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Dear Friend of the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley:

This year, close to 4,000 area students will thrill to the beauty of ballet and live orchestral music, many for the first time, thanks to *The Nutcracker* for Students, a program of the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley. This program has been a holiday tradition for more than 50 years and has touched the lives of more than 100,000 students.

We invite you to support this tradition by making a contribution through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has recognized *The Nutcracker* for Students as an innovative education program under the EITC program. By making a qualified corporate contribution, your company will be eligible for a tax credit equal to 75 percent of your contribution, up to \$750,000.

Why should you contribute to *The Nutcracker* for Students program?

- **You will support the arts**, which are key to a high quality of life and positively and significantly affect school engagement, college aspirations and empathy.
- **You will reduce financial barriers** so children from all socioeconomic backgrounds can participate in cultural enrichment programs.
- **You will provide area teachers** with an important educational resource to bring the arts into the classroom.

The Nutcracker for Students program, under the direction of Karen Kroninger Knerr, artistic director, is a unique arts education experience that includes student dancers and nationally acclaimed guest artists; live orchestral music by the Southside Sinfonietta, a 48-piece orchestra that performs the full score under the direction of Eugene Albulescu, music director; and school choirs. An informal curtain talk about ballet and the production takes place during intermission. A study guide helps teachers extend this arts education program beyond the performance.

We hope we can count on your support. *To participate:*

- Complete an application for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program using the PA Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Single Application for Assistance, which can be accessed at www.esa.dced.state.pa.us.
- Upon receipt of written approval from DCED, please send your contribution to the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley *within 60 days of the date of the letter.*

- The Ballet Guild will send you a written acknowledgement of your contribution, which must be sent to the PA DCED *within 90 days of the date of the approval letter*.
- For more information on the EITC program, visit <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/>.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact us with any questions about the Education Improvement Tax Credit Program or to learn more about our programming.

Gratefully,

Jennifer L. Altemose, Esq.
President of the Board

Julian Ritchey
Treasurer