

MISSOULA
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE

COMMUNITY SERIES



Annie

©Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Book by
Thomas Meehan

Music by
Charles Strouse

Lyrics by
Martin Charnin

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin
Based on "Little Orphan Annie"®
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT



MCT, Inc. acknowledges that the Missoula Children's Theatre is located on indigenous territory. As we gather together and celebrate theatre, we also want to honor the original stewards of this land and their descendants; many of whom continue to live, work, teach, volunteer, and learn in this community. We are committed to showing gratitude for the land and its indigenous people by respecting and remembering this in our thoughts and actions.

*Salish Encampment on land that is now Missoula, Montana.
Photo Source: Indian Peoples of the Northern Great Plains Digital Collection*

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MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

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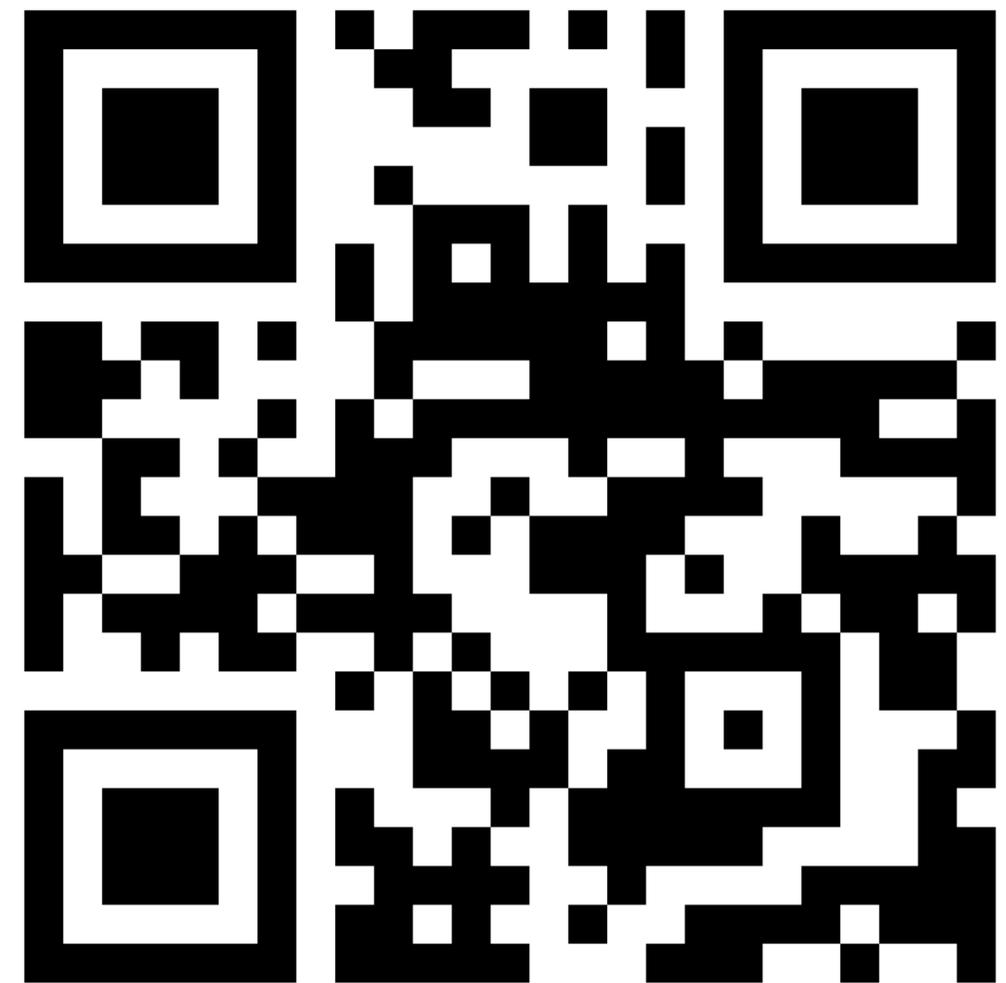


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Call the MCT Box Office for more information.
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No flash photography or videotaping during performances.
Please take a moment to locate the nearest emergency exit.
In an emergency, do not use the elevator.



Restroom available, please see an usher.



PRODUCTION

Director..... Abigail Gilbert
Music Director Arielle Nachtigal
Choreographer Annika Charlson
Stage Manager Isabella Schmidt
Assistant Stage Manager..... Hannah Luther
Accompanist Denise Harmon
Set Designer Blain Radford
Scenic Artist Blain Radford
Lighting Designer Aurora Watkins
Costume Designer Kylie Wallace
First Hand Sarah Sizemore
Makeup / Hair Design Kylie Wallace
Sound Designer Gregory Boris
Lead Properties Designer Lesley Washburn
Technical Director Abbey Mosely
Master Electrician Blain Radford
Wardrobe Aurora Watkins
Production Manager..... Theresa K Jenson
Artistic Director Joseph Martinez
Light Board Operator Ryan Young
Sound Board Operator James Cox
Vortek Julia Spaliatsos
Spot Light Operators Chuck Bloom, Mia Edwards,
Rebecca Jefferson, Mason Schweyen
Deck Manager Jatayo Jones
Deck Hand Liz Franzon

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CAST

Annie.....Lexi Stoops
MollyLacey Markovich*
KateElla Melwani*
Tessie.....Alaia DiDomenico*
PepperAlethea Tootell
July.....Lexi Ellis*
DuffyClover St. John
OrphanCharlotte Laufenberg
OrphanPippa Disney-Caton*
OrphanCharlotte McAfee*
OrphanEllery Myers*
OrphanJosie Dennison*
OrphanRuthie Luhmann*
OrphanKai Smith*
Oliver Warbucks.....Chas Elliott
GraceAmy Ellis
Miss HanniganKJ Olds*
RoosterDaniel Crary
LilyKelly Bouma*

FDR.....Rosie Seitz Ayers
Bert Healy & Lt Ward.....George Laufenberg
Ickes/Bundles & OthersTim Stoops
Perkins & OthersPhoebe Knight
Hull & Others.....Kalen Grinnell
Morganthau & OthersAlexis Elensky
Star to Be & OthersMadigan Schmitz*
Drake & OthersKamlin Cox*
Cecille/Sophie & Others.....Claire Burgeson
Annette & Others.....Emily Morrison
Mrs. Greer & Others.....Olivia Willoughby*
Mrs. Pugh & Others.....Samantha Dennison*
Boylan Sister & OthersKaliesha Taylor
Boylan Sister & OthersMolly Baylor
Boylan Sister & OthersAnnie Davis
Judge Brandeis & OthersBryce Poole*
Usherette & OthersTami Caton
Sandy.....Tuffy the Therapy Dog*,
Boomkin the Therapy Dog*

** denotes Missoula Children's Theatre Community Series debut!*



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DIRECTORS NOTE

I've spent a great deal of time these past few months investigating why we all love *Annie* so dearly and why we revisit her story time and time again. Is it her willingness to never give up while the whole world works against her? Perhaps it's her resolution that the sun will, in fact, come out tomorrow, despite the darkness that surrounds her. Or possibly her ability to take a chance on loving those around her, even though she's never had anyone stick around for long enough to experience true love?

A few months ago, the young girls playing the orphans in our show were asked why they are thankful for the Missoula Children's Theatre for a promotional video. One of the orphans, Kai, said that she's thankful for MCT because while she does other activities like sports and school, MCT is the place where she can be her true, authentic self. Then it hit me — that's why we love *Annie* so much. She's authentically her, all the time, no matter the circumstances. It's why she makes us laugh and cry, sometimes in the same breath — she's simply being herself.

There's something extra special about *Annie* during the holidays. Today, you'll see 36 incredible cast members, 17 of which are making their community series debuts on our stage. In addition, 7 family units are represented in this cast, singing and dancing together, telling this beautiful story.

Thank you to all who made this show possible — the cast and their families, Arielle, Annika, Isabella, Hannah, the design and production team, MCT, and for YOU, who are choosing to spend your busy holiday season with us. We thank you for allowing us to be authentically ourselves, and we hope you can do the same while you ENJOY THE SHOW!

-Abigail



WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR STUDIO M STARS!!

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SHINE ON STAGE!**

TIM

KELLY

ELLA

CHARLOTTE

LEXI

CLOVER

ABIGAIL

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WIPFLI

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

<i>Maybe</i>	Annie
<i>Hard Knock Life</i>	Annie, Orphans
<i>Hard Knock Life Reprise</i>	Orphans
<i>Tomorrow</i>	Annie
<i>Hooverville</i>	Company
<i>Little Girls</i>	Miss Hannigan
<i>Little Girls Reprise</i>	Miss Hannigan
<i>I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here</i>	Annie, Grace, Servants
<i>N.Y.C.</i>	Annie, Warbucks, Grace, Company
<i>Easy Street</i>	Miss Hannigan, Rooster, Lily
<i>Why Should I Change a Thing?</i>	Warbucks
<i>You Won't Be an Orphan for Long</i>	Annie, Warbucks, Grace, Servants

ACT TWO

<i>N.Y. Entr'acte</i>	Annie
<i>Fully Dressed</i>	Bert Healy, Boylan Sisters
<i>Fully Dressed (Children)</i>	Orphans
<i>Easy Street Reprise</i>	Miss Hannigan, Rooster, Lily
<i>Cabinet Tomorrow</i>	Annie, Warbucks, FDR, Cabinet Members, Howe
<i>Cabinet End</i>	FDR, Cabinet Members, Howe
<i>Something Was Missing</i>	Warbucks
<i>I Don't Need Anything But You</i>	Annie, Warbucks, Grace, Servants
<i>Same Effect on Everyone</i>	Annie
<i>A New Deal for Christmas</i>	Full Company
<i>Bows</i>	Full Company



Montana State Legislature

MONTANA SENATE

Senator Denley (Dewey) Loge

Senate District 45



November 20, 2025

Dear Missoula Community Theatre Members,

Congratulations to the Missoula Children's Theatre celebrating their 16th Sensory Friendly performance on Wednesday, December 17th, 2025, at 6 pm. This special evening series production of *Annie* is planned so that neurodivergent patrons, their families, and caregivers can comfortably experience live theatre together. The song "Tomorrow" seems to have exceptional importance to this special performance. This Sensory Friendly performance has required extra hours of preparation since September from community volunteers and staff. Thanks to all those involved in this production for the special innovations to adjust lighting, rhythm, and adjust volumes to accommodate the Sensory needs of this night.

A special thank you to the sponsors for this Sensory Friendly, FREE evening performance of *Annie* offered to family, friends, and the western Montana communities.

Wishing everyone a successful performance and wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Senator Denley M. Loge

SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

Annie

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BIOS

Thomas Meehan ~ Book

Thomas Meehan received the Tony Award for co-writing the book for *The Producers* in 2001 and in 2003 for co-writing the book for *Hairspray*. He received his first Tony Award in 1977 for writing the book of *Annie*, which was his first Broadway show, and has written the books for the musicals *Rocky*, *Elf the Musical*, *Cry-Baby*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Chaplin*, *Bombay Dreams*, *I Remember Mama*, *Ain't Broadway Grand* and *Annie Warbucks*. In addition, he was a long-time contributor of humor to *The New Yorker*, an Emmy-Award winning writer of television comedy, and a collaborator on a number of screenplays, including Mel Brooks' *Spaceballs* and *To Be Or Not To Be*. Mr. Meehan was also a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild. He and his wife, Carolyn, divided their time between a home in Nantucket and an apartment in Greenwich Village, near which, on Hudson Street, she owned and presided over the long-running and near-legendary children's store Peanut Butter & Jane.

Charles Strouse ~ Music

A long-standing member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and in January 2002, an inductee into The Theater Hall of Fame, Charles Strouse's first Broadway musical, *Bye Bye Birdie* (1960), won him a Tony® Award and the London Critics Best Foreign Musical Award. In 1970, *Applause*, starring Lauren Bacall, achieved the same honors and his smash hit, *Annie* (1977), also won a Tony® for Best Score as well as two Grammy Awards®. Some of his other musicals include *All American*, *Golden Boy* (starring Sammy Davis Jr.), *It's a Bird, It's a*

Plane, It's Superman, I and Albert, directed in London by John Schlesinger, and *Dance A Little Closer*, written with Alan Jay Lerner. *Charlie & Algernon* won a 1981 Tony® nomination for Best Score, as did *Rags* in 1987 and *Nick and Nora* in 1992. He wrote both the music and lyrics for off-Broadway's *Mayor*, and teamed again with Martin Charnin to create *Annie Warbucks*, the sequel to *Annie*. His film scores include *Bonnie and Clyde*, *The Night They Raided Minsky's*, and *All Dogs Go to Heaven*. "Those Were The Days," the theme song for TV's *All in the Family* is a Strouse song, with lyrics by his most frequent collaborator, Lee Adams. "Born Too Late", a 1958 pop song written with Fred Tobias, was a top-10 Billboard chart hit and is still heard on many oldies stations. The quadruple platinum album title song by Jay-Z, "Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem)", won the 1999 Grammy for the best Rap album, charted for more than a year and won the Billboard 1998 R&B Album of the Year Award. Strouse's far-ranging talents include chamber and orchestral works, a piano concerto, a two-piano sonata, and operas. His latest choral work, "The Child In Us All", premiered in Spring, 2000. *Nightingale*, an opera based on the Hans Christian Andersen story for which he wrote music, book and lyrics, was recorded by Sarah Brightman. Strouse was commissioned in 2001 to write *Concerto America* for the pianist Jeffrey Biegel. The work premiered in June 2002 with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall. Charles Strouse created the ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop in New York, where he encouraged the talents of countless young composers, writers and performers. In 1999, Strouse received the ASCAP Foundation Richard Rodgers Award for Career

BIOS

Charles Strouse continued...

Lifetime Achievement in Musical Theatre. In December, 1995, a tv reinterpretation of the classic *Bye Bye Birdie* (starring Jason Alexander and pop-star Vanessa Williams) aired on ABC-TV. The 1995/96 Emmy for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Music and Lyrics was given to the new song written for and performed by Vanessa Williams, "Let's Settle Down". Another TV interpretation in 1999, *Annie*, aired on ABC's Wonderful World of Disney, swept the ratings by winning over 40 million viewers, won the 1999 Peabody Award and 2 Emmy Awards. The show starred Kathy Bates, Audra McDonald, Alan Cumming, Kristin Chenoweth, Victor Garber, Andrea McArdle and Alicia Morton as Annie and ranked #1 as movie of the year. A revised *Golden Boy* was produced by the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven (November, 2000); and the *Encores!* Series presented the show in March, 2002. Future projects: *Golden Boy* will be performed at the Greenwich Theatre in England in June, 2003. *The Night They Raided Minsky's*, which Charles Strouse originally scored for film, was adapted into a full-length musical with a book by Michael Okrent and Evan Hunter, lyrics by Susan Birkenhead. An adaptation of the Paddy Chayevsky film *Marty*, had a successful regional theatre run at Huntington Theatre in Boston in September, 2002, reuniting Strouse with Lee Adams as lyricist; the book is by Rupert Holmes. Charles Strouse passed away on May 15, 2025.

Martin Charnin ~ Lyrics

Martin Charnin created the role of Big Deal in the original Broadway company of *West Side Story* in 1957, the only acting job he ever had. He began writing during *West Side Story* and his first collaborator was Mary Rodgers.

He was subsequently the director, lyricist, composer, librettist, producer or a combination of the aforementioned, for over 140 theatrical productions, including *Annie*, *Annie Warbucks*, the Rock Opera version of *Joan of Arc*, *Mata Hari*, *Loose Lips*, *Star-Crossed*, *Sid Caesar and Company*, *Carnal Knowledge*, *In Persons* starring Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson, *The Flowering Peach*, *Winchell*, the revised *Can Can* by Cole Porter (for which he wrote a new libretto), *Cafe Crown*, *Mike*, *Laughing Matters*, *The No Frills Revue*, *The First*, *On the Swing Shift*, *A Little Family Business*, *Upstairs at O'Neals*, *The National Lampoon Show*, *Lena Horne on Broadway*, *I Remember Mama*, *Hot Spot*, *Zenda*, *Put It In Writing*, *Fallout*, *Kaleidoscope*, *Ballad For A Firing Squad*, *La Strada*, *Nash at Nine*, *Music Music*, *Two by Two*, *And in London*, *Bar Mitzvah Boy*, *Bless the Bride*, *The 9 1/2 Quid Revue*, and internationally and regionally, 17 productions of *Annie*.

In the 60's and 70's he turned to Television and created 7 specials that garnered over 15 Emmy Awards, and the Peabody Award for Broadcasting.

His collaborators included Peter Allen, Harold Arlen, Vernon Duke, Keith Levenson, Michael Danziker, Peter Sipos, Mary Rodgers, Marvin Hamlisch, Richard Rodgers, and Charles Strouse.

BIOS

Martin Charnin continued...

He wrote for and directed among others, Fred Astaire, Jack Lemmon, Anne Bancroft, Lena Horne, Danny Kaye, Angela Lansbury, Johnny Mathis, Bill Murray, Jon Stewart, Bebe Neuwirth, Bernadette Peters, Sarah Jessica Parker, Gilda Radner, Molly Ringwald, Chita Rivera, Lou Reed, Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins, Joan Rivers, Chuck D., Phoebe Snow, Shirley MacLaine, Marlo Thomas, Julianne Moore, Martha Plimpton, and Barbra Streisand.

Charnin was the artistic director of Seattle's Showtunes for 7 years, before moving back to New York for the 4th incarnation of *Annie* on Broadway. He also created a one woman theatrical entertainment for his wife, Broadway and television star Shelly Burch.

Lexi Stoops ~ Annie

Lexi is honored and ecstatic to portray Annie with this wonderful cast and crew! This is Lexi's fourth MCT show; you might have seen her in *Cinderella*, *A Christmas Story* or *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!* She loves to act/sing/dance and enjoys shows the most because she gets to do them with her dad. She can't wait to spend the holiday season with her family and friends. Happy holidays and the sun will come out TOMORROW!

Chas Elliott ~ Oliver Warbucks

Chas appeared at MCT during the first season in the "new" theatre (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Secret Garden*, *Forever Plaid*). Since then, he's performed in NYC (Lincoln Center, Symphony Space, Carnegie Hall) and throughout Europe and the UK. Offstage he is a musical director, producer, and mentors performing artists. Chas is thrilled to be back as a member of the *Annie* company.

Amy Ellis ~ Grace Farrell

Amy is grateful to be back on the MCT stage and to be sharing this holiday show with her daughter Lexi (July). Amy was last seen as Woman 2 in *Songs for a New World* with ZDK Arts and Mother Superior in *Sister Act* at MCT. You can often find her enjoying the outdoors of Montana or with her nose in a book. Amy & Lexi send their love to Blake!

KJ Olds ~ Miss Hannigan

KJ is honored to make her MCT debut as Miss Hannigan! KJ is a proud UM alumna, BFA Acting – Go GRIZ! KJ holds her MFA in Acting from UC Irvine and began training for her career in entertainment as a Wicked Poppy in *The Wizard of OZ* (age 6) at MCT, averaging one show/year with MCT until 16, including MCT PAC starting at 11!

BIOS

Daniel Crary ~ Rooster

Audiences may remember Daniel Crary from *Little Shop of Horrors* or *SpongeBob*, but playing Rooster is the highlight of his time on this stage. Rooster is tragically misunderstood, and by trying to redistribute the wealth of the billionaire Oliver Warbucks, Rooster is a working-class hero. Daniel would like to dedicate this performance to the workers of the world. "You have only your chains to lose."

Kelly Bouma ~ Lily

This is Kelly's MCT debut and she absolutely loves everyone involved. She's especially excited to perform alongside her kiddo, Charlotte M. (Orphan #3)—a very special opportunity. Kelly teaches Acting at UM, leads yoga classes, and collaborates on creative projects with her family. They enjoy cooking, hot tubbing, and watching movies when not immersed in the world of (not so) make-believe.

Rosie Seitz Ayers ~ FDR

Rosie is delighted to be treading the boards of MCT as Roosevelt. Her most consistent role at MCT has been behind the curtain as a director, with her most recent production being *Young Frankenstein*. She last appeared in the lights at MCT in 2017 as the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. Whether Rosie is in a wig, painted green, or backstage she always adores collaborating with MCT. Special thanks to Abigail and gratitude for all the love and support this year of her community, family, friends, and the whole cast and crew of *Annie*!

Abigail Gilbert ~ Director

Abigail is THRILLED to direct this beautiful show – a musical she's loved since childhood. A performer, teacher, and director, some of her previous directing credits include *Rudolph*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Legally Blonde JR.*, *The Addam's Family JR.*, and *The Harvest*, with her theatre company, Rooted Theatre Co. Many thanks to the A Team – Arielle and Annika, to Isabella and Hannah, and to the cast, their families, and the Artistic Team for making this possible. Much love to mom and Miles!

Arielle Nachtigal ~ Music Director

Arielle is thrilled to be working with such a strong cast, crew, and artistic staff to share the joys of *Annie* with Missoula! She recently music directed *Waitress* and was last seen on stage as Madame de la Grande Bouche in MCT's *Beauty and the Beast* (2024). When not at MCT, Arielle does medical billing, pet sitting, and has recently become an audiobook narrator!

Annika Charlson ~ Choreographer

Annika has had a blast working on this production! Her most recent MCT choreography credits include *SpongeBob the Musical* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. She is a University of Montana Alum who choreographs and teaches dance at Show Tyme Academy, where she serves as Assistant Director/Studio Manager. She thanks the other leadership of the "A Team", as this show has been nothing short of amazing to work on with them! All her love to her circle of support and to her own dog, Piper.

BIOS

Isabella Schmidt ~ Stage Manager

Isabella is a student at The University of Montana, studying Theatre Education and Elementary Education. She has stage managed numerous productions, including *Legally Blonde Jr.* with director Abigail. *Annie* is the first community series show Isabella has stage managed as head alongside Abigail. She is excited for you to enjoy this familiar classic this holiday season.

Hannah Luther ~ Assistant Stage Manager

Though this show has been Hannah's first foray into stage management, she has also enjoyed acting, assistant directing, and touring with MCT. She wants to shout out the cast, crew, and phenomenal artistic team for their amazing work on this joyful show. She would also like to thank her husband, Sam, family, and friends for their love and support. Merry Christmas!

Tuffy ~ Sandy (evening performances)

Tuffy is a 4 ½ year old golden retriever, certified through Pet Partners. As an animal assisted therapy dog, Tuffy provides love and hugs for many people, whereas a service dog will be trained to help just one person. He is having the BEST TIME meeting so many new friends and absolutely loves visiting MCT and working hard to learn his "lines." Audrey, Tuffy's mama, absolutely adores her very good boy.

Boomkin ~ Sandy (matinee performances)

Boomkin is delighted to make his MCT debut. He is a 7-year-old golden retriever who Felicia and Paul re-homed when he was 11 months old. Boomkin is certified with Pet Partners for therapy work and crisis response, visiting Community Hospital's in-patient rehab wing, the UM Mansfield library during finals week, and the Target Range School library program for 4th graders. He has an endearing happy growl, but never growls when he's working, because he's a professional.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kathy Hubing • Jayna Bass • Carol Egelston • Laura Morris
Jeri Michalak • Monty Cawker • Patrick King • Steve and Cheryl Thompson
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THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT ALLOWED MCT TO PURCHASE NEW CYC LIGHTS FOR THE THEATRE.

Cyc lights, or “cyclorama lights”, are used to illuminate large areas on a set backdrop. The new LED lights are significantly reducing MCT’s electricity usage during our rehearsal and performance process.

Thank you again to our partners at First Security Bank and NorthWestern Energy for making this improvement possible.

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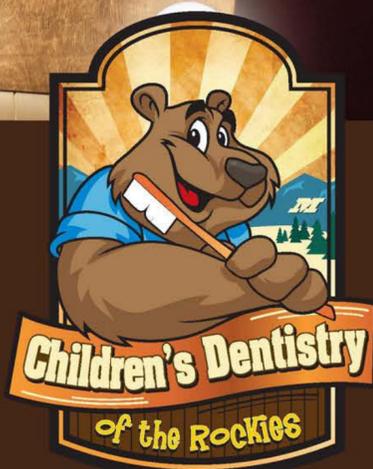
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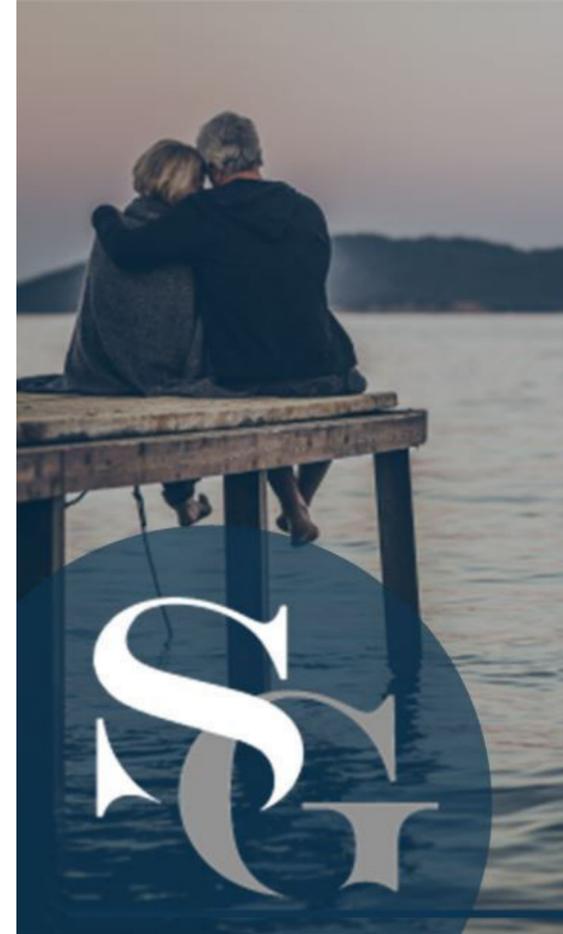


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MCT is deeply saddened by the sudden loss of two members of our community in 2024. To honor the memory and legacy of these individuals, their loved ones have created scholarships in their name.



The Logan Jacobson Memorial Scholarship is awarded to MCT summer day camp participants who exhibit some of Logan's most beautiful qualities – kind, inclusive, and generous.

To support Logan's legacy, visit MCTinc.org/Logan.



The Caleb Boelman Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to first-time Performing Arts Camp (PAC) participants from Montana. Caleb was passionate about ensuring everyone has access to the arts; this scholarship aims to alleviate the financial burden for future PAC campers who share Caleb's curiosity for everything and commitment to the arts.

To support Caleb's memorial scholarship, visit MCTinc.org/Caleb.

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In Loving Memory

Penny Miller

February 16, 1955 - October 24, 2025

In loving memory of Penny Miller, who lived a full and caring life centered on her family, faith and friends, and who shared that same warmth with all of us at MCT. Penny worked as a Costume Technician, a role that brought her great joy and allowed her to combine her love of sewing and hairdressing. We will miss her presence, her laughter, and the way she would always brighten our staff meetings with a well-timed joke.

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