

Increasing Access to Music, Dance, Song and Theater

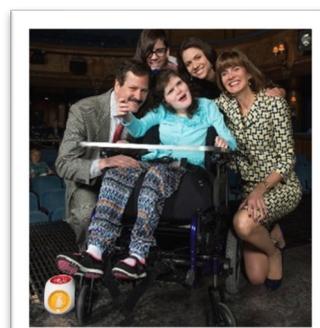
Thanks to donors like you, community members impacted by disabilities, aging or other physical and mental considerations are able to enjoy programming and performances tailored to their unique needs through Kasey's Fund, presented by MGIC.

Inspired by a Love for the Arts

In 2020, Kasey's Fund was created to ensure that everyone can experience the magic of the arts by eliminating barriers imposed by disability, geography and other physical and mental considerations.

Kasey's Fund was inspired by former UPAF President & CEO Deanna Tillisch's middle daughter, Kasey. Kasey was born with a chromosome deletion, 1p36, which resulted in profound cognitive and physical disabilities. Because of the chromosome deletion, Kasey cannot walk, talk, read or write, but music is one of her great joys and one of the main ways she expresses herself.

Kasey's story reinforces why the arts matter. The ability to share in the performing arts opens up new worlds for everyone and can have especially great resonance for those who might be most likely to lack access — either due to disabilities, severe illness, trauma or Alzheimer's or dementia.



The Tillisch family at the Broadway Theatre Center.

The Impact of Your Gift

Gifts to Kasey's Fund support grants to UPAF Members for projects that enhance the accessibility of the arts through a variety of avenues.

Sensory-Friendly Performances

- Milwaukee Ballet's sensory-friendly adaptation of *The Nutcracker* allows those with autism and other special needs to enjoy the holiday classic in comfort.
- First Stage's sensory-friendly adaptations of six mainstage theater productions in 2022-23 include *Arthur & Friends Make a Musical*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Carmela Full of Wishes*, *The Hobbit*, *The Spongebob Musical* and *Bob Marley's Three Little Birds*.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Renaissance Theaterworks will present *Cost of Living*, which explores how disability, privilege and marginalization affect the lives of the characters in the play, one of which will be portrayed by an actor with a physical disability. Further efforts to increase accessibility of this production include closed captioning, ASL interpretation and a sensory-friendly performance.
- Milwaukee Chamber Theater will include one ASL-interpreted performance per production for a total of five interpreted performances in the 2022-23 season.

Tailored Programming

- Milwaukee Ballet's *Tour de Force* provides adaptive ballet classes and performance opportunities for students with cognitive, physical, emotional or behavioral disabilities.
- Danceworks' Artist in Residence program with St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care engages children and seniors through dance.
- Next Act Theatre will take play readings and talkbacks to assisted living centers for adults who are unable to physically or affordably come to the theatre to see plays.
- The Florentine Opera, in collaboration with Penfield Children's Center and Montessori Academy, will build community through opera, introducing students to singing, movement and costume design.

Advancing Inclusion in the Arts

Kasey's Fund presents opportunities for all audiences to feel welcomed and participate in the arts. The chance to engage in the magic of the arts can be life changing.

"Our daughter was interested in this program last spring and has been requesting a dance class for many consecutive months now. So, we were really excited about the opportunity! I want to thank you and the staff at Milwaukee Ballet for making her feel welcomed. She really enjoyed this experience and I really enjoyed seeing her so happy. We hope to see you all in the fall. Thank you again."

~ Parent of *Tour de Force* student



Dancers of Milwaukee Ballet's *Tour de Force*, post-performance



Danceworks at St. Ann Center

Opportunities to Designate to Kasey's Fund

With a gift of \$1,200 or more to the 2023 UPAF Community Campaign, you may choose to designate 10% of your gift to Kasey's Fund. With a gift of \$5,000 or more, you may designate 20% of your gift to Kasey's Fund and support the continuation and creation of projects by local arts groups that invite **all** to engage with the arts.