At the sound of my voice—clap once. Clap once for HSPVA standing yet again on the verge of the mountain top—the verge of finally having that new facility—that state of the art, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning facility with all the space and equipment we really need to continue to grow young artists. It's just right there–sooo close. Can you see it?

At the sound of my voice—clap twice. Clap twice for all the alumni, friends and families of HSPVA who never gave up hope—who helped us climb up this slippery, rugged, backsliding slope. Aren't we here—on the verge—because we all worked together? Because we were all grateful for what each had to offer in support?

At the sound of my voice—clap three times. Clap three times for our neighborhood—our community of arts partners—who invested in who we are and what we do and why we do it— with a bounty of time, support and funds to sustain us on this journey. Haven't we always responded to such generosity with joy and love and gratitude? Have we not expressed our appreciation with open arms welcoming each partner into our school? Hasn't such appreciation and recognition from the world outside of HSPVA inspired us to create more, to be more, to envision more? Haven't our partnerships been the very thing that made possibilities become realities – the very thing that opened so many doors for so many of you?

At the sound of my voice—clap once and listen. The Kinder Foundation is at our door and wants to be our partner. It comes bearing a gift that honors who we are and how we got here—and not just a one-time gift—a gift that will sustain itself—a gift that will continue to invest in all the young artists of our future.

The Kinder name beside HSPVA is just our generous way of saying "thank you" to the gift that got us to the top of the mountain—so we can see all the other mountains of potential and opportunity.

Thank you, Kinder Foundation!

Cyndy Ogden HSPVA Theatre Faculty

