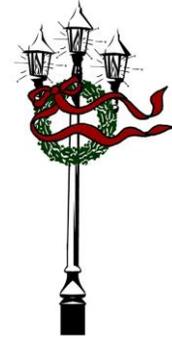


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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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Celebrating 30 Years of The Gift – A Christmas Carol The Musical

Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont, CA—This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of NDNU's A Christmas Carol the Musical. It is known as "The Gift" because it is presented free to the community and because many audience members bring donations of new toys and non-perishable food. Since 1985, over 150,000 people have attended and an annual average of three tons of food and 1,500 toys have been collected. These "gifts" are distributed to local needy via organizations like Samaritan House, Second Harvest, Saint Anthony's and the Belmont Fire Department.

Many of The Gift's cast and crew return year after year because of the special place the show has in their hearts. Among them is Michael Elkins who, with fellow NDNU employee Steve Furgas, dreamed up the The Gift decades ago in order to remind people of the responsibility each individual has to uplift his or her community by contributing needed services and support whenever and wherever they are needed.

The generosity of NDNU, numerous community members, and several Bay Area businesses help to cover annual production costs. In recent years, contributions have been made by restaurants including B St. and Vine, Three Restaurant & Bar, Village Host, Vivace, Hobbee's, The Counter, Chipotle, Toto's Pizzeria, Lorenzo's Sandwich Shop, The Fish Market, Mistral, The Vault and many others. Markets including Safeway, Lunardis, Trader Joe's, and Piazza's have also contributed. Vince's Shellfish, Valley Crest Landscape, Walgreens, Pete's Coffee, and Starbuck's Coffee are among a long list of additional supporters.

As Mr. Elkins eloquently states, "The Gift belongs to everyone involved in making the production come to life as well as to the faithful audiences who both give and receive the goodwill of the season. Our Christmas Carol Family is committed to keeping The Gift alive for years to come." Like Ebenezer Scrooge, we commit to "honor Christmas in (our) heart(s) and try to keep it all the year."

California governors, members of the United States Congress, the California Assembly and Senate, other state and local government agencies, and local arts and social service organizations, have recognized The Gift. Governor Brown recently issued a Commemorative Letter honoring 30 years of The Gift, and the City of Belmont proclaimed December 2015 "A Christmas Carol Month."

To learn more about The Gift, visit www.ChristmasCarolTheGift.com.

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