

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Clear Space partners with Immanuel Shelter to produce CARDBOARD STORIES!**

On Saturday, March 4, and Sunday, March 5, Clear Space Theatre Company, in collaboration with Immanuel Shelter, will present CARDBOARD STORIES, a reader's theatre production. The play, commissioned in 2010 by the nonprofit Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless and written by Marvia Joye Watkins, with music by September Penn, spotlights one story of homelessness: Allie (Katharine Ariyan), is a young woman who has aged out of foster care and now, along with her baby, finds herself homeless. Then she meets Hope (Cat Timko), a college student who tries to help her.



"I'm so happy to be part of CARDBOARD STORIES," says Ariyan, "I've always loved social action theatre, and this piece brings to light an issue I'm not sure many people even know exists in Sussex County. I hope – when they leave the theatre – our audience members will know this is just a moment in these characters' lives. Homelessness is not the end of the journey for these people; they are working to change their situations and need all the help and empathy we can muster to enable them to do so."

Rex Rogosch, a member of Immanuel Shelter's Board, echoes Ariyan's sentiments: "We hope people will become aware of homelessness in our area, as well as homelessness in general. We also hope this play helps underscore that homelessness can affect many different types of people, who come from many different social, gender and age groups."

CARDBOARD STORIES is the third in a series of collaborations between Clear Space and local non-profit organizations; it follows 2015's collaboration with Beebe Healthcare's Women's Health Services program (LOVE, LOSS AND WHAT I WORE) and 2016's partnership with CAMP Rehoboth (THE LARAMIE PROJECT). Says Wesley Paulson, Clear Space's Executive Director, "David Button, Clear Space's Artistic Director, and I looked for opportunities to continue this collaborative effort in 2017. Homelessness is a visible issue in our community; so, too, is one response to that issue: Immanuel Shelter. We identified a play that would enable us to address homelessness in a readers theater format, then approached the Shelter's Board of Directors with our idea."

Janet Idema, President of Immanuel Shelter's Board, expressed the shelter's enthusiasm for this opportunity: "We are thrilled to be partnering with Clear Space! We hope we can grow this partnership to the benefit of both organizations."

Carl Schloegel, Chair of Clear Space's Board, noted the many benefits of this particular collaboration, saying, "We are excited to play a role in bringing this play to our community. It simply was a great opportunity on so many levels: It gives us the chance to partner with Immanuel Shelter, another non-profit organization in our community. And, Clear Space gets to help to raise awareness of the homelessness that exists right here in this area. We also

see this as an opportunity to fulfill our mission – inspiring and educating audiences, artists and students – through staging a production that is sure to be thought-provoking and memorable.”

CARDBOARD STORIES runs for only two performances: Saturday, March 4, at 6:00 pm and Sunday, March 5, at 2:00 pm. Tickets for each show are \$50, and include a pre-show reception. Proceeds benefit both Immanuel Shelter and Clear Space. Tickets may be purchased on-line at [www.clearspacetheatre.org](http://www.clearspacetheatre.org), or by calling the box office at 302-227-2270.