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**Sean Allen, Director of Marketing**

**518.465.3335 x. 111 / sallen@palacealbany.org**



19 Clinton Ave. Albany, NY 12207

www.palacealbany.org

**Palace Theatre and The Albany Fund for Education announce initiative to collect and distribute computers to students in the Albany City School District.**

ALBANY, N.Y. — October 23, 2020 — The Palace Theatre and The Albany Fund for Education have announced a partnership to collect and distribute computers to students in the Albany City School District. Currently, there are over 9,000 kids in the Albany City School District and 70% of them are learning remotely. While the School District did order enough Chromebooks for every student, supply chain disruption and high demand means that the devices will not be available for several months. In the meantime, 2,000 students need computers, and they are struggling to access their online classrooms.

Ever since the Palace Performing Arts Center was forced to close our doors back in March because of COVID-19, we have collaborated with other nonprofit organizations to meet immediate community needs. This includes distributing over 8,000 pounds of food and hundreds of school supplies under the Palace marquee during the summer months. The Palace is proud to partner with The Albany Fund for Education on this latest effort to support educational opportunities for Albany students.

The Palace Theatre and The Albany Fund for Education are seeking donations of gently used, fully functional computers that can access the internet. These computers will be assessed by our tech partner, Logical Net before distribution to students.

**Here’s how you can help:**

**Computer Donation Form:** <http://bit.ly/Computers4Albany>

**Donate Cash to Purchase Technology for Albany's Students:**<https://bit.ly/Tech4Albany>

**In addition, if you are or know of a student in the Albany City School District that is in need of a computer, please submit a request:** <http://bit.ly/AlbanyVirtual>

**About the Palace Theatre:**

The Palace has been Albany’s iconic downtown landmark for the past eight decades, bringing the biggest names in entertainment to the Capital Region. The history and programming of the Palace is a unique and often untold story with roots dating back to the period of the Great Depression. The Palace Theatre, built in 1931, originally presented vaudeville acts, feature films and became a civic auditorium before closing its doors in 1969. The theatre maintains its original beauty and design and is a historical landmark in the City of Albany. The Palace Performing Arts Center was established in 1984 and incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1989, created to operate the Palace Theatre. The mission of the Palace is to bring world-class arts and entertainment to New York’s Capital Region, greatly enhancing the area's cultural and economic development. Our mission is carried out through core programming and community initiatives that include performing arts entertainment, free arts education, family-friendly performances, free summer movies and a classic movie program series. The Palace has a significant economic footprint with over $3.5 million in ticket sales and 180,000 patrons.

**About the Albany Fund for Education:**

The Albany Fund for Education (AFE) is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization with a mission to enhance opportunities for students in the City School District of Albany to learn, grow, and succeed.

In addition to this computer donation initiative, AFE's programs include:

• grants for teachers and school projects

• the Feed and Read weekend backpack collaborative

• musical instrument donation and repair

• support for mentoring initiatives in the schools