



PRESS RELEASE
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Trinity Rep Gifts Free Performance of *A Christmas Carol* to Rhode Island Families in Need

More than 400 People Attend the December 1st Community Performance

PROVIDENCE, R.I. As the December 1st performance of the timeless classic, *A Christmas Carol*, came to an end, a thunderous applause filled Trinity Rep's space. While this is a frequent occurrence, it was the special audience that gave the performance its unique feeling.

Last month, Trinity Rep announced that they would make a gift to the local community by opening up their December 1st performance for free to Rhode Islanders in need. Tickets were made available through Trinity's partnership with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other charitable organizations supported by the show's cast.

The powerful message of *A Christmas Carol* may never be as important as it is now, commented Michael Gennaro, Trinity Rep's Executive Director. Everyone is feeling the effects of the struggling economy, something that can be even more difficult as we enter the holiday season. We wanted to do our part to make the holidays brighter for those who otherwise may not have the opportunity to see a performance. From the looks of all the smiling faces, I know we did just that, finished Gennaro.

The show's guests, who represented communities all across our state, were treated to more than just the award-winning performance. Ocean State Job Lot, thanks to the generosity of Co-Founder Marc Perlman, donated hot chocolate for the guests and children's holiday gifts for families.

This is a great example of what can happen when two non-profit organizations work together, stated Andrew Schiff, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. For too many families, the holidays can be a painful reminder of the difficulties they endure each day. However, the generosity of Trinity Rep, and Ocean State Job Lot, will go a long way in spreading joy this season. "

Currently, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank is feeding 40,000 Rhode Islanders each month through a network of 285 certified member agency programs. This reflects a 12% increase over last year. In the last year, emergency food programs of the Food Bank served 10 million meals to Rhode Islanders in need. Additionally, nearly 11 percent of all Rhode Islanders, representing 115,000 citizens, do not know where their next meal will come from.

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 285 member agencies. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 8.3 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit www.rifoodbank.org

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

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audience of nearly 160,000. In its 44-year history, the theater has produced 54 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 42nd year of Project Discovery, Trinity Rep's pioneering educational outreach program. Launched in 1966, the program introduces over 20,000 Rhode Island and Massachusetts students a year to live theater. The Brown University/Trinity Rep Consortium offers professional training for actors and directors in a three-year MFA program. Trinity Rep's 45th season continues with *The Receptionist* by Adam Bock, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, *The Secret Rapture* by David Hare, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde and *Shapeshifter* by Laura Schellhardt. For more information, call the box office at (401) 351-4242 or visit Trinity Rep's website at www.trinityrep.com.

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