

As you may know, [Ritz Fest](#) is South Carolina's ONLY annual suicide prevention benefit concert held the first Saturday in February. We raise money for the [Jason Foundation](#), Inc, a non-profit based on Tennessee that provides training and resources to fight a silent epidemic, youth suicide. They offer one option for South Carolina middle and high school teachers to receive professional learning on suicide awareness to meet certification requirements. To date we have raised over \$11,000 for them through two events. This past February saw our second-annual event exceeding expectations which has caused us to grow. *Ritz Fest* has been adopted by the [Newberry Community Players](#) and now falls under their 501c3.

♥ According to the CDC's WISQARS National Data Report from 2019, suicide is the third leading cause of death of 10-24 year olds in South Carolina.

♥ In the United States, South Carolina ranks 27th in the nation in suicide rates, 18th in suicides in ages 12-19, and 29th in drug-related suicides.

♥ According to Cams Care, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in South Carolina.

♥ Everyday in South Carolina 2 people die of suicide. According to the Jason Foundation, every 2 ½ days, one of these South Carolina suicides is a young person.

♥ Nikki Haley signed the Jason Flatt Act in 2012, mandating training for South Carolina middle and high school teachers and principals in suicide awareness.

These sobering facts highlight the reason *Ritz Fest* needs to continue with our success. *Ritz Fest '24* was our second year. We doubled the number of acts, more than doubled our ticket sales, and once again exceeded our fundraising goal for the Jason Foundation. We also added a silent auction.

Due to this growth, combined with the need to spread awareness, we are expanding for *Ritz Fest '25* with a goal to raise \$10,000 for the Jason Foundation by the end of February 2025 through three weekends centered around the first Saturdays in May (*Mental Health Awareness Month*), *September Suicide Prevention Month*), and our main event in February.

*Ritz Fest '25* aims to be bigger and better.

- ❖ Fundraising goal is \$10,000 by the end of February 2025.
- ❖ *Ritz Fest* has once again received \$5,000 from the City of Newberry through an accommodations tax program for advertising!
- ❖ Our events will be a mixture of theater, music, and *RF'25* will feature short films
- ❖ Tee-shirt sales will resume. All purchases go towards more shirt orders and includes a \$10 donation directly to JFI towards this year's goal. Plans are underway for a tee shirt design contest for *Ritz Fest '25*. *Ritz Fest* is sponsoring two events - ***May the 4th be with you for Mental Health*** (4 May 2024) and ***September Fest for Suicide Prevention*** (7 September 2024)!
- ❖ Our main event, *Ritz Fest Eve* (31 Jan 2025) and *Ritz Fest* (1 February 2025).

Details will come regarding specifics on our September and February events. Visit [www.theritzfest.org](http://www.theritzfest.org) for updates!

We are requesting sponsors to help make our events a success so we can continue to spread awareness about suicide prevention and help end the silent epidemic of youth suicide.

My contact information and all sponsorship opportunities are described on the back of this form. Thank you for considering.

Stephen Corsini

## Ritz Fest 2025 Sponsor Request Form

Thank you for being a sponsor of RitzFest '25! Complete this form and return to us.

Contact Information:

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Business (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to hang an event poster in your business or somewhere for us? Circle: YES/NO

In order to make the event a success we are requesting financial support through the following levels of sponsorship for the expenses described on the next page:

### PLATINUM - \$5,000

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### GOLD - \$2,400

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### SILVER - \$1,000

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### BRONZE - \$250

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### FRIEND - \$50-\$200

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Select the item(s) from the request list you wish to specifically provide funding for. If you have no preference we will put it to good use and let you know what we did with it!

Please let me know if you would like to talk more about this. I would love to have you be a sponsor of South Carolina's ONLY annual suicide prevention benefit!

Thank you for reading.

Stephen Corsini

Phone - 803-271-0494 (Google Voice) email - [theritzfest@gmail.com](mailto:theritzfest@gmail.com)

Follow RitzFest on Facebook

[www.theritzfest.org](http://www.theritzfest.org)

Types of Expenditures	FY 2024
Rental of Ritz Theater	\$700 (RF) We need \$500 more.
Billboard ads	\$10,000 (for billboards in April, August and January leading up to our events)
Food/perks for performers	(We would like to give each performer \$20 to spend on food/travel. All are playing for free.) \$1,000 (MRF) \$1,000 (SRF) \$2,000 (RF)
Items for Concessions	\$250 (RF)
Tee shirts	\$840 (for two screen fees) (1 is for our standard tee, one for the student tee contest)
Copies	\$400 (RF) \$100 (MRF) \$100 (SRF)
Facebook ads	\$300 (RF) \$100 (MRF) \$100 (SRF)
Newberry Magazine quarterly ads	\$400
Newberry Observer ads	\$215 (RF) \$215 (MRF) \$215 (SRF)
Web domain	\$128.27
Miscellaneous (taxes, shipping)	\$300
Sound technician	\$250 (RF) \$125 (MRF) \$125 (SRF)
DJ	\$250 (RF) \$125 (MRF) \$125 (SRF)
Light technician	\$250 (RF) <i>This is to prepare a professional visually appealing show for our Facebook live feed. This is for a full projector show to include all sponsor logos, short films, and videos from JFI.</i>

*The following items are for additional promotional items.*

Headline Act	\$8,000 (RF) <i>In an effort to help Ritz Fest grow, we are seeking funding to entice a B or C list touring act to headline the event on 1 February 2025. This figure is based on 400 tickets at \$20 a piece which is what the Newberry Community Players will be charging for their events this year. By providing an act with wider name recognition we will be able to procure more sponsors, donors, acts, food trucks, and attendees from out of town.</i>
4,000 Business cards	\$350
koozies	\$250
Car magnet	\$40

*The following line items are to improve the production quality of Ritz Fest. Equipment would become property of Ritz Fest for use at all future RF and RF-sponsored events.*

BehringerX32 producer	\$2,099 (all music events) <i>This mixing console will allow for professional sound quality.</i>
Stage Box Behringer 8 channel	4X\$459= \$1,836
4 - 50 feet Ethernet cables Cat 5e	4x\$20 = \$80
2 - 150 feet Ethernet Cables Cat 5t	2x\$20 = \$40
Resolume Avenue & dongle	\$299
Dongle (license)	\$80
LED Par Can stage lights	\$260
2 LED movers and Fog machine hazer	2X\$440 = \$880
Mini controller	\$89
Follow spotlight	\$200
SAMCOM FPCN30A Two Way Radios (6 Pack)	\$290
Hero 12 Black Creator Edition	\$549 <i>This will allow us to make recordings of events for streaming and promotion.</i>