

2021 Dale Foor Cornerstone Award Honoree

CHAR & SCOTT MCCASLAND

RESIDES: GAHANNA, OHIO

In 1984 Char and Scott McCasland founded the Gahanna Community Theatre (GCT). Char's love of theatre was established thanks to her degree in communication with an emphasis in drama from the University of Oklahoma. After Scott and Char married, he found her love of theatre to be infectious and supported her quest with a loan of \$2,000 to begin the Gahanna Community Theatre.



Char McCasland said she is forever grateful for the support she received from the City of Gahanna and the school district. When the theater first began, the city allowed the murder mystery productions to be held where the old fire station was at

Creekside and the school district generously opened the high school auditorium doors so musical productions could occur.

The first musical GCT performed was "Annie Get Your Gun". Through the years, Char estimates over 2,000 people have been involved in the theater program; from the actors and actresses to crew members.

GLHS students were involved on stage, in the orchestra as well as helping with the sets. Char and Scott both mentioned their connection with the students as being "priceless". Char not

only produced the shows but she also performed in a number of the productions. Scott said his contributions to GCT were behind the scenes, mainly building the sets.

Ian Short, who directed the Gahanna Community Theatre for 15 years, calls McCasland a "million-dollar director". He said she was a wonderful producer who was great at getting the community involved.

The McCaslands mentioned that the Gahanna Community Theatre donated spotlights, multiple stage lights, microphones and a large electric saw to the stage build shop at the high school. It was their way of giving back to the school district.

The community theatre was in existence for 36 years, having produced scores of musicals, murder mysteries and three-act plays. In 2019, the McCaslands decided to retire from their positions and the theatre closed.



Char and Scott are enjoying their retirement with family and friends. They have two adult children: Rick, GLHS '85 and Kim, GLHS '86, and a granddaughter Daisy.