

**MEET OUR BECK AMBASSADORS:
Tom & Helen Rathburn**

■ **When did you start volunteering at Beck Center?** -- Tom: [I'm] in my fifth season, I think. Helen in her second. I'm giving seasons, not years, because the Covid gap has my calendar sense messed up.

■ **Favorite event or show?** -- Tom: We like fun musicals so, most recent, Something Rotten. The Beck performances were on a par with the two national tours we've seen!

■ **Meaningful Beck experience?** -- Tom: I have felt really welcomed and appreciated since I began here as a volunteer. Everyone makes me feel that what I'm doing as a volunteer is important to what goes on at Beck, and that's great.

■ **Why do you volunteer?** -- Tom: [It] took some soul searching here. In my working life as a manager at KeyBank, I always felt that my job was to make it as easy as possible for my staff to do well. In my volunteer life, including beyond Beck, there's a background part where I do a lot of grunt work to help organizations succeed. There's also a public part, such as ushering here at Beck Center, where I try to help the visiting public have a good time and help them have an appreciation and affection for the organizations I care about.

Helen: As a child, I performed with other children during the summer. Our director was someone's mother. As we got older, we moved from the library lawn to the high school stage. In college, I participated in shows at Baldwin Wallace (BW) as well as Berea Summer Theatre. I dreamed of going to Broadway but couldn't afford it. Beck is something like that summer theatre. Talented people who have everyday jobs as well as full-time professionals might perform at Beck Center. Many are well known in the area. Volunteering at Beck kind of reconnects me with that experience

■ **How has your volunteer experience changed over the years?** -- Tom: My first formal volunteer experience that I remember began at Playhouse Square nearly fifty years ago, so, a lot has changed! Most apparent is that the non-profits that I volunteer for are much more organized in managing their volunteers now. Witness Beck Center's new on-line sign-up app. I think that reflects the organizations recognizing that volunteers are a valuable, but limited, resource and should be managed as such. Another surprise was that, to volunteer at Red Cross and Cleveland Sight Center, I had to undergo a background check!

■ **What are your interests outside fo the arts?** -- Tom: Family, of course, and rebuilding cars when I was younger, but these days arts and arts associated activities are everything.

Helen: My family comes first and spending time with friends, attending concerts and plays at BW and Cleveland, then sewing (quilting), and Friends of the Conservatory at BW. So, like Tom...mostly arts.



2023 is an exciting year for Beck Center, because this year we are going to FINISH the capital campaign renovations and celebrate our 90th anniversary! We are beyond grateful to the hundreds of donors and the incredibly dedicated volunteer team led by Campaign Co-Chairs Douglas Hoffman, Sandra Sauder, and Ellen Todia for getting us to this milestone in the largest capital campaign in Beck Center history!

CRITICAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We're almost there! Over \$6.7 million has been raised as of today, and we are seeking an additional \$500,000 in order to accomplish the remaining elements of the renovation projects. From now until March 10, all new or increased gifts to the Creating Our Future capital campaign will be matched (up to \$150,000) by Beck Center Board Chair-elect Ellen Todia!

To recognize the outstanding generosity of our community, donors to the Capital Campaign who have given \$1,000 (cumulative) or more by March 10, 2023, will be recognized on a donor wall to be displayed in the main lobby at Beck Center. For more information, please contact Kristen Levy, Development Director (klevy@beckcenter.org).

You can be a part of it all by making a gift [HERE](#) and choosing Capital Campaign.

Note: Donor wall image information current as of November 28, 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - 90th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

- Beck Birthday Party on Saturday morning, May 13th - featuring Super Saturday: free programming for families with young children.
- The 90th Season announcement is on Tuesday evening May 16 at Beck Center; all supporters will be invited to attend.

VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER - BECK AMBASSADORS

Volunteers have always been important to the history of the Beck Center; donors who also volunteer are even more valuable to our organization. Consider enriching your Beck Giving experience by volunteering just a small amount of your time. We take pleasure in bringing a diverse, inclusive, and thrilling arts experience for every visitor to the Beck Center and our volunteers take a hands-on role in making that happen.

Click [THIS LINK](#) to fill out an application, we look forward to our Beck Center Ambassador team growing in the new year! For more information about the Beck Center Ambassadors, email Kristina Edleman, Customer Experience Manager (kedleman@beckcenter.org). For help with the Volunteer application, contact Charles Battaglia, Development & Volunteer Manager (cbattaglia@beckcenter.org).

More information about volunteering at Beck Center can be found [HERE](#).

VISUAL ART AT BECK

- The Body Rocks Art Exhibition.
- Featuring the work of E-B, Erin Mazza, and Edward Valentin-Lugo.
- FREE Opening Reception on February 10th where you can meet the artist themselves!
- Artwork will be available for purchase at Customer Service throughout the exhibition.

Art by Erin Mazza



NEXT ON STAGE...



GHOST: THE MUSICAL

Book & Lyrics: Bruce Joel Rubin | Music & Lyrics: Dave Stewart | Music & Lyrics: Glen Ballard
Directed by Victoria Bussert | Choreography by Lauren Tidmore | Music Direction by Matthew Webb
Presented by special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide
Baldwin Wallace University Music Theatre Program Collaboration

Sam and Molly are lovers, and when Sam dies he becomes caught between our world and what lies next. Molly is in danger and Sam cannot bear to leave her. A medium, Oda Mae Brown, helps Sam get in touch with Molly to warn her. You know what happens next, but you must experience it live, in the theater. (Fire emoji, anyone?)

LASTING LEGACIES AT BECK - THE HELEN BROWN SOCIETY

Planned giving is a special way to make an impact while also offering opportunities to boost your personal financial goals and provide you with tax benefits in return. Those who let us know they have included Beck Center for the Arts in their estate plans become members of our Helen Brown Society. Helen Brown Society members are recognized in our Playbills, invited to select events and performances exclusively for members, and are pleased to know that future generations will be grateful for their foresighted generosity! Together, we can ensure the future of dynamic arts education and performance for our community.

The next Helen Brown Society event will be held on March 30th to celebrate those who have or are considering including Beck Center in a will or estate plan. Please contact Kristen Levy, Development Director (klevy@beckcenter.org) or (216) 424-7618 to learn more about the Helen Brown Society or for more information about Planned Giving at Beck Center for the Arts.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

The Annual Fund provides essential operating support to continue our dynamic arts education, performances, free community programs, and exhibits. Out of Beck Center's \$2.9 million annual budget, 60% is earned revenue from theater ticket sales, class registrations, and program fees; however, that leaves approximately \$1M to be raised each year through contributions from individuals, foundations, companies, special events, and government support. In short, we couldn't provide access to our quality arts education and professional performances without you! Thank you to everyone who has donated this season! You can help us start out 2023 strong by making a gift here and choosing Annual Fund. Please direct questions about the Annual Fund to Jay'da T. Hall, Annual Fund Coordinator (jhall@beckcenter.org)

