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**MORGAN ARTS COUNCIL
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2016 - 2017**

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December 2017

Dear Friends,

As we complete our 40th year of making art part of the daily lives of our community, the Morgan Arts Council (MAC) has become a vital asset to Berkeley Springs, Morgan County and the region as the flagship arts organization in the Eastern Panhandle. This evolution has only been possible because you have chosen to value and support our work. **Please consider giving a year-end gift to ensure that the future of MAC and the community it serves remains bright, particularly in the face of this year's loss of over \$10,000 in grant funds due to state budget cuts.**

MAC's board, volunteers and staff are deeply motivated by our mission to serve as a bridge between art and the public. We bring visitors of all ages into the Ice House's galleries, theater and classrooms, while providing career-shaping opportunities to local and regional artists and students. Just as importantly, we take art out into our schools and public places to fulfill our mission of "Getting Art Out There!"

Ultimately, we strive to connect the region's best artists and their diverse work with the broader community. Building bridges between artists and the public enriches, engages and enlightens those who, like you, embrace the opportunity to connect.

On the enclosure you can see for yourself the activities and a "by the numbers" overview of MAC's dynamic work. But here's what those numbers really mean.

- **Improving our quality of life** by providing art activities – classes, gallery exhibits, dance, music, theater, digital media – and a community center open to all.
- **Creating economic opportunity** by teaching life skills to adults and youth that provide opportunity for their personal growth and self-sufficiency.
- **Boosting community pride** by improving the physical appearance of our community and offering an enhanced sense of place.
- **Educating and expanding the horizons of our youth** by placing a diverse range of artists into Morgan County schools to bring cultural and environmental awareness of the world around them.
- **Attracting tourists** by offering art experiences within the Ice House and throughout Berkeley Springs that bolster our reputation as one of America's best arts destinations.

We need your continued support to maintain and expand our efforts as our region's leading arts organization. Please help us to meet our year-end goal of \$10,000. Together we will continue our mission of building up the community we all share. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Sincerely,

Denise Bergen
President

Thom Rubel
Executive Director