



January 30, 2009

Dear Friends,

Over the past 28 years, *We Tell Stories* has performed nearly 16,000 shows and over 26,000 student workshops to close to 5,000,000 children, their families and their teachers. *We Tell Stories* is a vanguard in the field of arts education and theatre for young audiences. According to Lynne Heffley of the Los Angeles Times, *We Tell Stories* "is one of Southern California's oldest and most respected educational children's theater companies."

Suddenly, *We Tell Stories*' existence is threatened, and we desperately need your help. Give us \$10 and save *We Tell Stories*.

Here's the problem. For the past four years, we have had a contract for services with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Under this contract, *We Tell Stories* has performed 486 shows, conducted 8,633 student workshops, and administered 218 staff development workshops over the past four years. As a result, our overhead has increased by approximately \$150,000 a year. Suddenly, due to the state budgetary crisis, this contract has been rescinded.

We have programs in the works for 2010 that we are hoping will generate that overhead again, but, right now, we need to get through this year, and we need \$150,000 to do it.

We have never sold tickets to our performances. For 28 years, we have prided ourselves on the fact that, unlike most non-profits, we have existed primarily on contracted services; approximately 80% earned and 20% contributed by government, corporate, and foundation entities. Due to our \$150,000 shortfall, those contributions will not be nearly enough to sustain us.

So for the first time in our history, we are reaching out to individuals. Every friend, every friend of a friend, every person who has ever had a warm spot in his or her heart for a child or an artist needs to log on right now and give us \$10.

<http://wetellstories.org/donate.htm>.

Then, if you feel comfortable doing so, forward this email to your friends. If 15,000 people give \$10 each, we will make our goal. If some of you can give \$20, \$50, or \$100, it won't take as many of you. **But we need it by February 15th.** If we can raise this money by the middle of February, we will be able to continue many of our programs. If we cannot, many of these programs will cease.

Please, log on now and donate what you can. <http://wetellstories.org/donate.htm>. Our artists and kids all over Southern California will be eternally grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Weintraub', written in a cursive style.

Carl Weintraub
Founder

We Tell Stories is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization (Tax ID# 95-3803911)