



meet your neighbors
By Deb Cavanagh

MEET FRONT ROW PLAYERS and the Cavanagh Family!



Front Row Players was founded in September of 2017. Deb Cavanagh founded the program with Christine Byrnes, another Manlius resident. They are about to begin their fourth semester. Deb does much of the behind-the-scenes coordination, fundraising, grant writing, and work that needs to be done to make the magic happen. If you would like to get involved with this organization, they need volunteers to assist at rehearsals to help the actors on stage with lines, blocking, augmenting, and singing.

When asked, "Why did you choose this particular project or what drew you to volunteer for this organization?" Deb answered, "A love for theater requires no ability level. The desire to joyfully sing out loud does not exist only if you can match pitch. Moving to the glorious beat does not bring happiness only if you can count to eight. We founded Front Row Players to inspire adults of all abilities to share their passion for performance and musical theater with their community. No other program in our area provides the opportunity for our actors to have a meaningful role in a musical theater production. Front Row Players gives them the power to do so and also incorporates skill building in all areas of theater including acting, singing, and dance/movement."

What benefits do you get from volunteering with this organization?

"I get incredible joy in seeing and being a part of the beauty that comes from the passion, pride, and hard work these actors bring to rehearsals and of course our end of semester production. It is truly magical."

How long have you lived in the neighborhood? What made you move to the neighborhood? What is your favorite part of living in the neighborhood?

"We have lived here 11 years. We moved here from Redondo

Beach, California. I am from the Syracuse area, and we moved back to be closer to family. We also came back for the school systems, as my daughter Amanda has special needs and the supports here are far superior to what we received in California. We treasure the friendships we have made here in Manlius."

Who are the members of your family? Are they involved in the charity as well?

"My husband Brian Cavanagh, daughter Amanda, and son Jason. Amanda is an actor in Front Row Players. Brian helps with sets and coordination of all things on show day. Jason volunteers at rehearsals and was a voice augments for our last show."

Any other information you would like to include?

"We keep the cost to our actors for our program at a minimum, so we are always looking for corporate sponsors for our semester as well as donations. We also love to have a rocking, full house at our performances. Our spring performance is *The Wizard of Oz*. It is Saturday, May 12, at 2 p.m. at Eastern Hills Bible Church."

Our website is www.frontrowplayers.org, and our Facebook Page is Front Row Players. Please "like" our page, and check out our website. You can also reach me at contact@frontrowplayers.org.



If you would like to be featured or know someone who would be perfect for Meet Your Neighbor, simply email aline.moses@2pub.com. Thank you!

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