

ANNUAL REPORT

SEP 18 - OCT 19



SHOWMANSHIP

LEADERSHIP

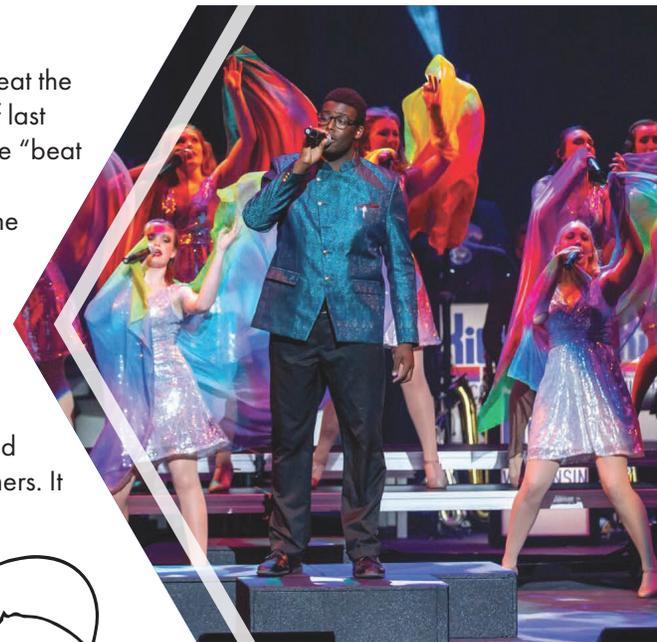
PARTNERSHIP

FROM THE PRESIDENT | TIM RIESTERER

You've probably seen how hard it is for championship teams to repeat that same feat the following year. But, that was not the case for Kids 51. After the tremendous high of last year's 50th Anniversary Celebration, this season's Kids From Wisconsin proved the "beat goes on" ... and on. Congratulations to the staff and troupe for an amazing repeat performance and amazing outreach programs to youth and communities across the state! And, thank you, the sponsors, donors and fans for your continued support. Overall, the health of this program has never been stronger. Strong income, well-managed expenses, and a generous gift to the endowment resulted in a really good year.

This annual report is a terrific recap of last season's success, including sections dedicated to each of the three pillars of our mission: Showmanship, Leadership and Partnership. The Kids From Wisconsin program impacts more than just the performers. It leaves a positive mark on the entire state! Thank you for your support!

Tim Riesterer | President



SHOWMANSHIP

Thirty-six of the state's most potential-filled young performers get one-of-a-kind performance and training experience unmatched by any other youth performing group.

LEADERSHIP

One thousand young dreamers, many underserved, get a taste of the limelight when the Kids teach kids and inspire them to pursue their own amazing dreams.

PARTNERSHIP

One hundred twenty thousand people in more than thirty Wisconsin towns experience a high-quality, affordable show while raising needed funds for their community projects.



FROM THE PRODUCER | TARAS NAHIRNIAK

Another incredible summer in the books. After the amazing 50th celebration we knew the 51st show had to sparkle and dazzle to remind our audiences that nothing can stop us now. My favorite part of a performance is watching and listening to the audience members as they stream out of an auditorium to shake hands and talk to the performers. The excitement in their eyes and the smiles on their faces are priceless.

The "Beat Goes On" tour lit up stages all over Wisconsin this summer with fabulous music. Queen, Average White Band, Gershwin, along with some classic Broadway show tunes. The start of the second half featured music of some great entertainers who's beat, like ours, continues even to this day. Each night our rendition of Pat Benatar's "Heartbreaker" brought down the house while the band had them clapping along to the Doobie Brothers. We closed the show with the inspiring up-tempo feel of "From Now On".

With the work from the creative, executive and tour staff, combined with the talent and hard work of the 36 performers, this summer's show experience is one that will not soon be forgotten. I know I had the time of my life. Congratulations to all!



Taras Nahirniak | Producer

Taras Nahirniak

“The show was fantastic as always and leaves you feeling great about attending. I love seeing the Kids; the show is always great, and this year was no exception.”

2019 AUDIENCE MEMBER



SHOWMANSHIP | AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

“We felt we were on Broadway watching a professional show.”

“Love the choice of music! The second half was so much like a Broadway production with choreography and vocals! And the band was incredible! So much talent!”

“The band was outstanding! I was amazed at the skill and musicianship that its members displayed. The balance between instruments and the intonation were amazing. I was particularly impressed with the improvising.”

“The first half was easier to enjoy, because in the second half, you knew that the show will have to end soon, which is too bad. (All good things must come to an end!)”

“My mom has taken my sisters and I every year for as long as I can remember. I now bring my own children and they love it.”



SHOWMANSHIP | AROUND THE STATE IN STYLE

The Bus was certainly a highlight and received a lot of attention from passersby on the highways as well as when it was parked as a billboard at each venue. Waves and honks were an everyday affair.

LEADERSHIP | AMONG US

The Charlie Krause Leadership and Scholarship Award was presented to two, 2019 leaders chosen by staff, board, and troupe members at the end of the season. The two actively modeled and lead others in all three elements of the Kids mission statement – showmanship, leadership and partnership.



Alex Turicik

What staff and peers communicated:

- Alex provided a positive attitude in every and any situation.
- Conscious and adamant about troupe connectivity.
- Demonstrated leadership, through rehearsals and creating Encore sets.



Chase Bucheger

What staff and peers communicated:

- Gave constructive and easy to understand notes in a positive way.
- Always spoke with the betterment of all in mind.
- Exhibited a focus on trying to help others before himself.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TIM RIESTERER PRESIDENT
Chief Strategy and Marketing
Officer Corporate Visions

AMY L. BARNES SECRETARY
Attorney, Reinhart Boerner
Van Deuren S.C.

BARBARA DORN
Executive Director Emerita

RICH MANNISTO
VP of Development &
Strategic Initiatives WLC

STEPHEN J. ZIEGLER
Chairman, InPro Corporation

DR. JAMES P MANEY, JR. VP
Medical Dir., Anesthesia Services
Aurora Medical Center - Summit

KATHARINE A. AZZOLINA
Educator, Retired - Kenosha
Public Schools

SCOTT GIRMSCHIED
Buyer, Senior Product/Bid
Specialist Global Industrial

THOMAS J. NOLTE
Director, BMO, Global Asset
Management

TINA WEISS
Executive Director,
Kids From Wisconsin

TONY MAZE TREASURER
Director, Benefits, Milwaukee County

JOYCE BOBBER
Hearst Communications

MARK A. JUDES
Retired, Principal Engineer,
Eaton Corporation

ROBERT E. RADKE
R2 Communications, LLC

TARAS NAHIRNIAK
Producer,
Kids From Wisconsin



Realize Your Dream

with Kids From Wisconsin



LEADERSHIP | REALIZE YOUR DREAM

Workshops, sponsored by the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, have become a large part of the success in building a younger audience demographic. Kids From Wisconsin performers are skillfully trained in teaching techniques and curriculum. They mentor participants side-by-side as they visit stations that teach a modified section of the show. Dance, choral, sound and lighting are all part of the learned curriculum. Participants perform on stage with all elements put together.

With school collaboration in the cities we perform, workshops are including more jam sessions with area instrumentalists who are eager to play with the Kids iconic show band. When Kids From Wisconsin performers teach - kids lean in and listen a bit closer, they jump in and participate creatively, they dream bigger and they believe more!



It made my daughter feel important to learn from Kids she really admires! Her confidence on stage was amazing!!





“Wisconsin Lutheran College and Kids From Wisconsin both seek the same goal of bringing the arts to our communities. How exciting it was to witness, firsthand the amazing impact of Kids shows around our state and share in the joy of bringing top talent to such a broad audience!”

Rich Mannisto | Vice President of Development and Strategic Initiatives, Wisconsin Lutheran College

PARTNERSHIP | BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERS ACROSS THE STATE

Milwaukee, being the largest and most diverse city in Wisconsin, is a target for providing free, half-day workshops, open to the public with busses provided for organizations such as **“Our Next Generation”** whose mission is to provide enrichment programming, and social support to thousands of students in the heart of one of Milwaukee’s most challenged communities.

A sensory-friendly production was made possible through our partnership with **Wisconsin Lutheran College** and **Autism Speaks**. Elements of the performance were modified for people on the spectrum to enjoy. Early arrival was suggested to guests in order to become comfortable with the theatre and talk with the performers. An “instrument petting zoo” before and after the performance as well as a performer autograph photo station was enjoyed by many of these special audience members.

Through our Milwaukee partnerships, collaboration with the **Marcus Center, the Cultural Artistic & Musical Programming Advisory Council (CAMPAC)** and a summer music series provider, **Music in the Glen**, a provision of several free performances was once again logged into the Kids tour within the Greater Milwaukee community. These performances, along with 10 days of performing at the **Wisconsin State Fair** provided great entertainment for over 60,000 people in Milwaukee. Other groups served across the state included **Badgerland After School Enrichment Program (BASE)**, the **Boys and Girls Clubs of Shawano, Plover and Wisconsin Rapids**, whose clubs promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. We are excited to continue to make community partners.



Sensory Friendly – Instrument Exploration

PARTNERSHIP | 2019 ALUMNI CHALLENGE

Many of you were part of this year's show as alumni donors. In particular, those who contributed to the Alumni Challenge helped us cover the cost of this year's music royalties, allowing us to present some great music.

Thank you to those who gave! You were a big part of the successful 2019 Beat Goes On tour! While the Alumni Challenge is a great way for you to participate and pay forward the KIDS experience, it's not the only opportunity. Like universities and other organizations, having a healthy, consistent alumni donor base is essential to the long-term success of the organization. That's why we reach out to you several times a year, hoping you will continue to be part of this amazing program. Watch for this year's Alumni Challenge coming soon. **Once a Kid, Always a Kid!**



Visit KIDSFROMWISCONSIN.ORG/ALUMNI to see 2019 supporters.



LEGACY GIFT | CHARLIE & VICTORIA

In 2016, executive board member Charlie Krause had the foresight to establish an endowment fund for the Kids From Wisconsin to ensure the long-term viability of the organization. At the end of 2019, we learned that Charlie and his sister, Victoria Mayer, another longtime Kids From Wisconsin supporter, both made generous gifts upon their passing in 2018. A portion of Mayer's gift was directed toward operational expenses. Her generous gift allowed us to purchase a new sound board to replace our outdated 10-year-old system. We are excited to showcase the Kids From Wisconsin sound with better quality than ever before thanks to Victoria Mayer.

Over the years we've been fortunate to have visionary leaders and supporters who have contributed to the endowment fund to ensure the work of the Kids From Wisconsin organization continues for the next 50 years. These loyal friends have made generous gifts of many sizes to the fund, which is now managed by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Distributions from GMF benefit Kids From Wisconsin every day through support of dynamic musical productions and the "Realize Your Dream" outreach program, that impact lives throughout the area. We have opportunities for more visionaries, like you!

VISIONARY ENDOWMENT LEADERS | THANK YOU!

Peter Brockman

Jere Fluno

James Maney

Willard Walker

Nannette Gardetto

Charlie Krause

Victoria Mayer

Carol Wythes

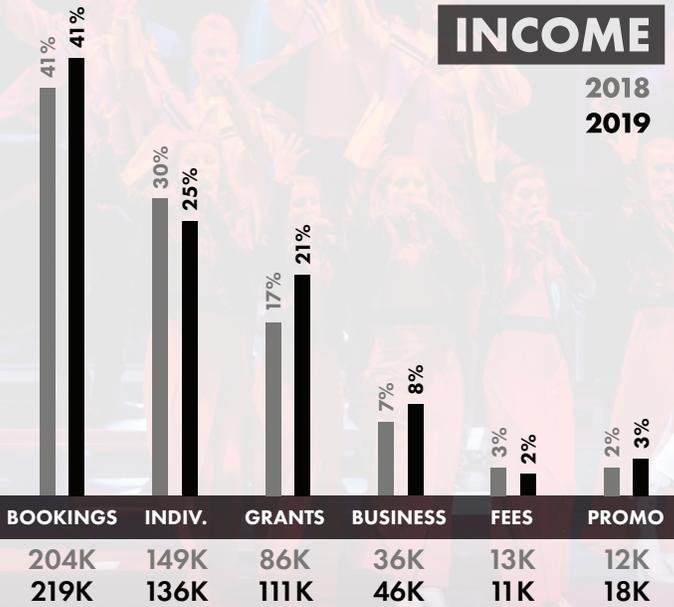
2020 SEASON | HOUSING NEED DURING THE FAIR

We are grateful for your continued support. And, excitement is already building for the 2020 season. However, we have identified one challenge where KIDS could use your help. This year, the dates of the Wisconsin State Fair are much later than usual (August 6-16). This creates a housing challenge as all local dormitories are filled with students. We are currently looking at area hotels to offer steep discounts for housing during this time. If you have any contacts in the Milwaukee-area hotel industry, please let us know. Thank you!

Please contact Tina Weiss at 414-266-7067 to learn more about how to donate.

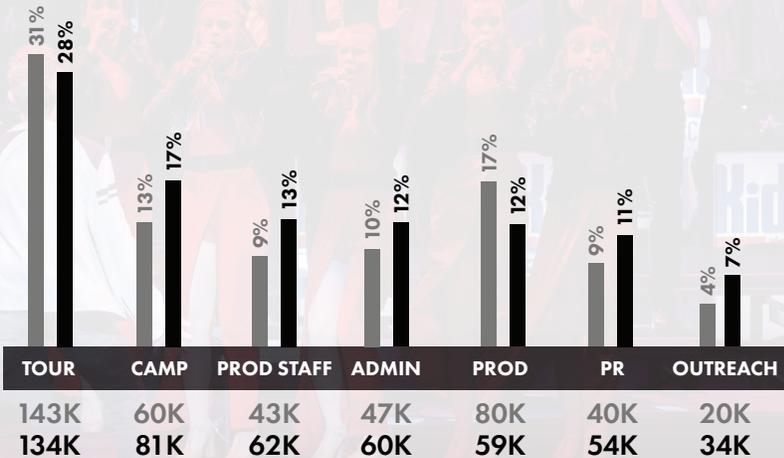
INCOME

2018
2019



EXPENSES

2018
2019



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE | KIDS BY THE NUMBERS

Expenses were controlled with dollars put towards the artistic production which resulted in an elevated performance. All income sources were above last year with the exception of individual giving. Kids From Wisconsin has simplified ways to donate by incorporating online giving. Look on the online donation form for the tab to make the contribution recurring. Recurring (predictable) contributions help Kids From Wisconsin plan long-term activities in advance. Consider a recurring option whether monthly, quarterly or yearly to provide predictable cash flow, and also so you don't forget!

The success of the Kids From Wisconsin as a vibrant organization entering its 52nd year, derives principally from strong ongoing financial support from people like you. These gifts greatly enhance our ability to achieve our mission each year.

LEGACY | WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

2020 auditions will take place in February to select 36 of the most talented students across the state. We are excited each year to introduce these **Hometown Kids** that represent the entire state all summer. Stay tuned for the announcement in April of the 2020 performers.

The 2020 tour is booked, so please save a few dates on your summer schedule to see the tremendous, **Live! In Living Color Tour**, in a hometown near you.

re·cur·ring

/re'keriNG/
adjective

occurring again periodically or repeatedly

"gratitude is a recurring theme with Kids From Wisconsin" (of a thought, image, performance or memory) repeatedly coming back to make you smile again and again.

— MONTHLY —

— BI-ANNUALLY —

— ANNUALLY —

KIDSFROMWISCONSIN.ORG/TOUR

inpro®

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

JERE & ANNE FLUNO

WISCONSIN art BOARD
Creativity. Culture. Community. Commerce

with funds from
the State of Wisconsin
and the National
Endowment for the Arts