



# DONOR STORIES

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## WATERLOO COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

### “Waterloo Community Playhouse Endowment Fund”

The Waterloo Community Playhouse (WCP) first began in 1916 with the organization of the Waterloo Community Drama League by Miram Marsh in a converted church. Carl Glick was hired that same year as the Director of the first Community Theater in Iowa.

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America.*

Since 1916, the group has gone through numerous changes including its first home in the furnace room of the old Recreation Center in 1961. An upgrade to the Hope C. Martin Theater (located now in the Waterloo Center for the Arts) in 1965 also marked an increase in season membership tickets reaching 680. Membership and interest continued to grow with the Black Hawk Children’s Theater (BHCT) joining the WCP in 1982. A few years later, the WCP/BHCT found a permanent home in the Walker Building (a gift from Lowell Walker) across the street from the Hope C. Martin Theater.

By 1993, the WCP membership hit 2,700 with an attendance over 20,000 guests for the season. A year later, the BHCT membership grew to 1,220 public season members and 1,240 school season members.

The WCP/BHCT received the “Organization of the Year/Pride of the Cedar Valley” award from the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce and the “Attraction of the Year” award by the Waterloo Convention & Visitors Bureau for the BHCT program. They also received a special appreciation award from the City of Waterloo in honor of “Valuable and Dedicated Service to the Community.”

The WCP has become one of the largest community theatres per capita in America. By establishing an Endowment Fund with the Community Foundation of Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Northeast Iowa, the WCP/BHCT will continue to serve our community by providing people of all ages with quality theatre productions and theatre education programs.

\*Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa