

A Festive and Fun December for Art-Reach

This December was a busy month for Art-Reach. With two large events within two weeks, the Art-Reach community was engaged in accessible activities of all kinds this holiday season. The [Westminster Chancel Choir](#) performed the *We Wish You Christmas* concert on December 9th for over 300 guests, the majority of whom were Art-Reach members and friends from Chester County. Less than one week later, Art-Reach groups gathered at the [Prince Music Theater](#) to enjoy a completely accessible performance of Cinderella, presented by the [Enchantment Theatre Company](#). Both performances brought in large numbers of people who were enthusiastic about the opportunities to mix, mingle, and enjoy a great show.



Art-Reach members awaiting the Westminster Chancel [Choir](#) performance

We Wish You Christmas was the choir's final dress rehearsal and was held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Chester County, PA for Art-Reach groups as well as members of the church on December 9th. The choir was enthusiastic, and the audience was moving in their seats, ready to sing along with the carols. The performance was wonderfully accessible, with **American Sign Language (ASL)** interpretation by [Hands Up Productions](#) as well as **Open Captioning** provided by [Deaf Hearing Communication Center](#).

Based on the hand-claps and audience participation there was no doubt that patrons had a great time at this performance. Andrew Schwartz who came with Art-Reach member agency Camphill Soltane remarked that he, "loved the drums, they were one of my favorite parts!" Throughout the performance, the audience remained enthusiastic and excited about this spectacular show.

A quick five days after *We Wish You Christmas*, Art-Reach groups gathered once again to see Cinderella at the [Prince Music Theater](#) performed by the [Enchantment Theatre Company](#). Prior to the performance, groups serving people who are blind or visually impaired had the opportunity to go on a sensory tour of the show's set and props used in the performance. The audience members on this tour were allowed to feel props and walk on stage— they touched Cinderella's carriage and the actors' masks and puppets among other things. The sensory tour was extremely beneficial to patrons who are blind or visually impaired, as well as a great time for all people involved!



Ambassador Sarah McCague leading a patron on the sensory tour for Enchantment Theatre Co.'s Production of Cinderella

The performance of Cinderella was completely accessible for the audience. **Audio Description** headsets and **Open Captioning** equipment were provided by [VSA Arts of PA](#) and were operated by Associate Director Stephanie Borton (*Audio Description*) and Intern Ambassador Folami Islam (*Open Captioning.*) [Hands Up Productions](#) provided **ASL** interpretation once again, and as usual delivered an exceptional experience for patrons in attendance.

The accessible resources at these two events made it possible for each member of the audience to have an equally fulfilling and rewarding experience. "I loved everything, I'm so glad I could come," said Trevor from Liberty Resources at the performance of Cinderella. Both of the events in December sparked great reactions from the audience, leaving patrons looking forward to next time!



Trevor and Shernell from Liberty Resources at Cinderella

Both *We Wish You Christmas* and *Cinderella* were truly enjoyed by all and Art-Reach is sincerely grateful to everyone who attended. Thank you to our members, arts partners, and the community for helping Art-Reach to further its mission through events like these. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

By Judy Robbins

Judy serves as an [Administrative & Special Projects Ambassador](#) through [Art-Reach's Ambassador Program](#)