Outstanding Achievement in Fundraising

Morris Educational Foundation
Event Fundraiser: Morristown ONSTAGE

This award was presented to the Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) in recognition of its "Morristown Onstage" event which showcases the best amateur talent in the area. The award was given for an event or campaign that engages the community at large and raised significant funds for a school district. Twelve year ago, the MEF board of trustees wanted to start a special event that would not only raise money for the MEF, but also raise awareness of its mission to fund programs that would support and facilitate educational excellence in their schools. They created a talent show. The only condition was that someone in the group had to live, work or go to school in Morristown, Morris Township and Morris Plains - the communities served by their district. Auditions were also open to Morristown High School alumni. The show has become the premier fundraising event for the MEF. Selling out the last two years. In the first year it raised $16,000 with 50 acts auditioning. In February of 2018 the event raised $143,000. This event is entirely volunteer driven.

Upon review of this program the judges felt that the MEF was the epitome of a foundation that has been able to hold an event that engaged the community at large and raised meaningful funds. Resulting in the MEF becoming a valued and recognized community organization that exists for the enhancement and enrichment of the Morris Public Schools.
*Morristown OnStage* was created by the MEF Board of trustees to not only raise funds but to raise awareness of the MEF mission to fund programs that would support and facilitate educational excellence in their schools.

The first year there were over 50 acts that auditioned. Since then, anywhere from 65 to 80 acts try out for the chance to perform on the night of the show which is held at the 1300 seat Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown. The show is judged by a panel of distinguished arts professionals who volunteer their time. Two $1000 prizes are awarded – one for the best act age 19 and over and one for the best act 18 and under. There is also a $500 audience choice prize given to the act receiving the most votes via text message during the show and a $250 Rising Star Award.

The show is the premier fundraising event for the MEF. It is considered the “must see” event of the year in Morristown, selling out in the past years. Tickets range from $25 to $75 and sold out in two days last year. It is truly a special night where the community comes together to celebrate their schools and the arts.
Promotional materials
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