

## SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

*YC Dance & Drama Takes Center Stage for "THE Holiday Show"*



*YC's Dance & Drama Cast strikes a funny pose at their final dress rehearsal*

We all know what happens in the North Pole at Christmas, but how do Santa and crew celebrate the *other* holidays? Participants and volunteers in YC's **Dance & Drama** program spent the past several months answering that question and creating a one-of-a-kind production in the process!

With the help of Ed Gallagher & Sarah Clare from **Beck Center for the Arts**, the YC Gang wrote original skits taking us through a year at the North Pole explaining what Santa, Mrs. Claus, and all the elves and reindeer do for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Earth Day, the 4th of July, Halloween and Thanksgiving! Complete with appearances by Willy Wonka, Buddy the Elf, Krampus, "DJ Grinch Mouse" and MORE, the finished product was a lively, laugh-out-loud extravaganza of creativity that only the YC Gang could pull off!

"**THE Holiday Show**" was performed for YC families and friends on Saturday, December 8th at Magnificat High School's Performing Arts Center. The afternoon's festivities also included recognition of our **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, Chris Carney**, for his leadership to YC's Board since 1998; the pulling of our **Holiday CASH Raffle Winner** (congratulations to participant James Smoot and family!); and a year-end video featuring photos from this past season as well as special memories of our beloved van driver, **Mike Del Pizzo**, who lost his battle with cancer earlier this year and a send-off to **Melissa Thurstone**, our Community Development Manager, who will be retiring later this month. We also had a special gift for **Mary Sue Tanis** to honor her stepping down as Executive Director. Each participant on stage, along with YC staff and past and present board members, handed her a single rose, representing the *many* individual lives she has touched in her 42 years as YC's fearless leader!

The YC Gang celebrated a successful show and got even *more* into the holiday spirit with cookies and refreshments in the lobby after the performance. Thank you to everyone who made the show possible and congratulations to this outstanding cast for a job well done!



Ryan & Melina doing the "Thriller" dance; Rena & Mia read their lines; Faith & Luca (AKA Santa & Mrs. Claus) on the 4th of July; the YC Gang strikes a pose!



**YC GANG  
MEETS GOAL  
ON  
HOLIDAY  
CASH  
RAFFLE!**

Thanks to the help and hard work of YC participants, volunteers and families, **over \$5,700** was raised to support YC programming through this fall's **HOLIDAY CASH RAFFLE!**

YC's program staff promised that if our \$5,000 goal was met, participants and volunteers would have the chance to pelt them with **1,000 water balloons** this winter. Looks like they'll need to bundle up 'cuz that goal was exceeded! *Water balloon throwing TBD...stay tuned for details!!!*

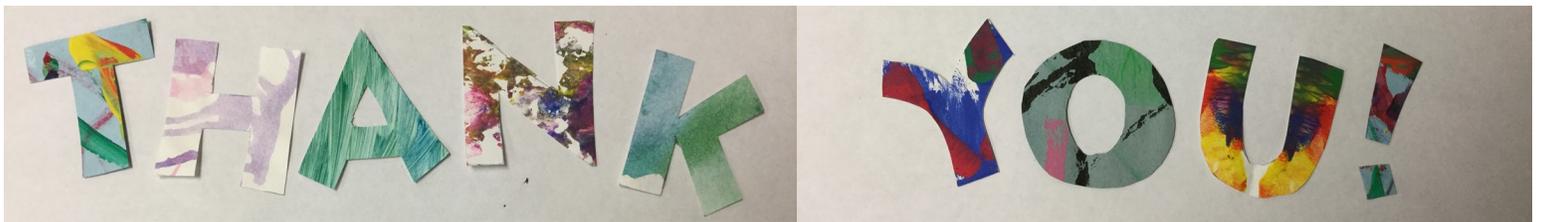
Special congratulations to **TOP SELLERS** Greer Gallagher, Julia Heintz, Caitlin Lione, Baker Pidcock and Harrison White! They will be treated to a special outing with the program staff (after they've dried off from 1,000 water balloons) sometime this winter as reward for going above and beyond in their fundraising efforts. Thank you to **EVERYONE** who helped sell tickets!

# REMEMBERING MIKEY "MEATBALL"

# Mike Del Pizzo, 1948-2018



It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that we say goodbye to a member of our YC family. Mike Del Pizzo, a 28 year driver for YC and a wonderful man, passed away from cancer this October. Mike was as loyal friend and co-worker, and as good a man as there is, dedicating so much of his life to YC, Kiwanis, and making his little piece of the world a better place. He loved YC and was an important member of our family. His favorite days involved bowling and fishing with the YC Gang. Mikey "Meatball" loved the YC kids and held special moments at program and on the van close to his heart. Rest easy, Mikey! Have a safe ride home, friend!



SPECIAL THANKS to the following people, groups, organizations and corporations who helped with programs this past season:

- Avon High School
- Avon Lake HS Boys Soccer Team
- Beck Center for the Arts—*Sarah Clare & Ed Gallagher*
- Ray Caspio
- Cleveland Browns
- Cleveland Museum of Art
- Cleveland Rock Gym
- Collinwood Rec. Center
- Cuyahoga County Arts & Culture
- Gemini Center, Fairview Park
- Gesu Parish
- Hanna Perkins Center
- Hathaway Brown Golf & Volleyball Teams
- Invacare
- Jamie Kravitz
- Labre Ministry

- Lubrizol Corporation
- Magnificat HS Tennis Team
- Magnificat HS PAC—*Dale Van Neil*
- North Olmsted Golf Club
- Jill Oatey
- Rebman Lanes
- ReelAbilities Film Festival
- Shaker Heights HS Hockey Team
- Smart Business—*Mark Scott*
- St. Martin de Porres
- The Turn—*Trevor Hazen*
- Thornton Ice Rink
- Wickliffe Lanes
- YC Volunteer Committee



Two of our VAN-tastic groups with participants and volunteers: Tennis Clinic with Magnificat HS Tennis Team / Service Day with Gesu Parish