



October 2019

FIRSTNAME and SPOUSE LASTNAME
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Dear FIRSTNAME and SPOUSE

Sophia's first class at The Rose found her rocketing off to a galaxy far, far away. At 10 years old, she ventured into the theater's *Star Wars*-themed class designed for students with exceptionalities – a step that took her outside of her comfort zone and into the world of performing.

In that first Rose class, Sophia remembers playing improv games and creating stories based on the *Star Wars* movies. "I played C3PO," she happily recalls.

That first class for Sophia at The Rose turned into a second class, and into a third. She was an active participant in Rose Teens 'N' Theater programs, *Broken Mirror* and *Pride Players*, and she served as a high school intern where she assisted in the very same type of classes where she herself started when she was just ten years old. Today, because of your support of The Rose, Sophia is a student at Metropolitan Community College, studying theater and looking forward to a positive and rewarding future.

Sophia's story is not unique. Enter any Rose class and you will find students like Sophia enthusiastically imagining far off lands, transforming into their favorite heroes and letting their creativity carry them into new realms of possibility.

There is laughter. There is learning. There is joy.

Beneath the playful antics and boisterous games, transformations occur. Students hiding inside the costume of an alien life form find the power to show themselves to the world as they truly are. Would-be galactic knights with pool noodle lightsabers discover the confidence to battle the real challenges in their lives; they make monumental strides in self-confidence, public speaking, teamwork and more.

YOU make this transformation possible.



“Of all the arts, drama involves the participant most fully: intellectually, emotionally, physically, verbally and socially,” says Nellie McCaslin, author of *Creative Drama in the Classroom and Beyond*. “As players, children assume the roles of others, and they learn about becoming more sensitive to the problems and values of people different from themselves.”

Through these experiences, students like Sophia also begin to understand their role in the universe and visualize how they might make an impact in the world. As Sophia explains, “I learned my passion for social justice in programs like *Pride Players* and *Broken Mirror*. I was able to communicate to others using art. I learned that I could communicate my values and feelings through art. I am more aware of the diverse communities that I am a part of.”

For 70 years, The Rose has inspired creativity, developed imagination and helped children grow into confident young adults. With your help, we can continue this work for the next 70 years.

In honor of our 70th season, please consider a gift of \$70 or more. Your donation will go toward giving even more children like Sophia the opportunity to reach for the stars and discover the possibilities that lie within.

It is our goal to raise at least \$70,000, but we can't do it without you.

Here are the ways you can make a donation:

- Make a donation online at rosetheater.org/support/donate/
- Call us at (402) 345-4849
- Mail your donation in the enclosed envelope

Thank you again for your support of The Rose!

Sincerely,

Lori Scott
Campaign Chair

Matt Gutschick
Artistic Director

Julie Walker
Managing Director

P.S. Watch for information coming soon about The Rose Studios for Youth Artists, which will allow us to bring the joy of theater to even more students like Sophia!



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~Nellie McCaslin

