facility and the full time nursing care wing – included the addition of 15 beds, the creation of a state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Center and a major renovation that's providing quality of life enhancements in almost every area of daily life at the Home –

from beautiful new common areas and easier access to public spaces to better dining opportunities and terrific outdoor spaces. **We can't wait to fully share it with you!**

And in Brooklyn, the first tenants have moved into **Schermerhorn House**, a **green facility** with 217 units of affordable housing downtown. In partnership with Common Ground Community this amazing facility – profiled in March in *New York Magazine* – includes a rooftop garden, on-site social services and a computer lab. And, most dear to the hearts of everyone at The Fund, opening later this year will be a terrific performance and multipurpose space that can be used for rehearsals, performances, films and exhibitions and will help

tie the residents to the surrounding community – and vice versa!

Visit [www.actorsfund.org](http://www.actorsfund.org) for a "tour" of both facilities.

## Shop the Store

Last July The Actors Fund proudly announced the launch of The Actors Fund Store, an online space for the sale of special merchandise as well as a place to donate to The Fund and to purchase tickets to Special Performances and Actors Fund events. The lineup of merchandise has included an Actors Fund baseball cap, the Grammy® nominated Ghostlight Records CD of The Fund's Benefit Performance of *Hair* and other CDs, our new coffee table book

***Curtain Call: 125 Amazing Years of The Actors Fund***, The Actors Fund water bottle and mug and a limited edition holiday ornament by renowned designer Christopher Radko which commemorated the 125th anniversary of The Fund.

We look forward to welcoming new donors – and shoppers – and online browsers to The Fund's website through the Store, and new merchandise and performances are being added regularly. The Store is "open for business", of course, 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

Take a look – and start shopping! Just visit [www.store.actorsfund.org](http://www.store.actorsfund.org) or click on The Actors Fund Store where it appears all over our website.

