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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORD'S THEATRE SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH BRIGHT BEGINNINGS ON DONATION DRIVE THROUGH PERFORMANCES OF *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

In the last 10 years, the company and audiences of *A Christmas Carol* have raised more than \$836,000 for Washington-area charities

Washington, D.C. — Ford's Theatre Society announced that the company of the 2019 production of *A Christmas Carol* has selected D.C.'s **Bright Beginnings** as recipient of this year's donation drive inspired by the themes of charity in Dickens's holiday classic. During the curtain calls for performances, the company of *A Christmas Carol* will collect monetary donations on behalf of the Washington-based non-profit. Patrons may also make donations through the Ford's Theatre Box Office. All donation checks should be made payable to "Bright Beginnings."

Bright Beginnings operates early childhood and family learning centers for children and families experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C. For more than 29 years, they have helped thousands of children and their families experiencing homelessness achieve self-sufficiency. Their centers offer full-day, year-round, developmentally appropriate early childhood education services for children birth to five at no cost to their families.

***A Christmas Carol* plays at Ford's Theatre from November 21, 2019 through January 1, 2020.** Performance tickets are available for sale at www.fords.org.

Since 2009 and in the spirit of giving and charity expressed in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, Ford's audiences, cast, crew and staff have collected more than \$836,000 for local charities, including Homeless Children's Playtime Project, Food & Friends, N Street Village, Bread for the City, Covenant House Washington, Martha's Table, Miriam's Kitchen, So Others Might Eat (SOME), Thrive DC and House of Ruth. Funds directly help these organizations sustain the thousands within the D.C.-area who struggle with issues of hunger, mental health, illness and homelessness.

A Christmas Carol Charity Announcement 2019: Bright Beginnings

“Each gift made in support of Bright Beginnings provides young children experiencing homelessness with a safe and nurturing learning environment, preparing them to enter kindergarten ready to learn,” said **Ford’s Theatre Director Paul R. Tetreault**. “I am thrilled and humbled by the generosity of our audiences and the dedication of the company of *A Christmas Carol*. Now in its 11th year, this donation effort has raised almost a million dollars on behalf of local non-profits.”

“We are so delighted to be this year’s beneficiary,” said **Darin Allen, Bright Beginnings Director of Development and External Affairs**. “*A Christmas Carol* is a timeless work that brings people together of all ages and backgrounds. For 30 years Bright Beginnings has been committed to the elimination of homelessness and intergenerational poverty among the District of Columbia’s most vulnerable children and families. The sharing of holiday cheer with family and friends is important to building community. Our goal of ensuring that everyone has a warm meal, a safe place to call home and feels loved are all themes that are present throughout the play as well as in our work at Bright Beginnings.”

Ford’s Theatre Society

Since reopening in 1968, more than a hundred years after President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, Ford’s Theatre has celebrated Lincoln’s legacy and explored the American experience through theatre and education. Under the leadership of Director Paul R. Tetreault, Ford’s Theatre has been recognized for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and nationally acclaimed *Big River* to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford’s Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. For its accomplishments, the organization was honored in 2008 with the National Medal of Arts. For more information, visit www.fords.org.

Bright Beginnings

Bright Beginnings is dedicated to meeting the immediate needs of children and families experiencing homelessness by:

- Providing children with a safe, nurturing educational environment;
- Preparing children to enter kindergarten ready to learn; and
- Supporting parents in stabilizing their home lives and becoming self-sufficient.

For more information, visit www.bbidc.org.

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FACT SHEET: A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens * Adapted by Michael Wilson
Directed by Michael Baron

Ford's Theatre Society presents *A Christmas Carol* from **November 21, 2019** to **January 1, 2020**. Join the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future as they lead the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey of transformation and redemption. Conceived by Michael Baron, this music-infused production captures the magic and joy of Dickens's Yuletide classic. Craig Wallace plays Scrooge in this "musically high-spirited" and "infectiously jolly" (*The Washington Post*) production.

DATES: November 21, 2019 to January 1, 2020
Private Donor Performance: December 7, 2019 (matinee)

LOCATION: Ford's Theatre is located at 511 10th Street NW, between E and F streets.

TIMES: Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30 p.m. (except November 28, December 24, 25, 31 and January 1); Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (except December 7). December 31 at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Weekday noon matinees are December 4 and 5. Weekday 2 p.m. matinees are November 27, 29, December 11, 12, 18, 19, 23, 26 and January 1.

TICKETS: \$34-\$124.

ACCESSIBILITY: Ford's Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair accessible seating and restrooms and audio enhancement.

Audio-described performances of *A Christmas Carol* are December 3, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. and December 28, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. **Sign-interpreted** performances are December 8, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. and December 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. A **Sensory-Friendly performance** is scheduled for December 14, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. A **captioned performance** is scheduled December 22, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

Beginning November 29, all performances of *A Christmas Carol* will be captioned via the **GalaPro App**. GalaPro is available from the App Store or Google Play, and allows patrons to access captioning on demand through their phone or tablet device. Patrons set their phones to airplane mode and connect to the local GalaPro Wifi network before the performance begins. More information at <https://www.fords.org/visit/accessibility/galapro-captioning>.

Free Tickets to First Performance

Ford's Theatre partners with TodayTix to give out free tickets for the first preview of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. One-hundred and fifty tickets will be available via the TodayTix app, beginning November 14, for the November 21 performance of *A Christmas Carol*. Visit www.fords.org/free for lottery entry details.

PARKING: Paid parking is available at several independent neighborhood garages: the 24-hour QuickPark at the Grand Hyatt (entrance on 10th Street between G and H Streets NW), the Central Parking Garage (entrance on 11th Street between E and F Streets NW), and the One Parking garage below Ford's Theatre (at 511 10th Street, NW).

METRO: Metro Center station (Red, Blue, Orange and Silver Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the Eleventh Street exit. Gallery PI-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the G Street exit. For further information, call Metro at (202) 637-7000.

Tickets only at www.fords.org or (888) 616-0270
Information: (202) 347-4833 — Groups: (202) 638-2367
#FordsCarol