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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Transcendence Theatre Company serves Latino community  
with comprehensive theater engagement program**

*Sponsored program partners with La Luz Center for self-empowerment workshop,  
sponsored tickets to attend performance of "Broadway Under the Stars"  
and theater camp and onstage performances for youngsters*

**July 24, 2018**

SONOMA, CA – In its continuing effort to foster community engagement opportunities Transcendence Theatre Company developed a comprehensive 2018 summer theater program with the Latino community in Sonoma.

"In collaboration with La Luz Center, Sonoma's primary Latino community center, we have created three points of engagement this summer geared towards inclusion of the Latino community within Sonoma," said Transcendence Co-Executive Director, Brad Surosky.

Since its founding in 1985, La Luz Center has functioned as the primary resource in Sonoma Valley for disadvantaged families seeking opportunities to improve their circumstances and become economically self-sufficient. La Luz also focuses on providing enhanced programs to educate and empower the community.

As part of Transcendence Theatre Company's community outreach program "Diverse Sonoma," the La Luz Center engagement program has been created alongside the California Public Schools' Department of Education's Visual and Performing Arts Framework and is sponsored by Redwood Credit Union, Kaiser Permanente, Chuck & Cathy Williamson and the Alan & Susan Seidenfeld Charitable Trust.

"These three engagement opportunities are the beginning of a multi-year strategic plan in welcoming the Latino community into Transcendence Theatre Company's audience," said Transcendence Theatre Company Director of Community Engagement and Education, Nikko Kimzin. "As a theater company that resides in Sonoma County we have an obligation to reflect and celebrate all of the diverse communities that make up Sonoma."

"We are thrilled that Transcendence gave our Latino community kids an opportunity they would not otherwise have without the scholarships," said La Luz Center Board President, Marcelo Defreitas.

The Transcendence engagement program includes a self-empowerment workshop entitled "Soy Yo," ("It's Me") set from **9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2018**. Hosted at La Luz Center – Booker Hall, 17560 Greger St. in Sonoma, the self-empowerment workshop serving approximately 30 students (ages 10 to 18-years old) will explore self-empowerment through the celebration of individuality in voice and movement.

Transcendence Theatre Company has donated 200 tickets to the La Luz Center (with 100 tickets intended for children of La Luz families) for the **Sunday, Aug. 12** performance of "Shall We Dance," the third show of the company's 2018 "Broadway Under the Stars," season presented at Jack London State Historic Park in Glen Ellen.

The "Shall We Dance" 7:30 p.m. performance on Aug. 12 will be dedicated to celebrating the Latino community of Sonoma with bilingual publicity material and bilingual curtain speeches made during the performance. Transcendence will feature Latino owned food vendors, wine businesses and local Latino musicians at pre-show festivities beginning at 5 p.m. in the park's vineyard and meadow.

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**Page 2 - Kids Camp and onstage performance; interviews; and requesting photos.**

Last month, Transcendence Theatre Company welcomed 12 youngsters from La Luz to its annual summer Kids Camp. La Luz students attended the weeklong summer program on full tuition scholarships and participated with 55 other students in the company's iCreate program. La Luz participants (ages 8 to 17-years old) received theatrical training, created music and art aimed at greater social impact and prepared and rehearsed to perform in the company's "Broadway Under the Stars-Fantastical Family Night" musical production presented Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14 at Jack London State Historic Park in Glen Ellen, Ca. In addition, 30 tickets were donated to La Luz families to attend the opening night performance on Friday, July 13.

"It was truly a fantastical night being able to witness the proud look on the parents faces as they watched their children come out of their shells and show such self-confidence on stage," said La Luz Center Community Engagement Manager, Angie Sanchez.

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For more information call Transcendence Theatre Company Director of Community Engagement and Education, Nikko Kimzin at 623-466-5351. Visit: <https://transcendencetheatre.org/connects/#toggle-id-1>

For high resolution photos or assistance to attend and report about the **"Soy Yo" workshop Thursday - July 26** or **"Shall We Dance" pre-show festivities and performance on Sunday - Aug. 12** contact Transcendence Theatre Company Publicist, Kim Taylor at [kimtaylorpr@aol.com](mailto:kimtaylorpr@aol.com) or call 415-897-7772.

**NOTE:** All participating students have signed media release forms. Translators will be available at both events.



Transcendence Theatre Company Education & Engagements Director, Nikko Kimzin (center), is pictured with youngsters who received full scholarships to attend the company's summer Kids Camp and perform in its "Fantastical Family Night" musical production presented July 13 and July 14 at Jack London State Historic Park in Glen Ellen, Calif. *Photo by Alex Hays*



Twelve La Luz youngsters who received full scholarships to participate in Transcendence Theatre Company's Kids Camp are pictured with fellow Kids Camp performers in the company's "Broadway Under the Stars - Fantastical Family Night" musical production presented July 13 and July 14 at Jack London State Historic Park in Glen Ellen, Calif. *Photo by Ray Mabry*