



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACTS:

Gus Schulenburg | gschulenburg@tcg.org | 212-609-5940
Salma S. Zohdi | szohdi@tcg.org | 212-609-5955
Bana Miller | bmiller@bluestarfam.org | 910-578-4841
Julie Maykowski | jmaykows@uccs.edu | 719-255-3108

**Blue Star Theatres and THEATREWORKS - Colorado Present
A *Christmas Carol*-Themed Event for Military Families**

New York, NY – Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for theatre, and Blue Star Families, the country’s largest chapter-based military families non-profit organization, are pleased to announce that on Sunday, December 18, a Blue Star Theatres event will be held at 2:30 p.m. MST by THEATREWORKS at the Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. The event will include remarks by Teresa Eyring, executive director, TCG; **Murray Ross**, artistic director; and **Julie Maykowski**, managing director, THEATREWORKS. In this event for military families, THEATREWORKS will offer various activities in connection with its production of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, including an introductory teatime in the theatre lobby, creative intergenerational family workshops, and quirky lectures on themes related to the play. Eighty free tickets to the 4:00 p.m. performance have been made available to participating families, and the afternoon will conclude with a post-show gathering where guests can enjoy mulled wine and cider.

“With five major military communities near Colorado Springs, we’re thrilled to be working with THEATREWORKS to bring this exciting holiday event to military families,” said **Teresa Eyring**, executive director, TCG. “This marks our fourth Blue Star Theatres event this fall, and every time we’ve witnessed the power of theatre through the eyes of military families, our commitment to this work has been renewed. We’re grateful for our longstanding partnership with Blue Star Families to connect theatres with military communities all across our country.”

One hundred fifty-two TCG Member Theatres in 41 U.S. states and territories have now joined the **Blue Star Theatres** program, providing a variety of theatre offerings to military personnel and their families. This initiative recognizes the profound contributions of service families and seeks to build stronger connections among theatres, military families, and their communities through unique programming, special discounts, and more. To view the full list of participating Blue Star Theatres, visit: www.tcg.org/Advocacy/BlueStarTheatres.aspx.

“The military community is such an enormously important part of the community here in the Pikes Peak Region,” said **Julie Maykowski**, managing director, THEATREWORKS. “We have wanted to find ways to serve both active military and their families as well as veterans, and now through this partnership with Blue Star Families and Theatre Communications Group, we are just getting started on what we hope will be an ongoing effort and just the tip of the iceberg.”

“Programs like Blue Star Theatres connect our local military and civilian communities and offer families fun and enriching activities to enjoy together,” said **Kathy Roth-Douquet**, CEO, Blue Star Families. “We are excited about the growth of the program thanks to the generous support of the MetLife Foundation and the contributions of TCG and the growing number of theatres across the country.”



TCG and Blue Star Families connect theatres with local bases and military families and develop and disseminate best practices for engaging with deployed personnel, veterans, and service families. The Blue Star Theatres grant program supports projects that can include talk-backs, outreach programs, sponsored tickets, performances, playwriting workshops, readings, or workshops that focus on military themes and service. For more information about the Blue Star Theatres grant program, visit <http://www.tcgcircle.org/category/blue-star-theatres/>.

Blue Star Families builds communities that support military families by connecting research and data to programs and solutions, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since its inception in 2009, Blue Star Families has engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and served more than 1.5 million military family members. Blue Star Families believes that all military families should be able to serve and simultaneously build thriving and healthy families. With Blue Star Families, military families can find answers to their challenges anywhere they are. Visit bluestarfam.org for more information.

MetLife Foundation was created in 1976 to continue MetLife's long tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Today, the Foundation is dedicated to advancing financial inclusion, committing \$200 million over the next five years to help build a secure future for individuals and communities around the world. MetLife Foundation is affiliated with MetLife, Inc, a leading global provider of insurance, annuities, and employee benefit programs, serving 90 million customers. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, MetLife holds leading market positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. For more information, visit www.metlife.org.

THEATREWORKS is a professional regional theatre company dedicated to creating challenging and innovative productions of classic and contemporary theatre for the enjoyment, education, and stimulation of our community, including the Pikes Peak Region, the University of Colorado, and, on occasion, the larger world. Learn more at www.theatreworkscs.org.

The **Veterans and Theatre Institute** (VTI) is a pilot program launched by TCG for veterans and active military personnel to experience, study, and create theatre. By developing unique curricula for four communities through engagement with military and community partners, VTI aims to build sustainable relationships among veterans and the theatre community. Playwright and veteran **Maurice Decaul** leads VTI as TCG's first official artist-in-residence, constructing curricula and programming over a three-year development period. VTI is supported by **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's** Building Demand for the Arts program.

For over 50 years, **Theatre Communications Group** (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, has existed to strengthen, nurture, and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. TCG's constituency has grown from a handful of groundbreaking theatres to nearly 700 member theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 11,000 individuals nationwide. TCG offers its members networking and knowledge-building opportunities through conferences, events, research, and communications; awards grants, approximately \$2 million per year, to theatre companies and individual artists; advocates on the federal level; and serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute, connecting its constituents to the global theatre community. TCG is North America's largest



independent publisher of dramatic literature, with 14 Pulitzer Prizes for Best Play on the TCG booklist. It also publishes the award-winning *American Theatre* magazine and ARTSEARCH®, the essential source for a career in the arts. In all of its endeavors, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field, and promote a larger public understanding of, and appreciation for, the theatre. www.tcg.org.

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