Your Impact
What YOU Make Possible

If you’re reading this, it’s because you are part of the Acts Of Kindness Cabaret family. You support us at performances, donate, volunteer, perform, serve on our Board or a committee, help make connections. In some way, you have contributed to our kindness chain, so it’s always a joy for us to share with you the impact of your kindness.

Curt’s Café

Curt’s Café improves outcomes for young adults living in at-risk situations. Their trainees, ages 15 - 24, are determined to build a positive future for themselves, and Curt’s provides that opportunity by teaching marketable skills and then assisting in securing employment. Curt’s teaches culinary techniques and provides instruction trainees need to fill in educational gaps, gain confidence, and become job-ready.

Curt’s results at their Evanston locations are so impressive, they are currently opening a new location in Highland Park. (www.curtscafe.org)

On July 11, AOKC had the privilege to provide a benefit performance for Curt’s Café. We left quite an impression! Here is part of a note Board President, Rich Marsh, shared with his Board members:

“A highlight for me and Holly last night was the cabaret performance. The Acts Of Kindness Cabaret team of three singers, a wonderful piano player, and their sound system, put on a fabulous show. I was taken aback in that they are a non-profit group that has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for a variety of Chicago-area non-profit organizations doing good work in our communities. We can get lost in all the negative news headlines these days, but there are many folks and organizations doing good things in our communities!”

Cynthia Clarey, Caryn Caffarelli, and Hillary Ann Feldman yuck it up in AOKC’s show, ‘You Can’t Be Serious!’

Words On Wheels

All it takes is a little brain exercise — talking, playing, reading, singing — and that’s what Words On Wheels does. WOW volunteers go to places where at-risk babies aren’t getting as much ‘brain exercise’ as they could. At each visit, they bring each child bubbles, a puppet, a musical instrument, and a book, and they
Executive/Artistic Directors’ Update

When I came on board with AOKC I shared that I was inspired by the principle on which Hilary built this organization: using your gifts — things you were already doing in everyday life — to contribute to the world in a meaningful way. As a former performer (dance, not song...believe me, no one wants to hear me sing) and current development professional, I continue to feel that leading this organization enables me to do just that.

In the four months I have been with AOKC, I continue to be inspired by the positivity around me as I see firsthand the impact our organization has: not just at the organizational level, but on a personal level – in the connections made through this beautiful art of storytelling through song.

I’ve had the aphorism “a rising tide lifts all boats” in my head recently, and I think it’s because I am so honored to be a part of AOKC’s kindness chain: our generous donors gift us the privilege of helping other organizations who, in turn, fill needs in our communities. Together, we rise, a song in our hearts.

But Wait... There’s More!

Since last summer’s newsletter, Acts Of Kindness Cabaret has also been honored to perform to benefit:

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods
- Waukegan to College
- Oak Forest Rotary Club
- Family Promise Chicago North Shore
- McCord Gallery & Cultural Center

Thank you for being a part of so many great things happening in Chicagoland!

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AOKC By the Numbers

You’ve made this a great year at Acts Of Kindness Cabaret:

- 50% growth in number of annual shows
- 20% increase to annual budget
- Nearly $350,000 raised for 52 area nonprofits
- Our first 10 sponsors EVER!
- 8 community non-profits supported this year
- 1,000 friends of AOKC
- 1 amazing organization

play. WOW believes that all children deserve early childhood brain development opportunities before they begin school. (www.wordsonwheels.org)

On June 1, AOKC performed to benefit Words On Wheels, and what a night it was!

“From the very beginning of our relationship, you showed the utmost in professionalism. Your attention to all the details needed to have a successful event made WOW’s job that much easier. The talent your team provided was beyond my expectations. The board and guests were wowed! Thank you for helping make our event successful. I have been and will continue to recommend you whenever I can.”

-Beth Ragsdale, Executive Director, WOW

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Upcoming Performances

Please visit the calendar page of our website for ticket information and to keep updated on all performances.

NOTE: Current donors (those who have given in the last 12 months) may see shows free of charge, but you must call AOKC (847-419-7664) to reserve your spot(s). Space is limited. Thank you!

Sunday, September 15, 1:30p
Beneficiary: National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation Performance, Family Activities, Food, Raffle
Historic Wagner Farm
1510 Wagner Road in Glenview
Show: You Can't Be Serious!

Saturday, October 19, 6:00p
Beneficiary: Family Promise Chicago North Shore
St. Augustine’s
1140 Wilmette Ave. in Wilmette
Show: You Can't Be Serious!

Sunday, November 3, 2:00p
Beneficiary: Seniors Assistance Center Norridge
Venue Information Coming Soon
Show: A Little Help From My Friends

Acts Of Kindness Cabaret thanks

for their generous support!

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He’s AOKC - Robert Bakke

We’re taking it Bakke to school – Bob Bakke, that is!

Robert “Bob” Bakke has known AOKC’s founder/artistic director, Hilary Feldman, a long time. As in, since she was in the 4th grade. As her Jr. High music teacher, he got to see Hilary’s talent from its inception. As one of AOKC’s longest standing and most generous donors, he’s supported our organization from its inception, too!

We couldn’t help but ask Bob about preteen Hilary – if the talented and kind songstress was anything like she is today – and were pleased to hear she was much the same (would you expect anything less?). Bob says that, in addition to participating in flute ensembles, Hilary was in the chorus as a soprano and that our young founder was focused and “exhibited a healthy curiosity for new ideas, sought new musical performance opportunities, and a general passion for learning.” He remembers her getting the lead female role in Northwood’s musical, and says, “She’s never left the stage!”

Bob became connected to Acts Of Kindness Cabaret through Hilary and through AOKC Board Vice President, Mike Unger, who (surprise!) was also a music student of his. Over the past 15 years, Bob has watched AOKC grow and develop. He says it’s clear the public and private support for our organization has increased over the years and that our beneficiaries have diversified both in population and location. ”I’m very proud of both these remarkable young people and what they have accomplished and will continue to accomplish through AOKC!” he says. Both Hilary and Michael are just happy to be called ‘young people’!

Bob taught public school music for 34 years and, although he has been retired for 16, he continues to involve music in his everyday life. During the academic year, he sings in three choirs and plays in two instrumental groups. And he still teaches! Although he does limit it now to a few voice lessons each week.

Proving that one can absolutely reinvent oneself later in life, Bob has gotten a second wind with an endeavor that caught him completely by surprise. Two years ago Bob, along with 3 partners, purchased the famous Allyn Mansion in Delavan, WI. The stately home was built in 1885, and members of the Allyn family lived there as late as 1950. The house was sold and converted into a nursing home and then a furniture store. In 1984, two gentlemen purchased the home and spent 18 years restoring it to its original splendor. The Allyn Mansion is on both the state and national historic registries. Bob and his partners plan to start opening it up for historical tours and renting it out for weddings and other special events. The project was a complete left turn for Bob, but it brings him immense joy.

We are so lucky to have had Bob on board with us all these years and are humbled by, and grateful for, his ongoing and enthusiastic support!

By the way, after 15 years Bob still comes out to cheer on both AOKC and Hilary from time to time. His favorite performance? Hilary’s tribute show to Carol Burnett!
HOW YOU CAN BE AOKC, TOO!

Be Like Bob

HELP MAKE A CONNECTION:
Do you know a business or organization that wants to make a difference in their community? Our Annual Sponsorship Program is a great way to raise a philanthropic profile and offers an entire year's worth of exposure and promotions! Contact Executive Director, Katelynn Woodin (Katelynn@aokcabaret.org or 262-424-1337), for detailed sponsorship materials or to make a connection.

Do you know of a non-profit organization that could benefit from an Acts Of Kindness Cabaret performance? Please put us in touch. Contact Artistic Director, Hilary Feldman (Hilary@aokcabaret.org or 847-419-7664).

DONATE. Your donation to AOKC supports our dual mission of serving area nonprofits while introducing new audiences to the art of cabaret. We receive no state or federal funding, so it is thanks to you that we keep going strong. You can donate through our web site (www.aokcabaret.org) or use the enclosed envelope.

VOLUNTEER. There is no better way to understand the creative process or appreciate the talent of the artists than to volunteer at a show. If you have other talents (PR, fundraising, nonprofit - you name it) and are interested in working with us, give us a holler (Hilary@aokcabaret.org, or 847-419-7664).

JOIN THE BOARD. We promise, we won't make you President right off the bat - but if you've always wanted to be on a nonprofit board, we have seats open. While we are looking particularly for people with marketing, fundraising, and other professional expertise, all interested parties are encouraged to apply. For more information or to receive an application, please contact Katelynn Woodin (Katelynn@aokcabaret.org, or 262-424-1337).

SERVE ON A COMMITTEE: Not ready for a board position but want to get more involved? Join one of our committees (marketing, board development, events, fundraising, governance). We'd love your help! And you'll get to meet some really great people, too. If you'd like to be part of this incredible organization, contact Katelynn@aokcabaret.org or call 262-424-1337.

FOLLOW US: Can't get enough AOKC? Follow us on social media for performance pictures, live streamed videos, inspiration, and news about the work in our communities!

Thank you! However you choose to support AOKC, we're grateful to you!
Thank You, Donors, for Your Gifts This Year!
(Reflecting donors who’ve given within the last 12 months)

Visionary
($10,000+ Lifetime)
Caryn and Craig Caffarelli
Laurence & Marye Feldman
GEMC3 Foundation
IS Consulting
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Scott Unger
Tim Weiland

Producer
($5,000+ Lifetime)
The Miles Foundation
Michael Unger
Matthew Zell

Director
($1000 - $4999)
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Morgante Wilson Architects
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Patron
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Seymour Zitomersky &
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Supporter
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Nicole Seidlitz
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Linda & Tom Surlak
Stuart Unger &
Marlena Ascher
Arla & John Unwin
Karen Willough+
Beth Wilner
Katelynn Woodin

Friends
($25 - $99)
Jonathan Abarbanel
Amazon Smile
Marc Ascher
Reva Auerbach*
Brianna Bingham
Sherry Blix
Julie Boyer
Cindy Burrell
Ray & Mary Linda Caffarelli
Carri Carl
Kevin Coleman
Tom Conway
Shirley Craven
Deborah Darr
Jeff Dean
Larry & Margaret Dooley
Kate Feinstein &
Richard Skolly*
Cynthia Finlon
Cardi Fleck
Pauline Goldberg
Irene Goldstein
Diana Gornik
Michelle Gould
Shayla Griggs
Gloria Groom
Aiden Guimond
Merril Prager & John Levine
Charles & Sandy Incorvia
Anita Jenke
Felice Johnson
Friends (continued)

Anita Kallen
Dawn Kaplan
Lauren Klayman
Tom Knapik
Shelley Knee
Judy LaRose
Monica Lasky
Lesley Lee
Robert Lerman
Kate Loitz
Susan Lynn
KT McCammond
Susan McCracken
Denise McGowan Tracy
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Genny Wert
Jennifer Wilson
Donna Witter†
Ted & Lisa Yaghmour
Vevan Yang

† Donor of 10+ Years
* Gift made in honor of Merril Prager
+ Gift made in honor of Chriss Grossi

Thank You, Volunteers!

Bridget Bean - Crew, Office
Brie Bingham - Board, Crew
Caron Buinis - Vocalist
Caryn Caffarelli - Vocalist, Board, Crew
Craig Caffarelli - Consultant, Crew
Cynthia Clarey - Vocalist
Karen Eickemeyer - Crew
Hilary Ann Feldman - Vocalist, Crew
Russ Kaminski - Sound, Crew
Joan Marks - Board
Marianne Murphy Orland - Vocalist
Eliot Osherman - Crew
Merril Prager - Board, Crew
Maria Rodriguez - Crew
Thomas P. Scheuzger - Technical Advisor
Linda Surlak - Board, Crew
Michael Unger - Board, Sound, Crew
Arla Unwin - Board
John Unwin - Photography
John Witzgall - Crew