

Help us continue transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities through inclusive theatre for the next 25 years!

25 SPECIAL GIFTS THEATRE

25 YEARS OF INCLUSION & ACCEPTANCE

WHAT WE DO

Special Gifts Theatre addresses the need for theatre arts activities and experiences for people with disabilities. Through the performing arts, we work collaboratively to create inclusive and transformative experiences for individuals with disabilities to fully engage in the world.

SGT programs provide student actors with disabilities enrichment experiences that foster confidence, creative self-expression, and self-advocacy. At SGT, the focus is on the student actor's strengths and every aspect of the programming is adapted to fully engage each student and allow them to shine in the spotlight.

- We serve 350+ participants in Chicagoland every year with four individualized programs:

1. Musical Theatre - educational and therapeutically based program that culminates in a fully adapted musical theatre performance for youth ages 10-22.
2. Creativity in Motion - therapeutic movement class for children 7 and up.
3. Creating Outside the Lines - theatre and improv for adults.
4. Peer mentor programming with disability inclusion training.
5. Strategic Alliance Outreach-Workshop based inclusive theatre training onsite at community partner locations.

- We produce 13 live performances annually that have reached over 45,000 people since our founding in 2000.
- Our specialized staff consists of special education teachers, therapists and theatre arts professionals.
- Our peer mentors and volunteers support each student to achieve individualized success and develop the next generation of inclusive leaders.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE: We rely on fundraising to cover 75% of our operating budget. A gift to Special Gifts Theatre will support our commitment to scholarships and affordable programming. At SGT no one is turned away due to financial hardship. Thank you!

25th ANNIVERSARY SUPPORT: Ensure our programming reach and our need based scholarship expansion through a philanthropic investment in our 25th anniversary campaign reserve fund.

EXPLORE: Review our promotional content on our YouTube channel to experience SGT's impact on each of our student actors and peer mentors. @specialgiftstheatre7704. Attend an upcoming performance at one of our seven programming locations in the Chicago area!

JOIN: Join us for our performance season, special event, or contact us for ways to get involved.

SHARE: Help amplify our mission by sharing our impact on social media. Find us @specialgiftstheatre.

HELP OTHERS: Become an advocate for inclusion and support the disability community. Consider joining our board, contributing to a committee, or connecting us with business sponsor opportunities. Your support will help us grow and reach more individuals. Our disability inclusion training program is available to our business partners.

LEADERSHIP

Elise Larsen Executive Director

Debbie Taus-Barth
Program Operations Director

Elise Steffe
Development Director

Matt Miller
Board Chair

Allie Gillies
Vice Chair

ADDRESS
PO Box 2231
Northbrook, IL 60065

PHONE
847-564-7704

WEBSITE
specialgiftstheatre.org

38 EMPLOYEES

2025 BUDGET
\$715,000

FOUNDED IN 2000
25th ANNIVERSARY
From 8 participants in one location to 354 participants in 7 locations

IMPACT
We have served 4,518 program participants and performed to 45,105 audience members

OUR VISION IS A WORLD WHERE ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE VALUED, INCLUDED AND ACCEPTED.



We are the only organization in the Chicago area that provides educational and therapeutic theatre arts programming for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Our programs are transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities and are made possible by the generosity of our donors!



We produce 13 live adapted performances annually in Chicagoland.



Our peer mentors and volunteers are vital to our success.



We offer disability inclusion training to our community partners.



847.564.7704 specialgiftstheatre.org

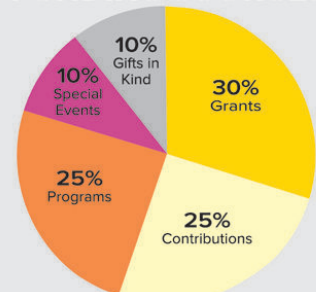
Watch our brief overview video.

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING



Annual Inclusive Theatre Performance Season. Each year Special Gifts Theatre produces thirteen live adapted musical theatre performances, shining the spotlight on our students with disabilities with individualized support of peer mentors. We seek business sponsors to help fund our performances that reach a vast audience in Chicago, the North Shore and northwest suburbs.

FUNDING SOURCES



No one is ever turned away due to financial hardship. Currently 20% of our participants receive need based scholarships.