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Young Actors Celebrate the Young at Heart

Contributed by **Laura Peebles**
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Volunteers are often the lifeblood of many organizations. That's also true for Acting Up, the Young Performers Community Theater group of Mason, which receives a good deal of help from the parents of many of its cast members.

In addition, the group also has been thrilled to obtain the assistance of several grandparents of the performers -- in addition to several senior volunteers who do not have children or grandchildren performing in the shows -- as well. And their contributions have certainly been welcomed.

Acting Up honored these most senior volunteers (age 55 and up) for their help with set design and construction, costume sewing, backstage help, special effects assistance and monetary donations, among their many other talents, at a gala reception on August 14.

The guests of honor were: John Miller, Joan and Neil Corstanje, Jerry and Mary Schlachta, Theresa and Gerald Gonthier, Denise Chasse, Mark and Margie Weichman and Bob Fritsch. In addition, Miller received an Orchid Award from the Cincinnati Association of Community Theaters for set construction and Fritsch won an Orchid award for set design.

Becca Johnson, Vice President of Acting Up, who will also be directing the group's upcoming 1920's musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie," said that Acting Up would not have gotten off the ground without all of the help and support from its senior volunteers. "Besides giving us their children and grandchildren who perform in our productions, they have shared all of their special talents with us," says Johnson. "These wonderful volunteers have made all the difference in the success of our previous four shows."

Each volunteer received a framed certificate noting their contributions to the theater group and were also presented a free pass for all future performances. Some of the cast from Acting Up's production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" were also on hand for the presentation. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed snacks that included a "Thank You" cake.

Performances of "Thoroughly Modern Millie," which will include 70 young performers, are scheduled at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21; 2 p.m., (sign language interpreter will be provided) and 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at the Mason High School Theater. Tickets are \$10 each (\$8 seniors and children under 12) and are available online at www.ActingUp.com or at the box office. The first 500 people named Millie get in free!! For more information call 513-588-0988.



Acting Up honors their senior volunteers. Honorees pictured (from left) Neil and Joan Corstanje, Pat and John Miller, Gerald and Theresa Gonthier, and Jerry and Mary Schlachta

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