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Blue Star Theatres and Boston Children's Theatre Present Event for Military Families *Blue Star Theatres Now Includes Over 150 Theatres Nationwide*

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 151 theatres in 35 states have now joined the **Blue Star Theatres** program. In a partnership between TCG and Blue Star Families, with leadership support from MetLife Foundation, Blue Star Theatres supports a variety of theatre offerings to military personnel and their families across the United States. This initiative recognizes the profound contributions of service families and seeks to build stronger connections between theatres, military families, and their communities through unique programming, special discounts, and more.

On Saturday, October 24th, a Blue Star Theatres event will be held from 3:30 – 5:30pm ET by Boston Children's Theatre (BCT) at The Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont St, Boston MA. This event will include remarks by **Kevin E. Moore**, managing director, TCG; **Toby Schine**, executive director and producer, Boston Children's Theatre; and **Andrea Bublitz**, consultant, Blue Star Families and military spouse of 9 years, married to Captain Matthew Bublitz of the U.S. Air Force. This event for military families will include an **interactive workshop** featuring Mark Kimball Moulton's Halloween story *Twisted Sisters*. Children will play Halloween theatre games, read Mark Kimball Moulton's *Twisted Sisters*, and learn to act it out with friends and family. Learn more and RSVP for the event [here](#).

"There are many ways in which our Blue Star Theatres give back to military families, but perhaps none more moving than programs geared toward their children," said **Teresa Eyring**, executive director, TCG. "When we witness the power of theatre through their eyes, we're reminded what our military personnel are fighting for, and why it's so important to honor their service."

According to **Toby Schine**, BCT Executive Director, being a part of the Blue Star Theatres program is an important way for Boston Children's Theatre to share the magic of theatre with an extended family. "We are so proud to be part of this tremendous program," said Schine. "As a children's theatre we are dedicated to providing children and their families access to theatre and the arts, and telling stories that are often a reflection of our community. We are looking forward to inviting military personnel and their families into our BCT family and to sharing our stories and experiences together."

"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, and more. For more information about the Blue Star Theatres grant program, visit: <http://www.tcgcircle.org/category/blue-star-theatres/>.



One hundred and fifty-one TCG Member Theatres have signed on to participate in Blue Star Theatres. To find the full list, visit: <http://www.tcg.org/advocacy/bluestar/map.cfm>.

Since 1951, **Boston Children's Theatre** has served as one of New England's premier not-for-profit theaters. Named Best of Boston® by *Boston Magazine* for Best Children's Theatre, BCT's mission is to provide access to exceptional theatrical experiences dedicated to fostering the artistic and personal development of diverse youth, with a focus on professional training and the development of new works. Programs at Boston Children's Theatre provide a unique chance for self-discovery and individual expression in a supportive and productive environment. At BCT, talented and motivated students gather from across traditional boundaries and nationalities to learn about themselves, each other and the world, as they create some of the finest theatrical productions in New England. For more information, visit www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org.

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, dedicated to supporting, connecting and empowering military families. With our partners, Blue Star Families hosts a robust array of morale and empowerment programs, including Books on Bases, Blue Star Museums, Operation Honor Corps, Blue Star Careers and Operation Appreciation. Blue Star Families also works directly with the Department of Defense and senior members of local, State and Federal government to bring the most important military family issues to light. Working in concert with fellow nonprofits, community advocates and public officials, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable. Our worldwide membership includes military spouses, children, parents and friends, as well as service members, veterans and civilians. For more information visit bluestarfamilies.org, facebook.com/bluestarfamilies or twitter.com/BlueStarFamily.

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.

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 12,000 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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