



Re-Creation USA, Inc.
 PO Box 220
 Port Trevorton, PA 17864
 (570) 374-1909
 www.re-creationusa.org

A NEW YEAR

AN ESTABLISHED SERVICE

Welcome to 2017!



Re-Creation is off to the southern states to perform in VA Medical Centers and State Veterans Homes! The group has been hard at work extending your care and compassion to the men and women who have given us our freedom! A new year, a fresh direction...

Folks in the VAMC's have been over-the-moon with the new "School Days!" show, remarking that it's one of the best we've ever presented. The combination of music, dynamic staging, lavish costuming and spirited, engaging young entertainers, enlivens the entire facility. Everyone, from veterans and families, to staff members and administrators, thrill to the excitement and fellowship created by the Re-Creation visit!

That impact is not by accident, of course. Over the past 40 years, Re-Creation has fine-tuned the approach to America's Heroes and literally defined the parameters of service entertainment. Follow along...

We are required to renew our relationship with the Department of Veterans Affairs every so often. The process of that renewal has changed more times than I can count, but back in the day, when Mr. Brooks and I were actually on property at the same time, during the transition, we both received divine confirmation that the program he had started, and that I was continuing was actually *writing policy* in the field.

We received a letter from the VA. Any group to be sanctioned by the Department of Recreation Therapy had to provide:

- stage show with a variety of music
- professional costuming, and lively movement
- a cast that would also serve as envoys to the veterans with visits to the wards and escorts to the show area

Sound familiar?

Now, keep in mind, prior to this time, there had been no requirements so stated...particularly with regard to the visits to the wards and escorts. That was an element Mr. Brooks and his team originated.

I firmly recall Hugh and I looking at the written missive from the VA and recognizing the whole thing read like a full description of Re-Creation.

Policy had been re-written to mandate the level of service Re-Creation had already been providing for more than 10 years! Amazing!

So your support of Re-Creation is multifaceted. You have provided:

- real, tangible healing and tribute to our veterans
- life-changing training to our young cast members
- AND the spark for government programs to re-write programs of service that influence the national scope of rehabilitation

Re-Creation is not just a therapeutic entertainment group. Re-Creation is the very definition of therapeutic entertainment!

We will continue in this year to extend YOUR hand of thanks to the men and women in the VA Health Care system...we trust you'll stay with us.

We need you.

The veterans need you.

Jay Muller, Director
 Re-Creation USA, Inc.



A NEW YEAR

AN ANNUAL RECRUITING DRIVE

You will receive the following recruiting flyer in the mail within the next two weeks.



After all we do to spread the word via social media, paid ads, school visits and direct letters, word-of-mouth from a supporter or former RC member remains the top avenue of securing new Re-Creation performers! So we need you to carry the banner!

The experience is unmatched.
The training is unequalled.

And the impact is resounding!

MITCHELL RAINS (RC 36, 37)

Just signed a full-time contract with a cappella pioneers *Rockapella!* after performing for *Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruise Lines, Busch Gardens, The Cat's Pajamas* and countless singing and hosting gigs!



"Almost five full years since my days with the group, I'm living the dream that my RC training provided! I've used audition tips and tricks to impress casting directors (Thank you, Mr. Muller!) I've been selected to be the featured rock singer in multiple shows, hitting notes I never dreamed possible. (Thank you, Mary!) And I was able to do it all while traveling the nation, honing leadership skills, sharpening stage presence AND serving America's hospitalized heroes every single day. (Thank you, Veterans!) Re-Creation changed my life!"

AUDITIONS



KATELYN STILLMAN (RC 35, 36)

Recently cast in the premiere cruise line show for Carnival Cruise Lines. The most innovative show of it's kind, having sailed the Mediterranean, now headed for Miami, FL.



"I will forever remember my experience of working with Mary as life-changing. With her instruction and guidance, we were able to find my mix voice that I never knew I had. After intense vocal training as a classical singer in college, I graduated realizing the dire need for that 'pop' sound that the industry craves. Re-Creation made me more marketable. Mary is brilliant! Most recently I was cast on Carnival's newest show, on the newest ship...a spot everyone in the world wanted, and I got it! I'm grateful for my Re-Creation experience every day!"

DAVID REED (RC 38)

Sailing the world on Holland America Cruise Lines. Has performed with Disney World, Dorney Park and traveled the nation as part of national tours with tremendous success!



"As primarily a dancer, my casting was limited. Re-Creation brought out my voice, trained it, honed it and after my tour with the group, I got almost every job I auditioned for! I tell current Re-Creation group members to NOT take for granted the level of professionalism they get in the group. Mr. Muller and Mary offer professional training that folks in LA and New York charge \$500/hr for... believe me, I know! But they also help you grow as a person, they care about you. And that kind of attention in this business is so rare!"

Please consider, enthusiastically, how you can best get this information into the hands of a potential Re-Creation cast member.

NEED MORE FLYERS? Call Jen @ 570-374-1909



A NEW YEAR RENEWED ACCOUNTABILITY

With so much scrutiny of non-profit organizations in the media, our Re-Creation Board of Directors has pledged, each year, to remind or educate RC supporters on the actual expenses and goings on within the organization.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair:

Betsy Boyer, Port Matilda, PA, 31 years served

Vice-Chair:

Lee Wineholt, Greensboro, NC
16 years served

Secretary:

Rev. John Godissart
Duncansville, PA
11 years served



Members:

John Massa, Dover, PA, 31 years served
Bryce Boyer, Port Matilda, PA, 31 years served

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES:

Jay Muller: Director, Costumer, Choreographer,
24 years employed
Salary: \$49,000 / year

PART TIME EMPLOYEES:

Mary Reich: Tour Manager, 2 years
Jen Kratzer: Office Manager, 13 years
Mary Muller: Vocal Director, 24 years

ALL DONATIONS to RE-CREATION go to one bank account and those funds are used for:

TRAVEL: Gas, vehicles, insurance, maintenance, tolls, parking and more to travel to VA Medical Centers and State Veterans Homes across America.



SHOW: Band, arrangements, costumes, royalties, training, staging, lighting, sound to create full-size professional show for every VA.

PROPERTY: utilities, phone, studios, storage, computers, PR materials, repairs for cast members' dorm and RC office.

TAXES: payroll, local and state taxes, sales tax.



ALL DONATIONS to F.O.R-C.E.S. go to a separate bank account and those funds are used **ONLY** for cast member distribution as a federally-recognized stipend to offset expenses of a year-long mission tour.

Each F.O.R-C.E.S. member is asked to donate \$365 a year to cover the cost of a \$17/day reimbursement to the cast members. We tried to raise the stipend to \$20.00 a day but were unable to...perhaps this year.

The F.O.R-C.E.S. account needs upwards of 200 fully-pledged members to cover the enabling of our young missionaries. As of now, we have only 71 members!



VA MISSION:

It costs about \$5,000.00 to produce **EACH** VA Medical Center or State Veterans Home show. We do more than 140 shows every year in the VA Healthcare System.

The contract with Washington provides a *portion* (16%) of the cost for only 80 Federal VA Medical Center shows. That percentage has been constant for over 14 years.

We must raise the remaining funding for EACH Federal VA show and the TOTAL funding for the remaining 60+ VA State Home programs!

We do this with annual assistance from:
BVL - Brightening Veterans Lives
The Elks National Veterans Service Commission
The Florida State Elks Association

Even with the help of these dedicated organizations, currently, Re-Creation must raise 73% of the budget necessary from outside sources to carry out the mission.

We do this through commercial shows, private and corporate donations, church offerings, online giving, etc.

Re-Creation undergoes annual independent financial audits and these reports are submitted Federally and to the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations!



We trust you find this information validating and re-assuring. Your gifts go directly to support the mission to our nation's hospitalized veterans!

Any questions, feel free to ask!

info@re-creationusa.com



A NEW YEAR

COMMENTS!

Touching, Encouraging, Funny!

Recently received hand-written letter to our office!

*To All the Members of Re-Creation,
It's such a privilege to be able to support your group. I so enjoy receiving your post cards and reading about your experiences. I remember how surprised I was when I received my first post card. I only expected to get a line or two - not all the wonderful details. I love reading about your experiences!*

May God continue to bless you as you work to bring joy to the wonderful men & women who fought for our freedom.

*A friend in Christ,
Nancy Kilmer
F.O.R.C.E.S. Member*

P.S. I use one of your DVD's as part of my children's story at church for Memorial Day.

Hope you return to Maple Lake Church again soon.

Audience member attending recent performance:

"Thank you for your recent speech on audience behavior and all that. I know that's hard to do because no one likes to tell people anything anymore. But I really appreciated it and enjoyed the show so much more without everybody being on their phone or holding them up. I could really just watch and enjoy! Thank you so much!"

An enthusiastic fan at recent Christmas Joy program:

*"Is Mary Muller here? Is she singing tonight?"
"No, Ma'am, Mary can't make all the performances."
(getting very visibly upset) "Well, I'm sick of this! Where is she? I want her here! I want a guarantee of a show where she will sing!"
(calling out) "Mr. Muller, will you come here please..."*

Facebook posts:

"They are a very special group of young people, and do a wonderful performance for our veterans. Merry Christmas to Mary and Jay and the group!"

"Thank you for a great show at the Susquehanna Mall. We saw 3 (Re-Creation) shows last week and that was our favorite. The kids had to be exhausted having done 5 shows in 3 days, but you never would have known it by their energy and upbeat attitude. Thank you for (the free) gifts to the Veterans that day as well."



A NEW YEAR

NEW NEED - WILL YOU HELP?

We absolutely **MUST** re-vamp our sound studio. We've been getting by, but barely. The board is out of date and the recording decks we are using are so antiquated the repair materials for them are unavailable. We simply must upgrade to a more computer-based recording system where everything channels into a main program. I know, I know, it sounds technical, but Xavier Francis, our Executive Studio Engineer, has worked out a proposal that will get us up-to-snuff for about \$7,000.00 And he is discounting his labor significantly!

"As a former member, I want Re-Creation to stay on the cutting edge of production, like they do in their live show. The old equipment is just that, old. I am having trouble even accessing different files, let alone mixing everything cohesively. I'm often nervous we'll 'lose' what we're recording, just due to the nature of this out-of-date system. An upgrade is not a luxury, it's a necessity! My gift will be to install everything, no matter how long it takes, to make it right."

- Xavier Francis, Mind's Eye Music Studios

Xavier has offered his help...will you offer yours?

Re-Creation has produced everything from 8-track tapes to cassettes to CD's to digital music. Please help us take this next step to stay above-board so we can offer our veterans the best media projects!

Thank you for considering.

Send a designated check for the **STUDIO FUND** to:
Re-Creation USA, Inc
P.O. BOX 220
Port Trevorton, PA 17864

Donate online at

www.re-creationusa.org

or on the Re-Creation smartphone app



and designate your gift for the **STUDIO FUND!**



January 2017

- 1/8 ****Concord Baptist Church** 11 AM
Chiefland, FL 352-493-1219
- 1/8 *****Southern Palms RV Resort Private**
 Eusits, FL
- 1/13 *****Tanglewood Resort Private**
 Sebring, FL
- 1/13 *****Ventura Lakes Private**
 Punta Gorda, FL
- 1/15 ****Presbyterian Church of
 the Good Shepherd** 10:55 AM
Melbourne, FL 321-723-3994
- 1/15 *****Foxwood Estates Private**
 Lakeland, FL
- 1/17 ****1st United Methodist Church** 6 PM
Tavares, FL 352-343-2761
- 1/18 *****Zephyrhills Elks Lodge Private**
 Zephyrhills, FL
- 1/19 *****Polynesian Village Private**
 Englewood, FL
- 1/21 *****Tampa Elks Lodge Private**
 Tampa, FL
- 1/22 *****Towerwood Private**
 Lake Wales, FL
- 1/23 **Pembroke Pines, FL SVH** 2 PM
- 1/24 **Miami, FL VAMC** 1 PM
- 1/25 *****Pompano Elks Lodge Private**
 Pompano Beach, FL
- 1/26 **West Palm Beach, FL VAMC** 2 PM
- 1/27 *****Cross Creek RV Resort Private**
 Arcadia, FL
- 1/28 ***Faith United Methodist Church** 7 PM
Fort Myers, FL 239-482-2030
- 1/29 ****Faith United Methodist Church** 8:45 AM
Fort Myers, FL 239-482-2030 10:30 AM
- 1/29 *****Raintree RV Resort Private**
 North Fort Myers, FL
- 1/30 *****Lazy River Private**
 North Port, FL
- 1/31 **Bay Pines, FL VAMC** 10:30 AM
- 1/31 **Tampa, FL VAMC** 7 PM

RE-CREATION®



AMERICA'S AMBASSADORS TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

www.re-creationusa.org

Facebook

Smartphone App available in Google and iTunes stores (free)

email: info@re-creationusa.com

February 2017

- 2/1 Land O' Lakes, FL SVH 2 PM
- 2/2 Orlando, FL VAMC 2 PM
- 2/3 *****Orlando Elks Lodge Private**
 Orlando, FL
- 2/6 Gainesville, FL VAMC 2 PM
- 2/8 ***Colony Cove** 7 PM
Fort Myers, FL
For tickets call 941-729-7341
- 2/9 *****Paradise Bay Private**
 Bradenton, FL
- 2/10 *****FL Elks Youth Camp Private**
 Umatilla, FL
- 2/12 ****Union Congregational Church** 3 PM
Tavares, FL 352-343-6183
- 2/13 *****American Legion Private**
 Lady Lake, FL
- 2/13 ***American Legion** 7 PM
Lady Lake, FL 352-750-2099
- 2/15 *****Orange Harbor Private**
 Fort Myers, FL
- 2/16 ***Old Bridge Village** 7 PM
North Fort Myers, FL 239-731-7511
- 2/17 **Port Charlotte, FL SVH** 2:30 PM
- 2/19 ***Hawthorne** 3 PM
Leesburg, FL 352-326-8294
- 2/20 **Lake City, FL SVH** 2 PM
- 2/21 **Lake City, FL VAMC** 10:30 AM
- 2/22 **Daytona Beach, FL SVH** 2 PM
- 2/24 **St. Augustine, FL SVH** 2 PM
- 2/26 ****Page Memorial UMC** 11 AM
Aberdeen, NC 910-944-1093
- 2/26 ****Holy Trinity Lutheran** 6:30 PM
Gastonia, NC 704-864-0378
- 2/27 **Salisbury, NC SVH** 2 PM
- 2/28 **Salisbury, NC VAMC** 2 PM

March 2017

- 3/1 Fayetteville, NC SVH 10 AM
- 3/1 Fayetteville, NC VAMC 2 PM
- 3/2 Kinston, NC SVH 11 AM
- 3/3 Durham, NC VAMC 2 PM
- 3/5 ****Irvington Baptist Church** 11 AM
Irvington, VA 804-438-6971
- 3/5 ****Newington Baptist Church** 6 PM
Gloucester, VA 804-693-2349
- 3/6 Hampton, VA VAMC 2 PM
- 3/7 Richmond, VA VAMC 2 PM
- 3/8 Salem, VA VAMC 2 PM
- 3/9 *****Charlottesville Elks Lodge Private**
 Charlottesville, VA

VAMC or SVH - Please contact the facility prior to show for permission to attend.

***School Days! program - open to the public**

****Changing of the Guard - open to the public**

*****Private Event**

RE-CREATION[®]

“AMERICA’S AMBASSADORS TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS”

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Selinsgrove, PA
Permit No. 39

P.O. BOX 220, Port Trevorton, PA 17864
Return Service Requested



AMERICA’S AMBASSADORS to HOSPITALIZED VETERANS!

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