

# Allegro Community Children's Choir

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## General Information

**Nonprofit**

Allegro Community Children's Choir

**Address**

222 Oak Street  
Bonner Springs, KS 66012

**Phone**

(913) 645-7205

**Fax****Website**

[www.allegrocc.org](http://www.allegrocc.org)

**Contact Email**

[christy@allegrocc.org](mailto:christy@allegrocc.org)

**Year of Incorporation**

2002

**Organization DBA****Former Names**

Community Foundation Staff Conducted Site Visit when Developing Profile

## Statements and Search Criteria

**Mission Statement**

Through excellence in choral education and performance, children and youth will experience the joy and rewards of singing while developing essential life skills.

**Impact Statement****Accomplishments**

1. Provided classical music education to 170 young singers, from 3rd – 12th grades, to enhance their choral development while building character, personal responsibility and cultural awareness.
2. Invited to be guest performers for the Kansas City Symphony Christmas Festival 2010.

3. Commissioned and performed the world premieres of three original works.
4. Presented 3 major concerts, performed 3 free community service concerts and guest performed for 2 benefit concerts including a Book Drive concert which collected a total of 600 books for Operation Breakthrough.
5. Invited to be guest performers for the 2011 Governor's Arts Award Gala in Topeka, Kansas.
6. In June 2011, Allegro Con Brio will sing by invitation at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy.

#### **Goals**

1. To provide classical music education to 170 + young singers, from 3rd – 12th grades, to enhance their choral development while building character, personal responsibility and cultural awareness.
2. To submit an audition recording to the Southwest American Choral Directors Association in order to be considered as a guest performer during their 2012 convention in Dallas, Texas.
3. Continue to build relationship with Operation Breakthrough through benefit concerts and scholarships.
4. Commission original works and bring in guest clinicians for supplementary instruction in African drumming.
5. Produce compilation CD recording of Christmas music to which proceeds will benefit singer scholarships.

#### **Background Statement**

The Allegro Community Children's Choir was established in 2000 to provide an opportunity for youth from around the city to learn and perform beautiful music of the highest quality with technical excellence. The program has blossomed from one choir of 38 to over 160 singers in four ensembles. The most advanced ensemble performs college level material and tours internationally. The quality of the program rests on the abilities of the directors, each outstanding music educators.

#### **Primary Organization Category**

Arts, Culture & Humanities / Performing Arts

#### **Secondary Organization Category**

Arts, Culture & Humanities / Arts Education

#### **Tertiary Organization Category**

Youth Development / Youth Development Programs

#### **Geographic Areas Served**

KS

MO - Jackson County

MO - Clay County

MO - Liberty

KS - Johnson County

KS - Wyandotte County

MO - Platte County

#### **Needs Statement**

Top 5 Needs

1. Funding for the commissioning of original works and an endowment for a Composer in Residence position.
2. Funding to pay for additional part-time staff position for development and grant writing.
3. Funding for singer scholarships.
4. Inexpensive rehearsal and concert venues.
5. Funding for technology updates and website expansion.

#### **CEO Statement**

The Allegro Community Children's Choir provides a unique opportunity for singers in Kansas City to rehearse and perform beautiful music to its highest quality and technical accuracy. Singers work hard throughout the year developing their voices meanwhile developing their character, self esteem and community and cultural awareness.

#### **Board Chair Statement**

Board President Christy Elsner reports Allegro is financially stable and is fortunate to have a dedicated staff as well as supportive parents who volunteer at least ten hours each concert season. Streamlining staff positions, replacing paper and mailings with technology, and using our website for ticket sales and parent access, has allowed us to keep tuitions at the same level for the past five years, making Allegro affordable for area families. We are faced with positive challenges mainly centered around continued growth and expansion of Allegro's current program and include the following:

- 1. Rehearsal and performance space:** Allegro continues to seek affordable rehearsal space. Churches and schools are the most practical spaces, however it becomes increasingly difficult to find a location willing to host Allegro for weekly rehearsals as well as retreats within our current budget. We consume five spaces within a building for five hours on a Monday night. Finding adequate performance space is a challenge as well. Audience size has grown 10-15% each year for the past 6 years, with 750-900 currently attending

each of our three major concerts. The space must be able to support live singing and be able to accommodate the singers on risers as well as have an acoustic piano. Many churches are too small or are not created for 'live' singing. Local performing arts centers are currently priced out of our budgets. We continue to research rehearsal and performance space for a more permanent home.

**2. New programs and new staff requirements:** Our future plans include the development and introduction of a young men's chorus as well as an after-school program for at-risk students. Both of these programs will require additional funding for the hiring and salary maintenance of another full-time choral director as well as part-time Development/PR Coordinator. We are currently establishing an Endowment fund to generate funds for the choral position as well as seeking additional funding for the Development/PR coordinator.

## **Programs**

### **Children's Choirs**

Allegro Community Children's Choirs offers a comprehensive choral program for treble voices grades 3 through 12.

***Allegro con Brio (Allegro with Zest)*** offers advanced choral training, vocal development, and musical fellowship for grades 8-12. Brio is the perfect choir for singers ready for a challenge. Singers learn difficult music at an intense pace, and a smaller choir size allows for personalized vocal instruction. *Allegro con Moto (Allegro with Motion)* is for singers in grades 6 and up. Moto singers are those students who have a love for singing and a desire to perform at a higher musical level. The innovative, fast-paced rehearsals resemble a "mini voice lesson" using age-appropriate literature and pedagogy.

***Vivo Allegro (Lively Allegro)*** is for singers in grades 5-7. Vivo provides introductory vocal training in an energetic, loving atmosphere. Basic theory, music reading skills, head tone, vowels, breath control and performance skills are taught through unison and two part music.

***Poco Allegro (Little Allegro)*** is a beginning level choir for grades 3-5. Poco provides vocal training with a focus on reading skills, pitch matching, performance techniques, and vocal independence. The fundamentals of choral singing are presented in an energetic and nurturing atmosphere.

### **Budget**

#### **Category**

#### **Population Served**

#### **Program Short-Term Success**

Each Allegro singer will receive 40 – 120 hours of vocal training per year (depending on their choir level), 4 – 6 opportunities to perform and many community service and character development opportunities.

#### **Program Long-Term Success**

Developing singers' voices and characters to their highest potential is the ultimate goal of the Allegro program. To achieve this, singers are encouraged to continue in the program until they graduate from high school. Potentially each singer could be in the program for 10 years (3rd – 12th grades).

Through this experience, the singers will have been exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, received extensive professional level voice training, performed in over 30 major concerts and numerous benefit performances, traveled throughout the United States performing and gone on at least one international tour all while making life-long friendships and gaining life-skills that will benefit them in everything they choose to do.

#### **Program Success Monitored By**

Success is measured by several outcomes:

1. Singer return rate (currently at 85-90%)

2. Singer advancement
3. Concert attendance (usually sold out)
4. Invitations to perform at high visibility events (KC Symphony concerts, Governor's Awards, National/Regional Conferences)

### **Examples of Program success**

The Allegro Community Children's Choir has weathered the financial downturn successfully and continues to grow which is in contrast to many youth choirs around the country which have scaled back significantly. Allegro is supported enthusiastically by its participating parents, by area music educators and by the business and funding community. Allegro con Brio, the top choir, has been invited to perform during the Kansas City Symphony's Christmas Festival again in 2011 which will take place in the new Kauffman Performing Arts Center. On an individual level, 90% of Allegro graduating seniors have participated in the program for 5 years or more and most continue to participate in collegiate level music programs as well as local and regional musical productions. Additionally, many singers choose a music or arts-related field of study.

## **Program Comments**

### **CEO Comments**

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### **Foundation Staff Comments**

## **Management**

### **CEO/Executive Director**

Christy Elsner

### **CEO Term Start**

Jan 2002

### **CEO Email**

christy@allegrocc.org

### **CEO Experience**

**Christy Elsner**, Director. A native Kansan, Christy Elsner is the founder and Artistic Director of the Allegro Community Children's Choir. Mrs. Elsner is an active clinician for children's, youth, and treble choirs and frequently gives workshops on her innovative rehearsals and unusual teaching tools. In 2011, she will conduct honor choirs in Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi, and Louisiana as well as present at the MMEA convention. She was honored to guest conduct the 2010 Kansas All-State Treble Honor Choir, 2009 Louisiana All-State Children's Choir and the 2007 Missouri All-State 7/8 Honor Choir. She is a 2010 recipient of the Kindest-Kansas Citizen and a 2008 recipient of the Outstanding Middle Level Educator by the Kansas Music Educators Association. She is the current SWACDA Children's Choir Repertoire & Standards Chair and served for seven years on the Kansas Choral Director Association's Board as the Repertoire & Standards Children's Choir Co-chair. She was the 1995 recipient of the Kansas Choral Directors Association's Award for Outstanding Young Conductor. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a

degree in Music Education and received the Marcus E. Hahn Award for Out-standing Senior Music Education Student from the KU faculty. Her professional memberships include MENC, Chorister's Guild, Chorus America, and the American Choral Directors Association. Christy and her husband, Sean, stay busy with their children: Chandler, Chase, and Carlee.

**Number of Full Time Staff**

2

**Number of Part Time Staff**

7

**Number of Volunteers**

10

**Number of Contract Staff**

10

**Staff Retention Rate**

**Organization has Fundraising Plan?**

Under Development

**Organization has Strategic Plan?**

Under Development

**Years Strategic Plan Considers**

N/A

**Date Strategic Plan Adopted**

**Management Succession Training Plan**

Under Development

**Organization Policies And Procedures**

Under Development

**Co-CEO**

**Co-CEO Term Start**

**Co-CEO Email**

**Former CEOs and Terms**

-

**Senior Staff**

Lori Egan - Administrative Director

**Management Reports to Board?**

N/A

**CEO Formal Evaluation and Frequency**

N/A - N/A

**Senior Management Formal Evaluation and Frequency**

N/A - N/A

**Non Management Formal Evaluation and Frequency**

N/A - N/A

**Collaborations**

The Allegro Community Children's Choir has collaborated with many organizations in order to "change lives with song." Most recently a partnership with Operation Breakthrough resulted in a donation of over 500 new or gently used books which were collected at the Spring 2011 concert. The books filled their library and each child the organization serves received one book to take home. Other collaborations include, collecting food for Harvesters, and raising money to buy music for a choir in the Czech Republic. Community giving is an

important component of Allegro as it teaches the singers a valuable lesson in giving back to the community.

## **Affiliations**

## **External Assessments Accreditations**

## **Awards**

## **Government Licenses**

### **Whistle Blower Policy Plan**

No

### **Document Destruction Policy Plan**

No

## **CEO Comments**

## **Foundation Staff Comments**

## **Governance**

### **Board Chair**

Mrs. Christy Elsner

### **Board Chair Company Affiliation**

Founder & Artistic/Executive Director, Allegro Community Children's Choir

### **Board Chair Term**

July 2010 to June 2013

### **Board Chair Email**

christy@allegrocc.org

### **Board Members**

Geri Allcorn - Pioneer Preschool and Professional Accompanist

Dr. Miriam Anderson - Lee's Summit Eye Care

Linda Dickens - Attorney-at-Law for JC Grason

Christy Elsner - Founder & Artistic/Executive Director, Allegro Community Children's Choir

Bill Grace - Retired Missouri High School Choral Director

Andrea Ramsey - Composer of Children's Choral Repertoire

### **Board Demographics**

#### **Ethnicity:**

African American/Black: 0

Asian American/Pacific Islander: 0

Caucasian: 6

Hispanic/Latino: 0

Native American/American Indian: 0

Other: 0

Other (if specified): 0

#### **Gender:**

Female: 5

Male: 1

Unspecified: 0

### **Board Term Lengths**

3

### **Board Term Limits**

0

**Board Meeting Attendance**

100

**Written Board Selection Criteria**

Under Development

**Written Conflict Of Interest Policy**

Under Development

**Percentage of Monetary Contributions**

50

**Board Co-Chair**

**Board Co-Chair Company Affiliation**

**Board Co-Chair Term**

to

**Number of Full Board Meetings Annually**

4

**Constituent Board Members**

**Percentage of In-Kind Contributions**

100

**Risk Management Provisions**

**Standing Committees**

**Additional Board/s Members and Affiliations**

**CEO/Executive Director Comments**

We are faced with positive challenges mainly centered around continued growth and expansion of Allegro's current program and include the need for rehearsal and performance space and new programs and new staff requirements.

**Financials**

**Fiscal Year**

2012

**Projected Revenue**

\$163,100

**Projected Expenses**

\$163,100

**Prior Three Years Total Revenue and Expense Totals Chart**

Fiscal Year	2011	2010	2009
Total Revenue	-	-	-
Total Expenses	-	-	-

**Prior Three Years Total Revenue Sources Chart**

Fiscal Year	2011	2010	2009
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Foundation and Corporation Contributions	-	-	-
Government Contributions	-	-	-
-- Federal	-	-	-
-- State	-	-	-
-- Local	-	-	-
-- Unspecified	-	-	-
Individual Contributions	-	-	-
Indirect Public Support	-	-	-
Earned Revenue	-	-	-
Interest and Dividend Income	-	-	-
Membership Dues	-	-	-
Special Events	-	-	-
Revenue In-Kind	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-

### Prior Three Years Expense Allocations Chart

Expense By Type

Fiscal Year	2011	2010	2009
Program Expense	-	-	-
Administration Expense	-	-	-
Fundraising Expense	-	-	-
Payments to Affiliates	-	-	-
Total Revenue/Total Expenses	-	-	-
Program Expense/Total Expenses	-	-	-
Fundraising Expense/Contributed Revenue	-	-	-

### Prior Three Years Assets and Liabilities Chart

Assets and Liabilities

Fiscal Year	2011	2010	2009
Total Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	-	-	-
Long-Term Liabilities	-	-	-
Current Liabilities	-	-	-

Total Net Assets	-	-	-
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**Short Term Solvency**

Fiscal Year	2011	2010	2009
Current Ratio: Current Assets/Current Liabilities	-	-	-

**Long Term Solvency**

Fiscal Year	2011	2010	2009
Long-term Liabilities/Total Assets	-	-	-

**Prior Three Years Top Three Funding Sources**

Top Three Funding Sources

Fiscal Year	2011	2010	2009
Top Funding Source and Dollar Amount	-	-	-
Second Highest Funding Source and Dollar Amount	-	-	-
Third Highest Funding Source and Dollar Amount	-	-	-

**Endowment Value**

-

**Spending Policy**

**Are you currently in Capital Campaign?**

No

**Capital Campaign Purpose**

**Campaign Goal**

-

**Capital Campaign Dates**

-

**Capital Campaign Raised-to-Date Date**

**Capital Campaign Raised-to-Date Amount**

-

**Capital Campaign Anticipated in Next 5 Years?**

**State Registration**

Exempt

**CEO Compensation**

**Tax Credits**

No

**CEO Comments**

Allegro has remained financially viable through these difficult economic times which we feel is a testament to the quality of the program and the need that it fulfills in the community.

**Foundation Staff Comments**



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