Our supporters helped our Foundation reach new heights, and touch more lives than ever.
Dear Donors and Supporters,

When COVID-19 hit our industry, it’s safe to say that uncertainty consumed so many of us. From our health and work, to our finances and future, the lack of stability on all fronts shook our community to its core.

I must admit this was a peculiar position to find myself in during my first year as the new President of the SAG-AFTRA Foundation. For thirty-five years, our Foundation had offered a safety net, emergency assistance, and free classes and workshops to SAG-AFTRA artists thanks entirely to the generosity of our donors. However, in 2020 the game changed.

We knew this was no time for business as usual.

When we launched the COVID-19 Relief Fund in March, I didn’t know what to expect. I knew thousands of our fellow artists and their families would be facing life crises of all types—unable to pay for rent, groceries or other emergency expenses—but I was uncertain how Hollywood would best meet the moment when everyone, everywhere was collectively struggling.

Thankfully, YOU showed me how much more we are than just an industry that prides itself on surprises and unpredictability. Together, we are a COMMUNITY that looks out for our neighbors and takes care of our most vulnerable.

Thanks to our staff and a growing network of supporters, which includes industry leaders, peers, agencies, studios, and streamers, we’ve been able to grant more than $6 million in emergency financial assistance to over 6,500 SAG-AFTRA performers and their families facing hardship. Because you heeded the call and stepped up to support our community, we have been able to help thousands of SAG-AFTRA performers with basic living expenses and a brighter future.

In addition, at a time when performing artists are desperate to hone their craft, the Foundation has expanded its programming efforts online, offering over 1,200 virtual classes and workshops, an expansive online video library, as well as digital resources where performers are able to continue working on their craft safely and remotely.

Lastly, the Foundation’s children literacy program Storyline Online® has seen a 20% surge of engagement in 2020 with over 140 million views worldwide, introducing new storytellers to help millions of children, teachers and parents stay engaged in remote learning while so many are relegated to their homes.

As our industry moves towards that bright light at the end of a long tunnel, it remains an almighty question when productions will fully resume and the majority of jobs return. However, I take great confidence that our community will continue to help those who need it, and I’m so grateful to have your help during this ongoing, critical mission. Giving back to my fellow artists through service is why I accepted this role initially, and it’s a responsibility that I’m so blessed to be sharing with you today. We have done some great good in our own backyard this past year, and I’m looking forward to working with you in 2021 to do even more.

I wish you and your loved ones optimal health and continued safety this holiday season.

Grace and Peace,

Courtney B. Vance
President
SAG-AFTRA Foundation
Together, we are making a difference every day.

"Everything got canceled and I had no idea what I was going to do.

Robert Taylor Jr.
SAG-AFTRA artist and COVID-19 Relief Fund Recipient"

"I received it so quickly I could pay the rent. I could keep the lights on—all the important things for my kids and me. Most importantly, it just relieved so much stress not to have $0 in the bank account, and for that I am grateful.

Laura Pruden
SAG-AFTRA artist and COVID-19 Relief Fund Recipient"

"The devastating effects of COVID-19 are in our own backyard, and we’re doing what we can for our colleagues and collaborators who need help.

Tom Hanks
Actors’ Council Member"

"I’ve been a working actress since I was 14, and this community is my family. It’s critical we support those who have played a part in the success of this industry.

Nicole Kidman
Actors’ Council Member"
We may be apart, but the SAG-AFTRA Foundation has brought us together like never before.

In 2020, we’ve...

- Helped performing artists hone their craft from home via our virtual voiceover, on-camera, computer software, casting feedback sessions and more
- Engaged children, parents and teachers in remote literacy learning through our award-winning Storyline Online® program
- Provided a lifeline with emergency financial assistance for performers and their families
- Granted over $6 million in COVID-19 relief aid
- Serving over 6,500 members
- With support from over 1,000 Generous Donors
- Offering 15 million views a month
- Offering 61 books read by 66 SAG-AFTRA performers
- Growing viewership by 20% since 2019 (140 million annual views)
- Helping 51,000 SAG-AFTRA participants
- Leading 234 Virtual On-Camera self-tape recordings
- Offering 85 Remote computer and software training classes
- Managing 156 Virtual voiceover workshops and audition recordings
- Creating 119 Online casting feedback classes
- Producing 393 Conversations at Home and The Business Online panels

Our programs and services may be remote, but our Foundation remains as vital as ever.
The Foundation offers emergency financial and health assistance, free educational classes and professional resources to SAG-AFTRA artists. During COVID-19, the Foundation’s in-person programs have transitioned online and are available to all SAG-AFTRA artists nationwide.

**Financial Assistance Programs**

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

The Foundation’s Emergency Assistance program offers financial assistance to eligible SAG-AFTRA artists and their families during times of severe financial hardship. The program also offers case management services to artists to provide support, information, and/or referrals to community agencies based on need and circumstances surrounding a performer’s emergency request. This program is confidential and anonymous.

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

The Foundation offers an emergency financial assistance program for SAG-AFTRA artists in urgent need due to natural disasters, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Relief aid is provided for basic living expenses such as food, housing, health care and other basic needs. In 2020, the Disaster Relief Fund granted over $6 million in emergency aid to more than 6,500 SAG-AFTRA artists and families nationwide impacted by COVID-19.

**CATASTROPHIC HEALTH FUND**

The Foundation provides financial grants to eligible SAG-AFTRA artists and their dependents who suffer from catastrophic illness or injury and have qualified through SAG-AFTRA Pension and Health for this program. The application process is completely confidential.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Foundation offers several annual scholarships for eligible SAG-AFTRA artists and their dependents. Scholarships are granted for study at accredited and licensed universities, colleges, junior colleges and trade/vocational schools. Since 1985, the Foundation has awarded more than $8.4 million in scholarships to over 2,120 SAG-AFTRA artists and their dependents.
Performers’ Programs Go Online in 2020

THE BUSINESS ONLINE

The Business Online program consists of speaker panels and small group sessions on Zoom. Performers hear from the creators behind the camera, emerging voices and industry pros to gain career planning strategies, and learn marketing and financial concepts to empower them to operate as small business owners.

CASTING ACCESS ONLINE

Casting Access Online offers performers small classes on Zoom with top casting directors and associates to gain insight into the casting process, as well as cold reading experience with direct feedback.

CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

Conversations at Home produces moderated Q&As with principle actors and casts from film and television, as well as two-hour career retrospectives with high-profile actors, offering performers with valuable information on process and craft. All Q&As are recorded and posted on the Foundation’s YouTube Channel.

VIRTUAL VOICEOVER LABS

The Virtual On-Camera Lab records self-tape auditions for SAG-AFTRA artists nationwide by trained technicians who help troubleshoot technical issues, and offer constructive feedback upon request. Participants are provided with a Zoom recording after each session.

The Foundation’s in-person voiceover labs in L.A. and NYC have gone virtual offering online workshops taught by VO professionals to VO artists nationwide. Workshops include ADR (Automated Dialogue Replacement), Voicing Characters for Video Games, and Finding Your Signature Voice. The Virtual VO Lab also offers online booth sessions to record auditions and receive guidance from a professional audio engineer.
Award-Winning Children's Literacy Program

Endorsed by the American Federation of Teachers, Storyline Online® is an Emmy®-nominated and award-winning children's literacy program of the Foundation. A digital library with over 61 video read-alouds, Storyline Online® features some of the world's greatest storytellers including Oprah Winfrey, Rami Malek, Allison Janney and more celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations. Each video includes a supplemental curriculum aligned with Common Core Standards.

In 2020, Storyline Online® saw a 20% surge in engagement with over 140 million views worldwide, and introduced new storytellers Angela Bassett, Jaime Camil, Mark Duplass, David Harbour and Ray Romano to its expanding bookverse. Along with an inaugural Virtual Summer Camp initiative, over 140 million children, families and educators used storylineonline.net as an at-home learning resource to inspire a love of reading and literacy in children.

Kristen Bell reads Quackenstein Hatches a Family
Jaime Camil reads ¡Los Zombis No Comen Verduras!
Angela Bassett reads Trombone Shorty
Your support allows us to serve performing artists, even in these difficult times.

Join us in making a difference in the lives of performing artists with your donation today.

ACTORS’ COUNCIL

Angela Bassett
Annette Bening
Cate Blanchett
Jessica Chastain
George Clooney
Bryan Cranston
Penélope Cruz
Matt Damon
Viola Davis
Robert De Niro
Robert Downey, Jr.
Jane Fonda
Harrison Ford
Morgan Freeman
Tony Goldwyn
Tom Hanks
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