

Happy Spring Everyone!

2017 is off to a roaring start! SANCA is bringing the joy of circus to so many people each and every day. There are tots doing star jumps on the tumble track next to our amazingly dedicated P3 students, who are preparing for their final performance in May; our Artists-in-Residence, *La Famiglia Gentile*, are tirelessly rehearsing and performing alongside our talented coaching staff and students; and our Social Circus students are building confidence and trust by working with our thoughtful and focused coaches. I am incredibly lucky to walk into the gym and see such a fabulous array of talent, dedication and hard work ALL THE TIME!

Our connections to the larger national and international circus communities are growing by leaps and bounds. This summer SANCA has been invited to participate in the Circus Arts Festival at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival's 50th Anniversary in Washington D.C. We're honored to present SANCA's unique approach to accessible circus to more than one million people who will visit the festival.

In August, we'll send a spectacular contingent of students from our Youth Performance Troupes – Cirrus Circus and Magnificent 7 – to the American Youth Circus Organization (AYCO) Festival in Trenton, N.J. This festival brings together youth circus students and performers from all over the country to learn from each other, take workshops, develop new friendships, and even **stand** on each other in true circus style!

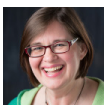
But that's not all we're up to! This fall, SANCA will host a weeklong training series sponsored by *Cirque du Monde*, the Social Circus arm of *Cirque du Soleil!* We could not be more excited to learn from the best and to share this experience with our colleagues in the Seattle area and in the greater circus community! It's terrific stuff!

If you would like to help support any of these great projects, make a contribution to our Spring Appeal at GiveBIG on May 10th.

Every day I am learning more and more about SANCA – the students and parents, our coaches, our Georgetown neighbors, and the incredible supporters we have in Seattle. I would love to hear more about your desires, your wishes, and your dreams for SANCA, and I would be delighted to talk with you more about some of the amazing things we are doing this year. Call me or write to me at 206-708-7052 or kristinaw@sancaseattle.org.

We are building a community that is spreading the joyous creativity of circus arts and that is thanks to YOU!

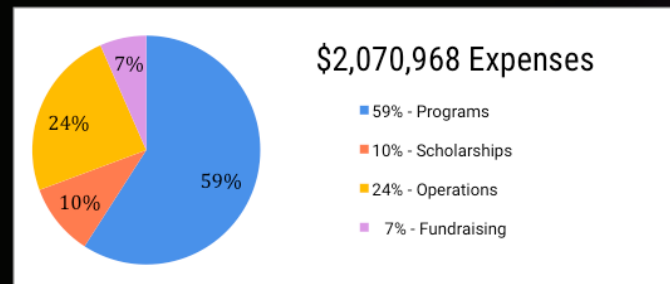
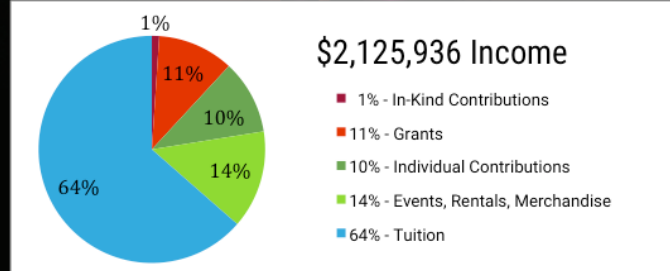
Have fun, be safe, and work hard!



Kristina Wicke
Executive Director
SANCA – School of Acrobatics & New Circus Arts

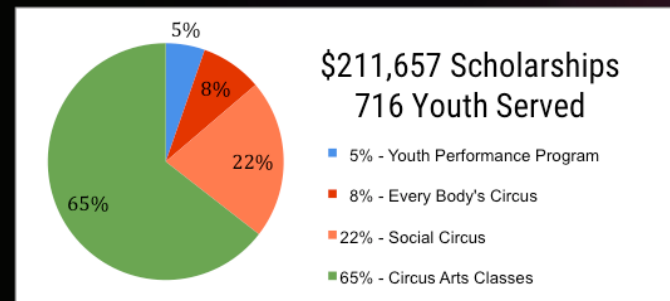
2016 Preliminary Financials*

Photo: Warren Woo



Net Profit / (Loss) \$54,968

*The 2016 financials are preliminary and do not include depreciation or other adjustments. Final numbers will be presented with the IRS 990 Tax Return, available in August.



Your help has made it possible to triple the amount of financial aid given to support SANCA's Social Circus programs and increased total scholarship support by more than \$55,000 since last year.

Photo: John Cornicello



SANCA GOES TO WASHINGTON!

We're so excited to announce our participation in the Circus Arts Festival at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival's 50th Anniversary!

SANCA will join several other circus arts organizations at the Smithsonian's 50th Folklife Festival at the National Mall in Washington D.C., from June 29 to July 4. As the exclusive presenter of **Adaptive Circus Arts**, we're sending a team of coaches from SANCA's Every Body's Circus Program to share and teach adaptive circus with the public and other circus organizations from across the nation.

Adaptive Circus Arts makes many stunning circus skills such as juggling, trapeze, trampoline, and German wheel accessible to

people who have physical and emotional challenges. Circus provides amazing versatility and adaptability for students of any ability to learn this art form, adapt it to their unique circumstances, and to excel at it. Adaptive circus empowers youth and adults by promoting trust and cooperation, increasing confidence, and promoting play. Our philosophy is to meet each student where they are, taking into account their experiences, goals, and dreams.

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival is marking its 50th Anniversary by bringing the rich history, mystique, and diversity of circus arts to life on the National Mall. Visitors will be taken behind the scenes to learn from generations of American circus families and contemporary visionaries. Along with new students

and celebrated masters, visitors will experience circus arts through performances, demonstrations, and workshops. Since President George Washington attended John Bill Ricketts' circus in Philadelphia in 1793, circus arts have intrigued generations of audiences. Now the country is seeing a revival of interest and creativity in circus arts. The 2017 Folklife Festival provides many opportunities for experiential exploration of the life and work of circus people in America today.

Read more about SANCA's participation in the Circus Arts Festival at: www.festival.si.edu/2017/circus-arts/school-of-acrobatics-new-circus-arts/smithsonian

Want to help underwrite SANCA's travel expenses for this project? Send in your support May 10th at GiveBIG: www.givebigseattle.org/sanca or contact development@sanca-seattle.org.

For more upcoming stories, check out our blog: <http://sancaseattle.org/category/news/>

- Nutrition Basics for Circus Training
- An Aerialist's Journey to Her First Performance
- Carlo's Favorite Quick Cardio Workout
- And more to come!

The Life of a Traveling Circus Family



by Carlo Gentile, *La Famiglia Gentile*,
SANCA Artists-in-Residence

My wife Orlene and I are circus artists specializing in foot juggling. For the last 20-odd years, we've performed in circuses. In the last 7 years, we've had anywhere from 1 to 4 children as young as 3 months and as old as 10 years in the ring with us. We stopped touring for a few months to reshape our family act at SANCA as Artists in Residence.

I've learned a few things from my time in the ring with the family. Foremost, nothing trumps a baby or a toddler in the ring. I can do any number of technical skills — tricks I've learned while spending countless hours

dropping objects. But, as soon as the baby enters the space, the baby is all anyone can talk about after the act. Nobody asks, "Wow, how many times did you drop that jar on your head?" Orlene kicks, spins, flips a table on her feet — it's impressive! You know what people find more entertaining? The toddler running laps around her.

People also ask, "How long can you do that? What will you do when the children get bigger?" I jokingly say, keep having more babies. In reality, I'm thinking about the story of Milo of Croton, a Greek wrestler who trained strength by lifting a calf on his shoulders every day until it becomes a bull. As my children grow in size, I grow in strength.

What people really want to know is, "How do you get the kids to perform, and do what they're supposed to do on cue? I can barely get my kids to brush their teeth." First, it's a

battle getting our kids to brush their teeth, too. In performance, there is no coercion or cajoling. Every show is an invitation. Most of the time our kids answer "yes." In part, it's fun to fly around — whether in front of people or not. It's a bit like training animals. Hmmm... this dog likes jumping. He'll be the jumper in the act. Hmmm... this kid likes hiding in the jar. We need to figure out how to incorporate hiding in the jar in our act. Everybody's happier that way.

Since my life is not super-rigid and routine, I've got to be flexible. Sometimes, a kid is asleep when it's time to start the act. Sometimes one announces that they are not performing 30 minutes before show time. That's OK. Our philosophy is we're making happy memories of growing up living this life. No one wants to be forced to do anything, and the last thing I want to do is "present" a pouting, grumpy 7-year-old in the family act. Somehow, tomorrow, I'll muster up the will to practice, in spite of the fact that my children will outshine me no matter how much I train.

Help SANCA meet an exciting Challenge Match toward our Annual Spring Fund Drive goal of \$45,000

NOW MORE THAN EVER.



give BIG



#GIVEBIG

SANCA's Board of Directors & several generous donors have challenged us with a matching pool of \$20,000!

Every dollar given will receive a dollar-to-dollar match up to that total, doubling your gifts to help us reach our goal!

With your help we know we can do this!

SANCA's Community Agreements



by Ian Jagel,
Social Circus Director

At SANCA, each and every of us are deeply committed to providing the highest quality circus programming possible. We believe that circus should offer both challenge and reward; that you can have fun while working hard; and that success can be found at every step.

All of our work is guided by the principles of our Community Agreements: Have Fun, Be Safe, Work Hard. If you've taken a class at SANCA, you probably heard these agreements on the first day — they are the foundation of SANCA's relationship with our community.

These simple yet powerful notions outline a standard of excellence that we hold ourselves to, hold each other to, and strive to manifest in the world outside SANCA. These agreements are more than what we expect of our students, they are our commitments to you.

Now, more than ever, we need circus, and we believe that by engaging in the joyous creativity of circus arts, we can change the world. We believe that by approaching life the way you approach a circus class, you can grow stronger, play longer, face risks confidently, and experience joy while working hard.



So come one, come all, children of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities! Do more than just join us — come fly, bounce, balance, throw, catch, flip, and spin with us!

The AYCO Festival



by Audrey Spinazola,
Youth Performance Companies Manager

I love circus. I believe in circus. To me, circus is movement; hard work; creative exploration; self-exploration; building community; and accepting all humans regardless of shape, ability, or status. I believe that I can change the world for the better by doing and teaching circus. So you can imagine my joy when I discovered there was an American Youth Circus Organization (AYCO) — a national group of people working together to promote circus, connect educators and participants, and to guide and regulate the industry.

Every other year, AYCO holds a youth festival. It's an amazing opportunity for youth from all across the states to meet and socialize with other circus folk, to attend spectacular performances, and take workshops from leaders in the circus arts. It's also about bringing people together to make friendships and connections that last a lifetime.

AYCO provides workshops for youth to learn an incredible array of circus disciplines. They have workshops for educators to learn spotting techniques; for parents to discuss keeping their students healthy; for leaders to come together and compare organizational strategies. There are learning opportunities at every level.

Circus tends to bring together people who are thinkers, who are movers, and who are interested in making the

world a better place. This is my third AYCO Festival, and I can't wait renew contact with my fellow educators and friends; share my experiences at SANCA; trade stories about our students; and experiment with the latest, most intricate club passing pattern I can find. I'm excited to bring my SANCA students with me and introduce them to some of the most amazing people I know.

This year, SANCA's Magnificent 7 and Cirrus Circus youth troupes will attend the AYCO Youth Festival. It is an exciting opportunity for our youth to meet and work with other circus students and educators from around the country. They will learn new skills and techniques, create new friendships, and gain a greater awareness of Circus Arts in the U.S. SANCA's youth companies will experience other bubbles of circus; new ways of thinking and creating; and meet performers and coaches who will help them expand their possibilities in the world of circus.

I'm inspired each and every time I attend this festival. I hope that this trip similarly inspires our youth, and that they in turn bring back their knowledge and experience to inspire the SANCA community.

Want to help underwrite The Youth Performance Program's travel expenses for this project? Send in your support May 10th at GiveBIG: www.givebigseattle.org/SANCA or contact development@sancaseattle.org.

SANCA

SCHOOL OF ACROBATICS
& NEW CIRCUS ARTS

674 S. Orcas St. Seattle, WA 98108



Photo: Warren Woo

SANCA

Spring 2017

Upcoming Events

P3 show: *In Somnia*
May 12 & 13

Spring Festival of Flight:
Candyland
June 2 & 3

Staff Show
August 18-27

Fall Festival of Flight
October 6 & 7

SANCAthon
October 15

Cirrus Circus Show
November 10-18



Photo: John Cornicello

www.sancaseattle.org

SANCA's youth performing troupe *Cirrus Circus* creates their own original full-length circus show every autumn