

Hi Amy. Thank you for the opportunity!

The pandemic has certainly affected our ability to raise money! The Thornapple Arts Council raises money through events, and we had to cancel all of our events because of Covid-19 restrictions. Our Auction for the Arts is our largest fundraiser, and we have revised that to be a virtual "event" to keep our donors and community safe. (We do not anticipate that to garner the response or support that our regular auctions do.)

We also raise money through event sponsorships, but in a year of no events, there are also no event sponsorships. Our expenses are less this year than in a "normal" year, but we still have administrative expenses to keep the organization functional.

This year, we are focusing our fundraising efforts on financial support for arts education. Our financial assistance funds support four programs: scholarships for summer programming; the Art Supply Pantry for Barry County teachers/schools to get art supplies for their students; the Classroom Minigrant program, for teachers to apply for grants to support projects, field trips, speakers, etc.; and individual student assistance, allowing teachers to apply for funds on behalf of students in need so those students can participate in often expensive activities such as band camp, trips, equipment purchases, etc. The Thornapple Arts Council Board of Directors and staff determined that our resources could be best spent this year on additional support for arts education because of the additional demands on teachers and schools with continuously fewer resources.

We have a very generous community, and a truly dedicated group of supporters. We are able to keep calm and carry on because of their support, and in years like this, that means more than ever.

Thanks again for the opportunity. Please let me know if you need any other information.

Megan