

2014 Projects of Special Merit

Amarillo Opera BRAVO - *Cast Care*

Amarillo Opera brings in guest artists, directors, stage managers, and conductors for both the fall and spring opera productions. Out of town guests are given a casual welcome party on the day of their arrival. Guild members provide food for this dinner that allows the guests to meet one another, the opera sponsors, and members of the Board of Trustees and the Guild in an informal setting.

Several patrons provide lodging for out of town guests in a family setting. *Cast Care* includes evening meals provided to the whole cast and crew the last four rehearsal nights prior to the performance. The *Cast Care* coordinator finds sponsors for each of the four meals for between sixty and one hundred people. Guild members usually provide one meal and also fill out meals with salad, water, and desserts as needed. These meals help create a family mood and build community while serving the needs of the cast.

The project lasts from three weeks before the beginning of the rehearsals to the last dress rehearsal twice a year. The Guild works as a whole to provide support to the hospitality chair and the *Cast Care* coordinator for this project.

Shreveport-Bossier Opera Guild - *Les Boutiques de Noel*

In its 39th year, the Opera Guild Christmas boutique is a one-stop shopping extravaganza with nearly 150 booths with goods ranging from jewelry to toys to clothes to food. The Guild begins planning next year's boutique as soon as this year's boutiques closes. Duties were handled by Guild members/volunteers. The guild's goal was to raise \$100,000 for the opera company; we exceeded this by raising \$130,000.

Performing Arts League of Chattanooga - *Vocal Competition for High School Students*

The Vocal Competition project, in its 19th year, awards and fosters the study of vocal performance and encourages young people to pursue classical singing as a career by providing them with an opportunity to compete with their peers, perform in front of a live audience, be judged and critiqued by a panel of unbiased professionals, and further their education in order to help launch their careers. One junior or senior student, male or female, from each high school or home school association in the area is eligible for the competition. Each must be recommended by his or her high school music teacher or private vocal instructor for at-large students. There is one winner and a first and second runner up, each receiving a monetary award. All contestants have opportunity to speak to the judges after the competition, which is open to the public

Up to 30 volunteers serve on committees ranging from administrative to fundraising. The project has awarded over \$30,000 since its inception.