

# **INTERN ANGELS – SUPPORTING THE PROFESSIONAL ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE**

## **SEATTLE REPERTORY ORGANIZATION**

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### **How Project Developed**

Each Year Seattle Repertory Theatre selects 12-14 interns to participate in their Professional Arts Training Program. They are each selected for an internship in a specific department, such as artistic-casting, artistic-literary, company management, costume shop, development, education, lighting design, production management, properties, scenic arts-paint shop, and stage management. Most of the interns are recent college graduates and are moving to Seattle to participate in the Professional Arts Training Program. They receive a weekly stipend from Seattle Repertory Theatre, but it is not sufficient to cover their living expenses.

### **Project Set-up and Cost**

One of the standing committees of Seattle Repertory Organization (SRO) is the Intern Angels. The chair of the committee coordinates the following activities:

- Hosting a welcome dinner for the interns. The theatre staff member who is the intern coordinator also attends, along with some of the other theatre staff. This is usually the first time that the interns have all met each other and it is a nice time for them to get to know each other. They also have the opportunity to learn more about SRO and volunteer programs at Seattle Repertory Theatre.
- Many of the interns need household items. The SRO Angels solicit donations from other SRO members for requested items such as dishes, silverware, or even vacuum cleaners for the interns.
- SRO volunteers collect donations of candy, cookies, nuts, fresh fruit, juice boxes, granola bars, etc. and provide each intern with a gift basket of food items for holidays such as Halloween, Valentine's Day, Passover and Easter.
- Throughout the year, SRO members provide treats for intern seminars.
- In November SRO members partner with the Theatre staff and the Seattle Repertory Theatre Board of Trustees to collect cash donations for grocery store gift cards for the interns. Due to the generosity of SRO members, theatre staff and Board of Trustees, each intern received \$400 in gift cards in November, 2015. When the theatre is dark in late December and early January the interns have a break, but do not receive a monetary stipend from the theatre. The gift cards to grocery stores are very much appreciated. SRO members may also donate food items for the interns.

- In December the SRO has a potluck lunch and a holiday party. The interns attend and present an original skit to entertain SRO members and thank them for their support. The interns are also invited to join SRO for the luncheon.

### **Benefits -- Volunteer Support for the Program**

The essential elements to success are the commitment of the SRO volunteers and support of Seattle Repertory Theatre staff. Accordingly:

- The number of hours required per year depends on the number of activities planned. The welcome dinner takes the most planning and donations.
- The Seattle Repertory Organization and Seattle Repertory Theatre do not budget or spend any money for the Intern Angels. All food items are donated by SRO members. SRO members can decide when they want to donate.
- Interns receive food and money to purchase food to sustain them.

### **Benefits -- Success of the Program**

The results are amazing. SRO members have the opportunity to get to know the interns and may follow them and their careers when they complete their internships. The interns meet SRO members and learn about volunteer programs at Seattle Repertory Theater. Interns feel supported as they venture into the world of theatre, many living in Seattle for the first time.

