

Hello,

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Hoffman family for providing the scholarship that made it possible for my son to participate in a theater class at the TCT Academy. I hope that in sharing our story, I can adequately convey how important and special this experience has been for my son.

Toby has always loved singing and dancing. As his mother, I am given a front seat to how amazing and talented he is! When he began putting on performances for our family, I quickly realized this was a passion of his and I searched the internet to find a way for him to foster his natural love for the performing arts. When I found The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati and began reading about the different classes offered, I knew it was exactly what I was looking for! There was only one problem... our family could not afford the cost of registration. I was heartbroken and spent many nights unable to sleep, trying to figure out how I could come up with the money. When I realized there was a scholarship program, it felt like an answered prayer. I applied but I didn't tell anyone because I wasn't sure if Toby would even be selected. I will never forget the day the acceptance letter came in the mail and I literally jumped up and down as I read it. I told Toby about it and he was so excited too! We put the letter on our fridge and it has been hanging there like a trophy ever since.



We live in Hillsboro, a rural town with very little opportunity for children in musical theatre and performing arts. Each week, Toby and I drive an hour and a half to his class at the TCT Academy. The very first week, he was so shy that he sat in the corner of the room and didn't participate at all. I worried that I had made a mistake. However, as the weeks went by, his teacher Angelo was able to pull Toby out of his shell and Toby's confidence grew and grew! Now he runs into class, confident and excited just like he always was when he performed for our family. He knows he is brave enough to conquer a bigger stage and all of this is because of the Hoffman family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I wish you could have personally seen the transformation that has taken place in Toby. He will never forget this experience and I know it's only the beginning for him.

Sincerely,

Ashley Rainey