



PRESS RELEASE

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The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta Awards a Common Good Funds Grant to the Center for Puppetry Arts

Atlanta, October 2009 – The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta recently announced that the Center for Puppetry Arts will be a recipient of one of the organization’s **Common Good Funds** grants, a program which focuses on strengthening the ability of Atlanta’s nonprofits to serve their community. Funded by unrestricted donations, the Common Good Funds program allows nonprofit organizations in The Community Foundation’s 23-county region to apply for grants through a competitive process. After rigorous reviews, and under the guidance of The Community Foundation’s board of directors, it was decided that the Center for Puppetry Arts would be awarded one such grant in the amount of \$75,000. The grant will be focused on providing general operating support to the Center, as well as improving the Center’s access to resources, thereby increasing its effectiveness.

“Like most nonprofits, the Center for Puppetry Arts has suffered the effects of our country’s economic crisis,” commented Founding Executive Director **Vincent Anthony**. “Because of budget constraints, the Center operates with only essential staff members and limited technological resources. Help, such as this generous Common Good Funds grant, is a huge blessing. These funds will allow us to continue to produce our shows, staff our museum, and provide educational workshops for our patrons.”

Since 1951, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta has been connecting community members, nonprofits, and other partners to strengthen the Atlanta region through philanthropy. Today they are one of the largest Community Foundations out of the more than 700 that exist around the country. With the support of their donors, The Community Foundation averages more than \$75 million in grants annually to an estimated 2,000 nonprofit organizations locally, nationally, and internationally.

Thanks to The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, the Center for Puppetry Arts will be able to continue its mission to entertain and enlighten audiences, nurture the world community of artists, and expand the puppetry art form by exploring its past, present, and future. The largest U.S. nonprofit organization dedicated to puppetry, the Center offers performance, museum, and education programming for all ages. The Center typically has 250,000+ annual admissions to its ticketed programs and makes a great effort to remain accessible to a diverse audience through ticket donations to economically and specially challenged populations.

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Center for Puppetry Arts® is a unique cultural treasure – a magical place where children and adults are educated, enlightened and entertained. Since 1978, the Center has introduced millions of visitors to the wonder and art of puppetry and has touched the lives of many through enchanting performances, curriculum-based workshops, and the hands-on Museum as well as Distance Learning and outreach programs. Center for Puppetry Arts is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is supported in part by contributions from corporations, foundations, government agencies, and individuals. Major funding is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Major support is provided by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs. These programs are supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through the appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly. GCA is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The 2009-10 Official Partners are Regency Suites Hotel, Leapfrog Extraordinary IT Services, and Atlanta Taste Catering. The Center is a Member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American Theatre, and the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts. The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA, the American branch of Union Internationale de la Marionette, the international puppetry organization.