



PRESS RELEASE
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CONTACT: Michael Cerio
942-6325 x 213

Trinity Rep Raises Over \$52K for RI Community Food Bank

Audiences continue to show tremendous generosity in spite of challenging economic times

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Trinity Rep is pleased to announce that they collected \$52,601 in cash donations to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank in addition to their annual canned food drive held at the theater – coming very close to last year’s record-breaking \$56,000 despite cutting the number of performances in half. In fact, this year’s patrons averaged double the amount donated per person over last year’s record-breaking numbers. Continuing their longtime partnership with the Food Bank as a holiday drop-off location for food donations, the theater concluded each performance throughout November and December of their holiday classic *A Christmas Carol* with a collection for the Food Bank. The donation was made on behalf of the thousands of Trinity Rep patrons attending the show, the theater’s staff and ushers.

"Trinity Rep has had a long and active partnership with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. For years, we have collected canned goods and other non-perishable items during the holiday season, and everyone in Rhode Island, from schoolchildren to senior citizens who come to see our holiday shows, has made a donation of food during this time," states Curt Columbus, Artistic Director. "This is our fourth season asking for monetary donations for the Food Bank, and Rhode Islanders were continued their generosity this year! Over \$52,000 was raised in donations of cash, checks, and, yes, pocket change - money that will go directly to families in need in our state. We are proud to be part of such an important, fruitful partnership."

"The past year has been one full of challenges for thousands of Rhode Islanders," stated Andrew Schiff, Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. "With so many of our neighbors facing difficult times, the generosity exhibited by Trinity Rep and their patrons, particularly during the holidays, is touching beyond words. The timeless story of hope, and the inspirational transformation of *Ebenezer Scrooge*, truly captures the holiday spirit. The outpouring of support that Rhode Islanders showed for those in need will go a long way towards helping local families this winter."

Currently, the Food Bank feeds more than 50,000 Rhode Islanders each month through a network of more than 300 member agency programs across the state. This represents an increase of 27% over last year. Additionally, SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program, now helps one in ten Rhode Island households purchase food with a 31 percent increase in recipients over the past year.

About Trinity Repertory Company

Since its founding in 1963, Trinity Repertory Company has been one of the most respected regional theaters in the country. Featuring the last permanent resident acting company in America, Trinity Rep presents a balance of world premiere, contemporary, and classic works for an estimated annual audience of approximately 135,000. In its 45-year history, the theater has produced 57 world premieres, mounted national and international tours, and, through its graduate-level theater arts conservatory, trained hundreds of new actors and directors. This season marks the 43rd year of Project Discovery, Trinity Rep's pioneering educational outreach program. Last season, the program introduced 25,000 Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut students to live theater. The Brown University/Trinity Rep Consortium

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offers professional training for actors and directors in a three-year MFA program. Trinity Rep's season presents six subscription productions and an annual production of *A Christmas Carol*. The 2009-2010 Season continues with *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare; *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl; *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon and *The Syringa Tree* by Pamela Gien. For more information or to subscribe, call the box office at (401) 351-4242 or visit Trinity Rep's website at www.trinityrep.com.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a non-profit organization located in Providence, RI. The Food Bank solicits, stores and distributes food products donated by supermarkets, wholesalers, food processors, local farmers and community food drives. The food is then distributed to the Food Bank's network of more than 300 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 9.5 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit www.rifoodbank.org.

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