

## CALLING ALL ANGELS!

In 1946, *It's a Wonderful Life* came to the silver screen and - over the last 70 years - has truly touched generations. After 7 decades few people (at least of a certain age) have not seen, let alone heard of, this heartwarming holiday classic. Of those who have seen it, still fewer can say that they were not moved in one way or another. After all, how could it not affect its audiences and still last 70 years!

*It's a Wonderful Life* tells the story of George Bailey, a good, hard-working man whose heart was always with helping others, but whose life circumstances have led him to question his very reason for being, to question the difference he has made, to question the point of going on. With the help of his guardian angel, Clarence, George is blessed with the opportunity to see exactly the impact he has made in the world, and how very different – not for the better – the world would have been without him. As a final confirmation of the difference George has made in the lives of his community, the entire town comes together and contributes anything they can to help George out of a financial situation that would have led to devastating failure for George, his family, and the community. From small change, to mad money, to life savings, to future divorce savings, to large donations, the town came forward without question to help this man who had done so much for so many. In the midst of the merriment, a single Christmas bell tells us that Clarence has earned his wings.

While we could be relaying this story to you as part of a 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of a beautiful film, or in anticipation of a showing of the film for the same reason, or even as an introduction to an announcement of a pending theatrical adaptation – sadly, we are not. You see, Childrens Playtime Productions IS George Bailey AND we are at the crossroads faced by George at the end of the film.

Unlike George, we do not need an angel to help us to see the difference that CPP has made in the last 20 years. We see it in the faces of the six thousand plus students who sit in our audiences for each production. We see it in the faces of the many, many hundreds of youth who have participated in our 30+ main stage productions. We see it year after year as returning participants grow and learn and excel. We hear it from parents, teachers, participants and others who marvel at what we accomplish and how the participants have been impacted. Most importantly, we hear it (typically years after) from participants we thought wanted to be anywhere else that they were, in fact, exactly where they wanted and needed to be - and that we made a positive and lasting impact in their lives. While we generally deflect praise, we are extremely proud of the difference that we have made and continue to make in the lives of our youth. It is the reason we have sacrificed so much in our personal lives to keep going.

Like George, though, we face a financial challenge that is daunting and threatening to the continued existence of the organization. In short, we need the help of everyone in our own “Bedford Falls” to determine if CPP is at the end of its movie, or if it will continue on in time!

**To be sure that we have not understated the situation – CPP and its shepherds are broke and CPP will have to shut its doors if our community cannot confirm, financially, that there is value to the difference that we have made and can continue to make. CPP is a non-profit. There is no product to sell – money either comes in from donations or from ticket sales. Most schools cannot afford tickets even at nominal prices when they still have to pay for transportation costs. That leaves donations. That leaves you and the people you can contact on behalf of CPP. No amount is too small when given from the heart!**

Just click this link to get us your donation on-line now =>  
[www.childrensplaytimeproductions.com/donatotcpp.html](http://www.childrensplaytimeproductions.com/donatotcpp.html)

OR – send us a check or money order made payable to Childrens Playtime Productions to P.O. Box 10087, Palm Desert, CA 92255-0087.

OR – call us to arrange to drop off or have us pick up your donation if that makes the difference in giving (760-841-3177)

Let's get bells ringing throughout the valley!