

Horseshoe gives \$150,000 to art fund



Written by

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The Fund for the Arts hit a jackpot Thursday when the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County announced that it will contribute \$150,000 to the Louisville Fund for the Arts' annual campaign, which wraps up next week.

The money will go to Stage One's activities serving elementary school students in Floyd County, Ind., in the next three years.

"Our board firmly believes that arts are important in the development of our children, and Stage One's programming is something that provides it in a way they wouldn't be able to get in the schools," said Jerry Finn, the foundation's executive director.

The foundation has given to the fund in past campaigns, as well as to Stage One.

"This is the continuance of a long history of partnership between the Fund for the Arts, the Horseshoe Foundation and Stage One," said Barbara Sexton Smith, the Fund for the

Arts' acting president and director.

The grant covers attendance for Floyd County elementary students to three of the children's theater company productions at Indiana University Southeast's Ogle Center next season and four other productions the following two seasons.

It also covers the costs of the company's Eco-Drama program, which involves having Stage One staff conduct one-week residencies for third-graders. Students learn drama along with science and tips on developing environmentally friendly habits.

"If you have a third-grader who's been in that program, you will not leave the water running while you brush your teeth ever again," said Peter Holloway, Stage One producing executive director.

The foundation's donation toward arts-education activities comes not long after the New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corp. eliminated teaching positions in art, music and physical education at

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elementary schools to save more than \$2 million.

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