



THE ARTS PART OF THE SOLUTION

CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK

Providing Access to Artistic Excellence

Playhouse in the Park contributes \$20 million to the economy of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and serves more than 207,000 people every year. At the heart of an astonishing arts community, the two-time Tony® Award-winning theater has focused national attention on Cincinnati as the home of extraordinary theater. Its economic impact and national reputation are welcome outcomes of the Playhouse programs, but just as important is the impact the Playhouse has on the people of the area.



Each season through the STAR (Subsidized Tickets for Area Residents) program, the Playhouse provides free tickets to organizations that serve those who cannot afford to attend. This season, the Playhouse partnered with the City Gospel Mission/CityCURE, which annually provides more than 120,000 meals and 24,000 nights of lodging to people in need and offers men’s and women’s recovery programs. According to Dave Pinson, Ministry Advancement Director, “The people we serve are exposed

to the best of Cincinnati’s rich culture with the help of the Playhouse STAR program.”

The first outing involved five women from the City Gospel Mission’s Having the Courage to Change women’s recovery program. This program provides structured transitional living to women who seek to recover from life-controlling behaviors such as substance abuse, prostitution, homelessness, job instability and abusive relationships. The women saw the musical adaptation of the classic *Emma*. As one woman wrote: “To be honest, I saw a little of myself in *Emma*. In a spiritual sense, it kind of reminded me that God loves me no matter what my character defects may be. His love for me outweighs the entire negative; what an awesome feeling!”

Children and their mentors from CityCURE saw *A Christmas Carol*. For almost all of the children, this was their first experience in a theater. According to Chris, one of the mentors, “Jerrica, was speaking in an English accent all the way home, saying, ‘God bless us, everyone!’ And the youngest of our group never took her eyes off the stage. Some of those kids rarely get out of their neighborhood and NEVER have an opportunity to go to something like a play at Playhouse in the Park!”



It is easy to appreciate the arts for their intrinsic benefits and for their economic impact. But just as important are the bridges between cultures that they provide—in this case connecting 19th century England and 21st century Cincinnati.

Economic
Development

Bringing
Unity to
Communities

HAMILTON COUNTY
Cincinnati Playhouse in
the Park
Cincinnati, Ohio



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Dave Pinson, Ministry Advancement Director,
City Gospel Mission/CityCURE