Two recent Thelma Gaylord Academy students perform in an original creation.

## Encouraging Young Performers

Curt Schwartz was born to perform. A commercial real estate developer by day, the married father of two fed his passion through memorable performances in Lyric Theatre productions and as part of a two-man comedy team that toured the country.



Curt understood the importance of encouraging young performers; he credited his own success to the support he

received from his high school drama teacher. So it was fitting that following Curt's death in a 1985 commercial airline crash at the age of 46, his friends and family created an endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to benefit the Lyric Theatre Academy, now known as the Thelma Gaylord Academy. Each year, the academy fuels the passion of more than 300 young performers ages 5-18 through classes in acting, music and dance. An annual distribution from the Curt Schwartz Lyric Theatre Scholarship Fund helps to ensure children who would not otherwise be able to attend can do so, thus encouraging their interest in live theatre. A fitting tribute to Curt Schwartz.

What is your passion? Whether it's the arts, pets, education, the environment or assistance for those in need, we can help you discover how to achieve your charitable goals through an advised fund or an endowment fund to benefit a specific organization or focus area.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation is here to help you help your community. Contact us today at 405/235-5603 or visit www.occf.org. You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.org/occf.org.

