

Special Gifts Theatre, Inc.

Opening Doors to New Possibilities

Special Gifts Theatre (SGT) is a not-for-profit organization that provides children and teens with special needs, a unique, creative drama experience enabling personal growth while breaking down stereotypes related to disabilities within the community at large.

Sneak Peek!



Join us for our 2nd Annual Sneak Peek! This is an event you won't want to miss! Showcasing our new Traveling Troupe performers, you will get a sneak peek into SGT and the upcoming season. Be sure to invite your friends and family – this is a great way to show people what SGT is all about! *Interested in being a corporate sponsor? Call 847-564-7704 to find out about all the benefits!*

WHEN: Sunday, November 4th,
2012 6-9 pm

WHERE: Winnetka Community
Chapel, corner of Pine
& Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka

WHAT: Dinner, drinks, a performance
from our Traveling Troupe

A great night out learning about the behind the scenes aspects of SGT and the gains that our students are making!

Calling all 7-9 year olds!

Registration is Open!

Our Creative Drama Program which focuses on out-of-the box imagination and unscripted conversational skills is now taking student registrations. This program will meet on Monday's October-February at the Crow Island School, Winnetka. It culminates into a show written by the students themselves! Last year's drama performance of, "The Wizard of Neverland" was a huge hit!! To register, please call 847.564.7704 or visit www.specialgiftstheatre.org and click on "Join the Cast."

Save the Date for the Creative Drama Presentation:

Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
Crow Island School, 1112 Willow Road, Winnetka



Ali! Ali! Ali!

Thank you District 219!

When Ali was born with Down syndrome, her mother Gina had a variety of concerns and a variety of hopes. One of her deepest hopes, a hope that all mothers have for their children, was that Ali would have friends. Fast forward 17 years to District 219's Dance Marathon. Ali is on stage, holding the microphone speaking to hundreds of her peers without hesitation when the crowd begins chanting her name. *Ali! Ali! Ali!* Gina had prayed for friends for Ali but seeing her entire high school chanting her name was beyond her wildest dreams.

"I didn't even need to be there – she was never once dancing alone – her peers, her friends, were with her the whole time. She was just like any other kid." Gina explained.

District 219 (Niles North and Niles West High Schools) chose SGT as the beneficiary of their 8th Annual Dance Marathon. All throughout the year, the students created fundraising opportunities to raise money for SGT. Every week, students from Niles would attend SGT classes, participating in our drama activities and getting to know the SGT kids.



One of the Niles Executive Committee members says,

"Being with the students at SGT was something I looked forward to each week. Knowing that we were raising funds for each of these kids made it an experience I'll never forget."

In these tough economic times, these fundraising efforts will put SGT in a healthy place financially and will allow us to continue our programming including adding two summer programs and more to come!



Please visit www.specialgiftstheatre.org and click on "What's New." There you will find more information about this exciting event, press coverage and a heartfelt thanks to the amazing students, staff and faculty at Niles North and Niles West High Schools.



Your donation will MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the lives of our students!

And now it can be matched! See below for more info!

Tale As Old As Time... Beauty and the Beast!



With over 100 students and peer mentors signed up we are ready to embark on our 13th season of musical theatre! With two full casts, this show promises to be full of the ensemble pieces, the singing and dancing, and student spotlights that SGT is known for. This season will also include a variety of social activities for our students and mentors! Be sure to check our website for upcoming events!

Beauty and the Beast Productions: Save the Date
March 2,3,9,10, 2013
 The Skokie School, 520 Glendale, Winnetka

Creativity in Motion!

SGT piloted a new class at two different locations this summer! Our Creativity in Motion class focuses on telling a story through movement. Students dove into a new world of music – everything from Broadway to Mary Poppins to fairy tales! Utilizing props, costume pieces and of course music, the students used movement activities to get into character and create their own ways of story-telling.

Would you like this program at your school? Check our website for future classes or contact us at info@specialgiftstheatre.org.



On the Road Again

The SGT Traveling Troupe (TT) is performing around the Chicagoland area! Last year, they appeared at eight venues performing several of their greatest hits and creating awareness for SGT. These are wonderful opportunities for our students and mentors to build social skills, develop stage presence and provide additional outlets for self-expression and growth!



TT at the Buffalo Grove Arts Festival

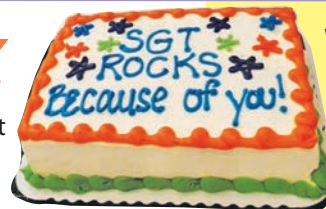
If you have an event and would like to have an appearance by our SGT Traveling Troupe, please call **847.564.7704** or email info@specialgiftstheatre.org to schedule. Watch our website for future performances!

Matching Gift in Place!

We have received a generous matching gift! That means any new donations (or donors that have not given in the past two years) will be matched 100%! Anything current donors give above what they gave last year will also be matched 100%! This is an incredible opportunity!

Please help support this wonderful program through your gift. With your support we can continue to build upon our accomplishments and help enrich the lives of each individual in our program.

Thank you for your support!



Working Together Through Corporate Partnership

As we begin the 2012-2013 season, we are in the process of securing corporate partnerships. We are pleased to have StorageMart of Northbrook, Gem Printing, Added Incentives and JetStream continue their support! If you, your employer or any other locations you frequent would like to sponsor SGT this season please have them email info@specialgiftstheatre.org or call **847.564.7704** to learn how we can help one another!

We're Sorry! Some of you received the April newsletter with the wrong name listed due to a computer glitch in our system. We apologize for the error!