



Origins of the Screen Actors Guild Foundation

The Screen Actors Guild Foundation, formed in 1985, is an educational, humanitarian and philanthropic 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to enhancing the lives of actors by investing in programs which help them in their professional endeavors and the communities in which they live. Its programs reflect the concerns and interests of SAG-AFTRA members, as well as their desire to give back to their communities. The Foundation relies solely on the support of grants, corporate sponsorships, bequests and individual contributions to maintain its programs and create new ones in its mission to assist, educate and inspire actors.

The SAG Foundation is independent from SAG-AFTRA but offers substantive services to SAG-AFTRA members, free of charge. These include instructional workshops, career empowering seminars, children's literacy, scholarships, emergency and catastrophic health care assistance including the [Superstorm Sandy Relief Fund](#). During its history, the Foundation has distributed more than \$20 million to actors facing financial and medical hardship.

The Foundation's John L. Dales Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$6 million in scholarships to SAG members and their children. The Foundation's ongoing professional development programs, LifeRaft, Conversations and Casting Access Project, are major sources of continuing education for actors to help them enhance their craft and business skills.

The SAG Foundation Actors Center, which opened in 2008, is the first resource of its kind in Los Angeles to offer a screening room, editing bays and workshop space for the professional entertainment community. The SAG Foundation's newest facility is the Don LaFontaine Voice-Over Lab, which opened in 2010 and offers technical and creative instruction to actors pursuing voice-over careers.

[BookPALS](#) (Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools) is the Foundation's award winning children's literacy initiative, which relies on 2,200 union performers who read to 60,000 children weekly in hospitals, shelters and schools nationwide. Internationally, [Storyline Online](#), the Foundation's Web-based literacy program, attracts an average of 2 million views each month. An interactive Internet experience for kids, it provides videos of celebrated actors reading children's books. Both BookPALS and Storyline Online enable the Foundation to make the magic of books and reading come alive for youngsters.

To find out more about the Screen Actors Guild Foundation, please visit sagfoundation.org. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible and welcome at any time of the year. The Foundation also puts on annual fundraising events, including golf tournaments and a poker tournament, which offer actors and other Foundation supporters additional opportunities to support the SAG Foundation.

