



My Nose  
Turns Red

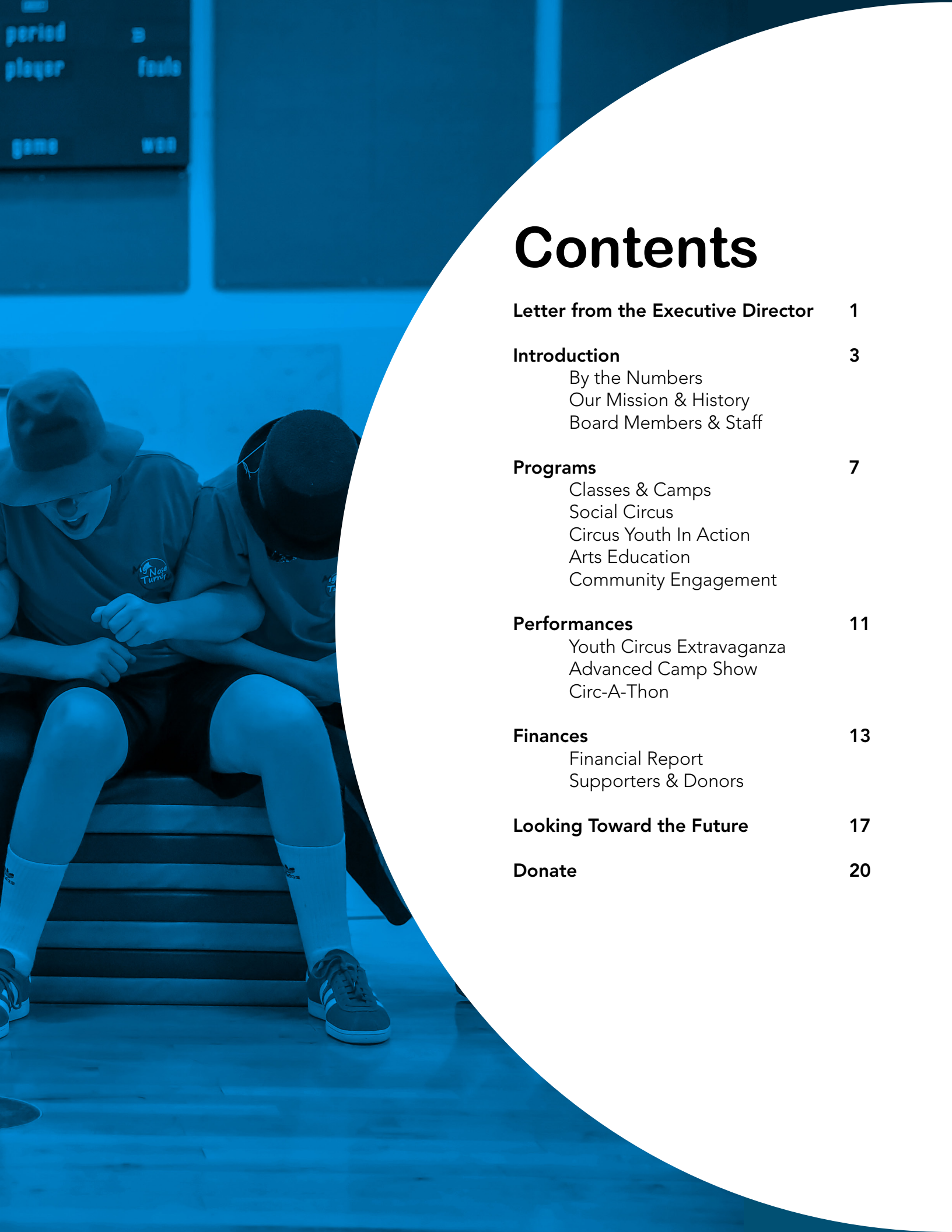
2019  
Annual Report





“They laughed Mr. Steve. They laughed. I didn’t think I could make people happy.”

— A child



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# Letter from the Executive Director



In 2019, My Nose Turns Red turned 35 years old!

Many of the highlights of the year included learning, in April, shortly after I came on board, that we had received a National Endowment for the Arts ArtWorks grant. In 2019, we also received support from the Ohio Arts Council, ArtsWave, and the William Purdy Family Foundation for our social circus work in the schools. The funds allowed us to provide free circus classes in the schools and to support the work of our creative youth development program, Circus Youth in Action.

It also provided us with funds to hire educational consultant Imelda R. Castaneda-Emenaker, EdD, to strengthen our evaluation process. With Dr. Emenaker, we developed an outcome matrix, a pre-post survey tool for the Circus Youth in Action teens, a post-survey tool for the children in the after-

school classes, and an observational tool for both the children and CYA teens. Working with a consultant has deepened our knowledge of the benefits and impact of providing circus to youth.

In April, we were able to bring together 48 circus students from across the region to perform together at the 2019 annual Youth Circus Extravaganza. The theme, From the Ring to the Moon and Beyond, was inspired by a donation of goggles and aviator's hats from the Newport Costume Gallery and the 50th anniversary of the Moonwalk. The spirit of air exploration was our guiding leitmotif!

The Youth Circus Extravaganza brings together a diverse group of youth from across the region who participate in circus classes throughout the year. Twenty-five of our Circus Ensemble students were joined by the after-school classes at Hyde Park Elementary, Fairview-Clifton German Language Elementary, Woodford Paideia Academy, and Roberts Paideia Academy.

One of the many highlights was listening to whispers and oohs and aahs from the Roberts students. They sat behind me at the Sunday performance. They had a long list of circus skills they wanted to learn after seeing the advanced students perform. They were able to learn the gym (German) wheel, master the unicycle, walk the wire and perform for their parents and peers at the Summer Circus Camp in July.

After ten-weeks of Summer Circus Camps, we had the opportunity to go to the 2019 American Youth Circus Festival in San Diego, CA. Six of our students were able to showcase their unicycle and clown act, and were able to take an array of circus coaches from around the world. They met fellow students who also spent all of their time in circus classes and forged new friendships. Natalie Roenker and Jarrod Elliot were on the work-study team, and Steve Roenker and I taught a Classical Clown Scenes workshop.

In September, we welcomed Theresa Digiser, a volunteer from the International Youth Community Services. The organization places German gap-year students throughout the world. Theresa has been studying gym (German) wheel since she was eight years old. Theresa helped increase our students' gym wheel development and introduced the after-school students to gym wheel. We thank the O'Connor-Powell family for hosting her stay.

Another highlight of 2019 was the second BLINK Festival. Over 150,000 saw our illuminated unicycle parade team plus LED jump ropers, hoopers, and jugglers. Over 35 people joined our entry, which included 25 unicyclists, coaches, and parents.



Circ-A-Thon, our annual friend and fundraiser, was a huge success. Held at the Fairview-Clifton German Language School, we showcased the students' skillshare challenge, a wheel and unicycle demonstration, and Steve Roenker's yearly food juggling challenge. The fundraising team ran a silent auction and a raffle.

Board changes included saying goodbye to Susan Watts-Taffe, Dick Lajoie, and Kathy Gentle. Susan has been the board president and helped navigate My Nose Turns Red through its growth and development and cultivated a supportive environment. Dick brought us resources and experience. He helped and encouraged us to think bigger, and Kathy contributed to on-the-ground fundraising. She told us early on she was a doer, and she is correct.

In September, we welcomed John Morris, Starrag USA. John was a consultant with our One Source strategic planning. In November, we welcomed Monisha House, director of leadership with Cincinnati Public Schools, and Jarrod Elliott, Invar Systems. Monisha is the former principal at Fairview-Clifton German Language School, and Jarrod has been an intern with the company for the past few years. He is also head geek for the board!

2019 was a good year for My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus company. Since I am writing this in October 2020, I am amazed at the changes the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our work. The performing arts are hurting, and I'm thankful for all of the help we have received at this time. We are teaching in-person classes at reduced capacity. We are happy to be able to teach the students at Roberts Paideia Academy at Imago Earth Center in Price Hill. We are also offering several online circus classes through Zoom.

As we move forward, we thank you for your continued support

Jean St. John  
Executive Director



# Introduction By the Numbers

**Founded:** 1984



Years of Youth Circus

**22**



Total Registrations

**500**



Increase from 2018

**11%**



Under-Served Students  
who Attend for Free

**30%**



Total Audience

**200,000**

*In 2018 My Nose Turns Red Students Traveled. . .*

**120**

Miles by German Wheel



**11**

Miles on the Tightwire



**4,000**

Miles on the unicycle



**2**

Parades Marched



**8**

Number of Clowns Stuffed into a 2-person car





# Introduction

## Our Mission

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*Through the art of the theatrical clown and the one-ring circus, My Nose Turns Red cultivates a supportive environment that inspires youth to challenge themselves, develop essential life skills, and engage audiences.*

My Nose Turns Red (MNTR) is the only non-profit organization in the Greater Cincinnati area dedicated to youth circus. Every year MNTR provides year-round training and performance opportunities for over 400 youth in the art of the one-ring circus and the theatrical clown. We believe that youth circus is a magical blend of theatre, movement, physical fitness, imagination, and childlike wonder. Our instructors blend the ability to play with the precision of circus arts to create programs where youth learn teamwork and trust in a non-competitive environment. From beginners' classes to advanced performance programs, MNTR provides a safe arena for young people to take risks and challenge themselves.

## History

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My Nose Turns Red was founded in 1984 when co-founders Jean St. John and Steve Roenker began touring as theatrical clowns Juice and Shootang, bringing their art form to thousands of children through school performances, workshops, and residencies. In 1997, MNTR created a circus program designed to give youth the opportunity to experience the joys and challenges of circus training and performing.





# Introduction Board & Staff

## Board of Directors

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|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grace Royalty, President    | Erin Roll                |
| John Morris, Treasurer      | Nicolette Van der Klaauw |
| Minet Williamson, Secretary | Monisha House            |
| Jarrod Elliott              | Jefferson Kisor          |

## Staff

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### **Steve Roenker, Artistic Director/Program Manager** **MNTR Co-Founder**

Co-founder and artistic director of My Nose Turns Red Theatre Company, has 30+ years of experience as a performer and arts educator. While Steve still loves to perform and conduct residencies, his real love is the youth circus program. Steve considers himself lucky to work with all these great children.

### **Jean St John, Executive Director** **MNTR Co-Founder**

Co-founded MNTR 36 years ago with Steve Roenker. They performed their clown act to countless schools, libraries, festivals, children's museums and clown festivals as well as conducting school residencies. In 1997, they began the youth circus program. On April 1, 2019 Jean became the executive director of My Nose Turns Red. She is very proud of all the circus students and is constantly amazed at their courage, strength, discipline and talent.



### **Jesse AlFord, Head Coach**

Jesse is the past board president of the American Youth Circus Organization and the American Circus Educators. He also teaches at Suspend Louisville, Turners Youth Circus, and CirqueLouis. He is immensely grateful for the opportunity to get to teach such an incredible group of My Nose Turns Red students!

### **Natalie Roenker, Coach/Social Circus Project Manager**

Natalie grew up in the My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus program. She is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University in theatre and dance. She has completed Cirque du Monde's social circus training program and participated in Carrie Heller's Adaptive Recreational Circus Arts Training at the Circus Arts Institute. She has also been on the American Youth Circus Organization and American Circus Educators' work-study team since 2014.





# Programming

## Classes and Camps

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My Nose Turns Red offers your child the opportunity to run away and join the circus without leaving home. Students learn how to juggle, balance on the rolling globe, and learn the basics of creating a clown character. Classes are highly engaging; challenging youth to walk on the wire, balance on the rola bola, and build human pyramids, which builds their physical literacy and hand-eye coordination. Students play a wide variety of circus games that build teamwork and cooperation, trust, and friendship. We strive to build your children's self-confidence and creativity in a safe and non-competitive environment. My Nose Turns Red classes are led by highly experienced, professional circus coaches and experienced assistant coaches. Gym wheel coaches are certified by Internationaler Rhönradturn-Verband.

My Nose Turns Red conducts weekly after-school circus classes in the Greater Cincinnati Area. After-school classes are led by director Steve Roenker, Natalie Roenker and Circus Youth in Action teens for 6-12 weeks. In 2019, after-school circus classes were held at:

- Fairview-Clifton German Language School
- Hyde Park Elementary School
- Woodford Paideia Academy
- Roberts Paideia Academy
- Mt. Washington Elementary
- Clifton Area Community School

## Social Circus

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My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus has been nationally recognized as a member of the Social Circus Network with the American Youth Circus Organization. The Social Circus Network is designed to bring up-to-date research and resources to the 18-member network to increase youth circus participation and improve program design.

Social Circus is defined by Cirque Du Monde as an "innovative social intervention approach based on circus arts. The primary goal is not to learn the circus arts, but rather to assist with participants' personal and social development by nurturing their self-esteem and trust in others, as well as by helping them to acquire social skills, become active citizens, express their creativity and realize their potential."

My Nose Turns Red's strategic plan calls for 30% of enrollment be underserved and attend for free. This includes scholarships, two 24-week sessions at Woodford Paideia Academy and Roberts Paideia Academy, ongoing programming at Diocesan Catholic Children's Home (14 years), and the TALL









# Programming

Institute, an organization for adults with intellectual and developmental challenges as well as L.A.D.D.

MNTR also reaches underserved children by offering full and partial scholarships to our after-school programs, circus classes including the Advanced Circus Ensemble program and summer camps.

## Circus Youth in Action

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Circus Youth in Action (CYA) is My Nose Turns Red's creative youth arts leadership development program for teens 14+. Members are a part of MNTR's Advanced Circus Ensemble. They receive instruction on safety, giving instruction, etc. as well as developing solo and group acts. CYA members are valuable members of MNTR's teaching staff. Many serve as assistant instructors at camps and after-school programs.

## Arts Education

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MNTR presented their performance **All About Balance** and circus performances/workshops to schools and libraries including St. James Catholic School, Holy Family Catholic School, Wright Memorial Library, Miami Township Library and Dayton Metro Libraries. The company presented participatory workshops to four Clark Montessori Retreats and Lakota East High School.

## Community Engagement

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My Nose Turns Red engages the community through performances, workshops, and special events. In 2019, My Nose Turns Red performed at:

- Lexington Opera House as part of the Chinese New Year Celebration,
- Majorie P. Lee Residential Hope for National Unicycle Day
- Play in the Park
- The Green Umbrella and the Avondale Community Development Corporation Bike event,
- Cincinnati STEM Collaborative's End of Summer, Back to School Event
- Holy Family Church Festival in Price Hill
- Jaffe Family Block Party

MNTR participated in two parades in 2019, the 4th of July Parade in Northside and the second BLINK parade. The BLINK Parade, presented by Skyline Chili and part of the Future City Spectacular, was held on October 10th in downtown Cincinnati. We had 25 illuminated unicycles, LED jump ropers, hula hoops, and jugglers. Altogether, we had 50 people walk with us. Over 150,000 people were there to cheer on the parade.



# Performances

## **2019 Youth Circus Extravaganza** *From the Ring to the Moon and Beyond*

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The Youth Circus Extravaganza is My Nose Turns Red's annual celebration of the accomplishments of our extraordinary circus students. Over 48 of our circus students from across the Cincinnati region came together to demonstrate their courage and tenacity, joy, and creativity in the Jarson-Kaplan Theater in the Aronoff Center for the Arts.

The youth circus performers and coaches demonstrated their circus skills on the unicycle, gym (German) wheel, and aerial silks. Other circus skills included juggling, hooping, stilt-walking, wire-walking. And, of course, the clowns delighted all ages.

The 2019 aviator theme grew out of a donation of goggles, helmets, and an astronaut helmet from the Costume Gallery in Newport and 2019 was the 50th Anniversary of the historic Moonwalk, our theme revolved around aviator explorers from the Wright Brothers to the moonwalk.

## **Intermediate/Advanced Circus Camp Show**

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Intermediate/Advanced students of My Nose Turns Red participated in a two-week intensive summer camp where they learned from visiting coaches Sam Sake and Copper Santiago. Gym wheel coach Sam Sake is originally from Ethiopia and moved to Chicago as a child. He found circus through CircEsteem and learned gym (German) wheel from Wolfgang Bientzle. We met Sam when he was 18, and he has been our guest wheel coach for many years. In 2019, we also brought in Copper Santiago, a student at Circadium School in Philadelphia, PA, who taught aerials. She is also a well-rounded circus artist and an excellent unicyclist. Jesse Alford, our head coach, brought his unicycle, partner acro, and juggling skills. Artistic director Steve Roenker taught clowning, and Natalie was an assistant coach and camp manager. The annual Intermediate/Advanced Circus Camp features other coaches that expand their learning and experience different teaching styles and techniques they won't learn anywhere else. At the end of these two-weeks, they perform their new skills on the gym (German) wheel, aerial silks, unicycles, new clown routines, and more for family and friends.

The board raises funds at the camp shows by selling concessions, auctioning items, and holding a raffle. Many of our families tell us it is their favorite performance of the year.







# Performances

## **Circ-A-Thon**

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Circ-A-Thon is our annual friend and fundraising event held every year on the second weekend in December. The event showcases our gym (German) wheel and unicycle skills. And artistic director Steve Roenker amazes us all with his food juggling challenge.

Each student picks a circus skill they want to master by Circ-A-Thon, and just like a walk-a-thon, they raise money for their skills. The fundraising committee holds an auction and raffles off baskets of donated goods.

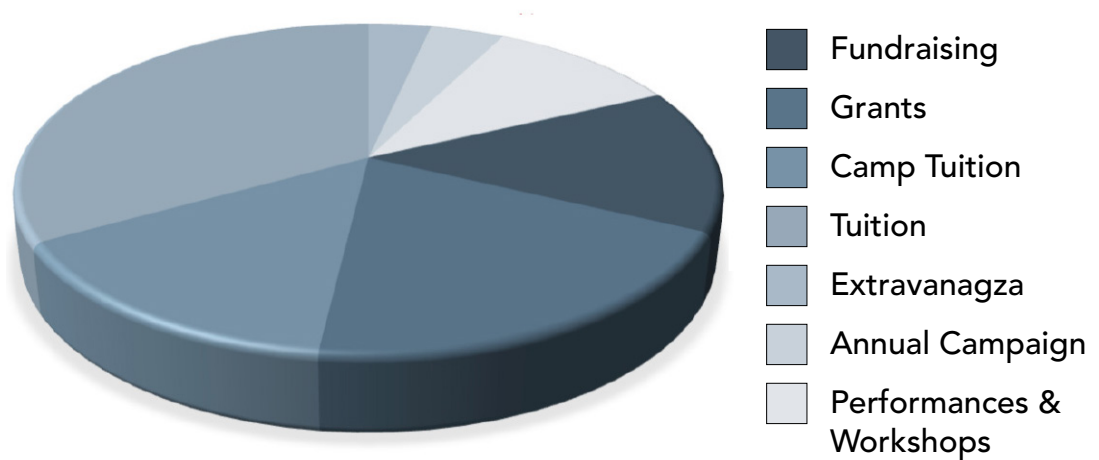
In 2019, Paige Whalen raised the most money and won the first prize. Each participating student gets a bag of goodies. Theresa Digiser wowed the crowd with her gym wheel skills.

We also hire Matt Steffen, photographer, to document the event and take individual photos for the Extravaganza program. Circ-A-Thon is also time to get new t-shirts and buy some swag. It's a great way to end the Fall semester and ready ourselves for the spring Extravaganza.

The best part is the sense of accomplishment the students demonstrate and the pride in their friends and family display.

# Finances 2019 Financial Report

## Revenue



## Expenses





| Revenue                           |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Performances                      | \$5,200.00          |
| Workshops                         | \$3,055.00          |
| Residences                        |                     |
| Tuition                           | \$46,683.00         |
| Diocesan Catholic Children's Home | \$4,059.00          |
| MNTR Camp Tuition                 | \$21,120.00         |
| Camp income - other               | \$2,500.00          |
| Fund Drive – Fall                 | \$5,719.00          |
| Fund Drive – Spring               |                     |
| Fundraising Kroger Gift Cards     |                     |
| Fundraisers                       | \$17,460.00         |
| Swag Sales                        | \$163.00            |
| Grants                            | \$27,799.00         |
| Sponsorships                      | \$2,300.00          |
| Admissions                        | \$4,840.00          |
| Interest Income                   |                     |
| Prop Project                      | \$555.00            |
|                                   |                     |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>             | <b>\$160,336.00</b> |

| Expenses                        |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wages                           | \$97,638.00         |
| Fringe Benefits                 | \$1,001.00          |
| Subcontractors                  | \$9,743.00          |
| Accounting Expenses             |                     |
| Ad Exp. – Printing & Mail       | \$4,049.00          |
| Ad Exp. – Paid Ads              | \$2,775.00          |
| Ad Exp. – Website               | \$1,395.00          |
| Auto – Fuel & Parking           | \$1,218.00          |
| Auto – Repair & Maintenance     | \$1,619.00          |
| Auto – Registration & License   | \$63.00             |
| Auto – Mileage Reimbursement    |                     |
| Auto – Rental                   |                     |
| Bank/Paypal Charges             | \$84.00             |
| Conventions & Conferences       | \$842.00            |
| Dues & Subscriptions            | \$15.00             |
| Depreciation Expenses           |                     |
| Insurance – Life                |                     |
| Insurance – Liability           | \$551.00            |
| Legal & Professional            | \$250.00            |
| Meals                           | \$297.00            |
| Misc                            | \$136.00            |
| Office                          | \$2,685.00          |
| Office – Technology             | \$366.00            |
| Supplies & Small Equipment      | \$373.00            |
| Promotional – Other             | \$2,780.00          |
| Promotional – Fundraising       |                     |
| Props & Costumes                | \$3,024.00          |
| Costume T-Shirts                | \$1,965.00          |
| Rent                            | \$10,992.00         |
| Taxes – Payroll                 | \$7,859.00          |
| Worker's Comp                   | \$773.00            |
| Telephone – Cincinnati Bell     | \$1,143.00          |
| Travel – Housing                | \$745.00            |
| Air Fare                        | \$677.00            |
| Travel Perdiem                  |                     |
| Utilities/Heat                  |                     |
| Interest Expense Line of Credit | \$91.00             |
|                                 |                     |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>           | <b>\$155,149.00</b> |

# Finances Supporters & Donors

## Grant Supporters



William O. Purdy, Jr. Foundation Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

## Corporate Supporters



## Thank You to our Annual Campaign Donors

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### Jugglers \$0 – \$49

|                 |                      |                   |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Jeffrey Leahy   | Mark Kleemieier      | Jean St. John     |
| Roger Auge      | Richard J. Lajoie JR | Jane Dewey        |
| Leigh Hammons   | Jose Maria Mantero   | Angela Johnson    |
| Jesse AlFord    | Thomas Noe           | Suzanne Morris    |
| Anne Bainbridge | Russell Slone        | Beth Pogue Barr   |
| Christina Boehm | Natalie Roenker      | Debbie Westheimer |

### Clown Patrons \$50 – \$99

|                    |               |                   |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Julie Bodnar       | Dan Roberts   | John R Zimmerly   |
| Rita Brown         | Ken Roenker   | Mary Buck         |
| Theodore Feitshans | Phillip Seher | Janice Dyehouse   |
| Deborah Honsch     | John Shelton  | Susan Watts Taffe |
| Charles King       | Cheryl Taylor | James Geers       |
| Stephen Mills      | Emily Vieux   |                   |
| Rick Ney           | Karen Waddell |                   |

### Ringmaster Patrons \$100 – \$499

|                     |                      |                          |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mark Bodnar         | George & Julia Wadih | Tina Dyehouse            |
| Heather Brown       | Janet Mills          | James Guthrie            |
| John Bruggen        | Frank Soffey         | Karen Hershenson         |
| Keith Clemens       | Barbara Sumner       | Erin Roll                |
| Kathy Gentile       | Minet Williamson     | Nicolette van der Klaauw |
| Lucy Kreimer        | Steve Roenker        | Thomas Reese             |
| Theresa Morris      | Grace Royalty        | John Morris              |
| Dylan Murphy        | Julie Horman Farrell | Jason Wolz               |
| Ellen Muse Lindeman | Roger Paige          | John Towsen              |
| Dick Roenker        | Richard Rafferty     | Mike Gorman              |
| Sharon Wachter      | Helen O'Connor       |                          |

### Circus Tent Patrons \$500+

|                    |                |           |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Melanie Niklewski  | Kristen Whalen | John Hall |
| Luke Schelly       | Eric Volck     |           |
| Nicola Weatherston | Jarrod Elliott |           |





# Looking Toward the Future

We began 2020 full of hope. We had our strategic plan in place. We had more children signed up for summer camp and more performances for the summer than ever before. Adrift: Circus in the H2O, was going to be a new adventure creating a circus environment in a large school gym.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to close our doors in mid-March. We learned how to use Zoom and continued our classes online. After 20 years, we had to cancel the Extravaganza. We held our beginning camps online with the addition of circus kits. With our COVID-19 protocols in place, we were able to offer four limited-enrollment circus camps in-person.

We are currently holding both in-person and online circus classes. We've learned a whole new skill set and online performances and fundraisers are a reality.

Just like our students, we persevere. We are thankful for our circus family and appreciate the many hours our board has dedicated to working through this crisis. Both ArtsWave and the American Circus Educators helped us navigate the waters through dialogue and resources. We are also thankful for the Evendale Cultural Arts Center by eliminating our rent during its closure and navigating the reopening safely.

We are fortunate to have received the National Endowment for the Arts CARES Act grant in July. Donors have been very generous. Amidst this, we are even more dedicated to the vision of an ongoing after-school program and circus arts training for youth. As we work through our "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access" strategic plan, we seek to find more places to offer our social circus programs. As Cincinnati's premier youth circus, we are working to broaden our access by partnering with other organizations. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where children and youth can challenge themselves physically, collaborate, create performances, learn to trust each other, and develop essential life skills.

Our core mission is to provide a framework for youth transformation through circus arts.









# Donate Contact Us

Visit: <http://www.mynoseturnsred.org/>

**or**

Contact Jean St. John

Email: [info@mynoseturnsred.org](mailto:info@mynoseturnsred.org)

Phone: 859-581-7100

Payments are accepted via PayPal on

<http://www.mynoseturnsred.org/support-us-2/>

or via check to My Nose Turns Red

Theatre Company, PO Box 14445, Cincinnati OH  
45250.

# See us in Action!

