



March 15, 2016

Dear Friends at University of Georgia:

I am delighted to write this recommendation letter for Julie Allardice Ray. I understand that Julie is working towards her goal of becoming a tenured professor at the University of Georgia in Theater and Film Studies.

The Children's Hospital gala began in 2003 as the annual signature fundraising event for WVU Medicine Children's. Over the past thirteen years, the gala has raised more than \$1 million to support sick and injured children and their families. The black-tie gala attracts well over 1,000 business leaders, philanthropists, government officials and world-class physicians to Morgantown, West Virginia.

For the 2015 gala, we were searching to take the gala to another level. Julie's name was brought to my attention through business contacts as a "premier" set designer. After a few discussions, we hired Julie to make the gala theme an immersive experience for our guests. The past two years she has been instrumental in transporting our guests into an enchanted forest and under a big top with engaging focal pieces and boisterous back drops. She has been easy to work with and generous in sharing her knowledge and skills.

For the second year in a row the WVU Children's Hospital gala has been selected the top fundraising event in the Best of Morgantown! We truly believe Julie helped make this happen! Her creativity, attention to detail and bringing our "vision" to life has been beyond our expectations!

We have already started the process of selecting our theme for the 2017 gala. This past February's gala - "Under the Big Top" is truly going to be difficult to outdo. But, with Julie's experience and guidance, I am certain that that we will transport our guests for another magical evening to remember. I wish her the best of luck.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bobby Nicholas'.

Bobby Nicholas
Manager, Development Programs
WVU Medicine Children's