



Neil Chaput de Saintonge

2018 Season

Dear Friend of Missoula's Youth,

Greetings from Garden City Ballet (GCB) - we are the local non-profit which produces *The Nutcracker* each year right here in Missoula. This season marks our 34th anniversary of bringing Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet to Western Montana audiences.

We'd like to share with you some of the things that make Garden City Ballet a local treasure.

- We provide a matinee school show for **FREE** to K-8th grade children from Missoula and the surrounding rural areas. Our goal is for every child to have the opportunity to attend. To date over **8500 students** have been thrilled by our show.
- Since 2001, GCB has awarded over **\$40,000 in scholarships** to Nutcracker dancers attending prestigious summer workshops across America.
- Performance opportunities in *The Nutcracker* are **available to all** local ballet dancers, regardless of studio affiliation.

The Arts are important - they enrich the lives of all students, our future leaders. They teach collaboration, team work and compassion. In an age of electronics and the increasing isolation associated with staring at a monitor/phone, The Arts stand out as a unique platform that taps into our humanity, breaking through walls - be they walls associated with gender, color or socioeconomic status.

As funding for the Arts continues to shrink, we look to our fellow Montanans to help keep The Arts alive in Missoula. Our free matinee school show, in particular, would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses and citizens who realize the value of The Arts to our youth.

Please consider making a contribution, or becoming a monthly donor. No gift is too small, and all are tax-deductible.

With deepest appreciation for your investment in the youth of our community,

Barbra West
Board President

Jordan Dehline Burt
Artistic Director

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