

The social worker and part-time instructor at the University of Akron donated a little more than what Ted Bare, owner of the movie theater, might otherwise charge to use the makeshift billboard, which is sending positive vibes to the community Huff has called home for 30 years.

"I'm hoping we can get through this together and make the world just a little better place," she said, channeling the "faith, hope [and] charity" message in 1 Corinthians 13.

Bare, who had to shut down the Linda and the Highland Theatre during the coronavirus pandemic, said he's kept his more than 50 employees, most of them young and part-time workers, on the payroll. He thanked the generous customers who've kept his 47-year-old restaurant, Leonardo's pizza, busy enough to support the staff.

"These people need the money," Bare said. "And I've been very blessed."

But temporarily closing the Linda, and other theaters across Ohio, meant more for Akron than missing the debuts of "Mulan," "Black Widow" and "Wonder Woman 2." Day care children use the space during the day. And Huff said people with developmental delays will miss their annual *From Page B1*

celebration at the theater this year.

"We need our Linda back open," she said, offering a bit of hope and patience in these trying times.

Bare, who got a city facade grant to spruce up the outside, said workers should begin repairing the roof as early as Friday. He's replacing the windows across the entire building and putting in new doors for his two commercial tenants.

He's also looking for ways to lower the cost of a new marquee at the Highland Theatre. With an original cost estimate of \$145,000, Bare said he's trying to be his own general contractor to have the independent theaters in Highland Square and Goodyear Heights looking anew when social distancing ends and the movie reels roll again.

Bare also deals in real estate. He said he's among the many small-business owners who missed out on forgivable loans in the federal Payroll Protection Program, which were gobbled up quickly in \$10 million chunks by businesses with more than 500 employees.

Bare was at his office in Ghent until 10 p.m. Tuesday, pulling together his latest payroll figures in hopes that he might get some help sustaining relief for his employees if Congress re-ups the funding. *Reach Beacon*

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