

Community Partner Spotlight – December 2009

Nutcracker Children donate over \$9,000

Moments before the curtain went up on opening night, an adorable young dancer from The Nutcracker children's cast ventured on stage to present a special gift to Artistic Directors, Ron Cunningham and Carinne Binda. The children have a tradition of exchanging small gifts backstage with their cast-mates. This year, they decided to skip these gifts and raise money for the Sacramento Ballet in honor of a remarkable man: Lt. Colonel Fred Shadle, known to all as "Col. Fred."



Photo courtesy of Jay Mather

(continued below)

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Col. Fred was a two war veteran army officer who dedicated over 40 years of his life in service to the arts. One of the Ballet's original Board Members, Fred volunteered as a backstage coordinator and he never missed a Sacramento Ballet performance in over four decades. The Nutcracker children knew Col. Fred as the kind, white-bearded man with an uncanny resemblance to Santa Claus who greeted them as they signed in at the stage door. His warm smile and calm demeanor reassured the tiniest performer and seasoned professional alike.

With Col. Fred and the Ballet in mind, hundreds of Nutcracker children pooled their small individual donations – some just a few dollars from their allowance money – to raise over \$9,000 for the Fred Shadle Fund.

The Sacramento Ballet's Fred Shadle Fund provides financial support for dance education and training opportunities and scholarships for local pre-professional dancers.

"This generous gift from the Nutcracker children and their families is a wonderful tribute to our beloved Colonel Fred," said Carinne Binda, Artistic Director. " The [Fred Shadle Fund](#) has now become an integral part of the Sacramento Ballet's vision to train the next generation of dancers and engage young people in becoming life-long supporters of ballet."



Photo courtesy of Jay Mather