

Heart of Dance





Teamwork

“Teamwork means looking your partner in the eyes and showing who you are on the outside.”

— DAVID, 5TH GRADE

Respect

97% of educators saw positive change in how students treated each other.

66% of parents noticed positive change in how their child felt about him or herself during Dancing Classrooms.

Elegance

“He said it made him feel good inside. Thank you!”

– PARENT

“She loved it and she became a leader within the group. She practiced a lot at home and was proud of herself.”

– PARENT



INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

HARRY'S STORY “I was new to school and didn't know anybody. I was really shy. I thought people would see my mistakes and laugh at me. But after a couple weeks, Ms. Frances, my dance teacher, made me feel like I belonged there. She made everyone feel like that. I started liking it and wanting to do it. The biggest change for me from Dancing Classrooms is I'm not shy anymore. I feel like I can do something really well. Ms. Frances made me feel I could do anything!”

“If you have a dream, don't stop because someone is going to think you're bad at it. It just means you probably need to practice and that's what I did.”

**– HARRY, 5TH GRADE,
NORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FRIDLEY**



“We're not just teaching dance, we're teaching an open-minded approach to life.”

– MS. FRANCES, TEACHING ARTIST



CREATING CONNECTIONS

“Dance changed my anxiety and depression and it gave me a reason to be excited about school.”

– **ELLIE**, 8TH GRADE,
SEVEN HILLS PREPARATORY ACADEMY, RICHFIELD

ELLIE'S STORY Ellie struggled with school. Her anxiety caused her to withdraw from classmates and school activities. She didn't do sports because her lungs didn't work well. Dancing Classrooms changed that. She found a sport where she wouldn't get tired out. “When people want to dance with me, it makes me feel really happy. It's cool to see everybody being nice to each other.” Now she and her friends go dancing together. “For me, it became one of the best things in my life, and it's my favorite thing to do now.”



REMOVING BARRIERS

5th grader “Antonio” and his family moved from hurricane-stricken Puerto Rico late in the school year, joining Dancing Classrooms in mid-residency. “He didn’t speak English. But in just three weeks he learned all the dances and was laughing with his new classmates and friends. His parents were so proud.”

– **PRINCIPAL JIM CLARK,**
WINDOM DUAL IMMERSION SCHOOL, MINNEAPOLIS



THE MAGIC OF DANCING CLASSROOMS

Six Windom female team members volunteered to dance at the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match with the gentlemen of majority-Somali Learning for Leadership Charter School, because their class, by fluke

of enrollment, included only 5th grade male students. The students all met for the first time at the Team Match in warm-up practice. They elegantly walked in escort position onto the dance floor before a packed ballroom of families, danced with students they never met before, and won Third Place in their Team Match. Talk about gender and multicultural respect!

TRANSFORMING LIVES

“There is something about the way this program presents gender that erases expected traditional gender roles very naturally.”

—5TH GRADE TEACHER, PROCTOR

GENDER-INCLUSIVE

Heart of Dance challenges stereotypes of ballroom dance by eliminating gender-specific language and traditional gender roles in partner dance. We don't use traditional ballroom dance terms such as 'leader/follower' but use instead the gender-neutral terms 'teammate' or 'partner.' Gender-fluid students are encouraged to decide which set of steps they wish to learn.

*Photos on these pages do not reflect students in stories.



RESPECT FOR ALL

5th grader “Blake” has a developmental disability and is in a wheelchair. He gets wheeled around by his Teaching Assistant, Mr. Tucker. “He really enjoys Dancing Classrooms. You can see it in his face—he lights up! I ask him, ‘how are you enjoying the dancing?’ He says, ‘Yes, it’s good!’ He loves it when Mr. Tucker spins him around and follows along with the dance movements.”

— **PRINCIPAL BE VANG,**
MISSISSIPPI CREATIVE ARTS, ST. PAUL

NOTHIN' BUT RHYTHM IN THE NORTHLAND

5th grader “Jared” experienced homelessness. It used to be a battle every morning to get him out of the car into the school building. “To my surprise, I saw him step up to demonstrate the Tango with a partner at our final showcase before a packed room of families. Tears came to my eyes. We finally found a way to reach Jared.”

– **PRINCIPAL DIANE MORIN,**
BAY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PROCTOR

“They are dancing with different partners, making eye contact. They wouldn’t have looked another classmate in the eyes before this.”

– **PRINCIPAL DANIELLE PERICH,**
RALEIGH ACADEMY

“We were all messing up. But it was OK to mess up. We were laughing with each other. And we learned to be better—it was great.”

– **CHARLOTTE, 5TH GRADER,**
RALEIGH ACADEMY, DULUTH



THANK YOU TO OUR DULUTH VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Sonja Vogen Baertsch, Chair, Sue Anderson, Jim Carter, Andrea Kuzel,
Dr. Ken Larson, Ben Mork, Tanya Wick, Darlene Wolfe

ROCKIN' IN ROCHESTER

Rochester Schools **Supt. Michael Muñoz** led efforts to bring Dancing Classrooms to 16 Rochester 5th grade classrooms in 2017-18. Results? "It changed their lives for the better."



"At first, dancing was cringe-worthy. Before we knew it, students showcased their elegance, respect, teamwork, trust, and joy for this new art they embraced in just ten weeks."

– **PRINCIPAL MATT RUZEK,**
RIVERSIDE CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

"It is a program that not only welcomes all students, but expects them to demonstrate strength of character at the highest level."

– **LISA ANDERSON,**
5TH GRADE TEACHER, PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY

"I witnessed children with behavior challenges transformed into leaders."

– **DR. PATRICIA BARRIER,**
CLASSROOM ASSISTANT

"It helped me to learn to trust my classmates."

– **ROCHESTER 5TH GRADER**

73% of Riverside Central 5th graders agreed "Relationships with my peers improved."

THANK YOU TO OUR ROCHESTER VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Patricia Barrier, Chair, Terri Allred, Sharon Gentling, Marge Gramtham, Mary Phelps, Dr. Rosebud Roberts, Rita Russell



The breakthroughs go well beyond our growth.

This year we danced with Twin Cities 8th graders for the first time. Our new partnership with Rochester Public Schools meant dancing with 5th graders in 16 classrooms in Rochester. We introduced Heart of Dance to three schools and seven 5th grade classrooms in Duluth and Proctor. We partnered with our first rural school in Cologne.

We appreciate and admire our educator partners,

who continue to be our greatest champions. This year, 97% of educators saw a positive change in the way students treated each other through Dancing Classrooms. As 5th grader David from Mississippi Creative Arts in St. Paul told us, “I think Dancing Classrooms is a good program for getting along.”

We couldn't have done this without you. We are grateful to our donors and funders large and small, to our dedicated volunteers and Classroom Assistants, and to our Heart of Dance staff, including a growing number of talented Teaching Artists. This year we welcomed enthusiastic new volunteers in all our cities.

BREAKTHROUGH IMPACT FOR HEART OF DANCE

And we welcomed new event sponsor partners such as JCI Saint Paul (St. Paul Jaycees) and iDEAL Energies. Thank you.

This year we move into new office space, build new community partnerships, and build on our strong foundation so we can support and sustain long-term growth for years to come.

Thank you for helping to transform young lives, as we dance together to create social change and build community in schools and beyond.

Dennis Yelkin, Board Chair

**Andrea Mirenda & Ember Reichgott Junge
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2017-18 SCHOOL PARTNERS

Athlos Leadership Academy, Brooklyn Park
 Bay View Elementary, Proctor
 Cologne Academy, Cologne
 Elton Hills Elementary, Rochester
 Excell Academy for Higher Learning, Brooklyn Park
 FAIR School, Crystal
 Field Community School, Minneapolis
 Four Seasons A+ Elementary, St. Paul
 Friendship Academy of the Arts, Minneapolis
 Gage Elementary, Rochester
 Hamline Elementary, St. Paul
 Jefferson Elementary, Rochester
 Lake Nokomis Community School - Keewaydin, Minneapolis
 Learning for Leadership Charter School, Minneapolis
 L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School, St. Paul
 LIFE Prep, St. Paul
 Linwood Monroe Arts Plus, St. Paul
 LoveWorks Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, Golden Valley
 Mississippi Creative Arts, St. Paul
 MTS Elementary, Minneapolis
 North Park Elementary, Fridley
 Northport Elementary, Brooklyn Center
 Pike Lake Elementary, Proctor
 Pilgrim Lutheran School, Minneapolis
 Pinewood Elementary, Rochester
 Raleigh Academy, Duluth
 Riverside Central Elementary, Rochester
 Seven Hills Preparatory Academy, Richfield
 Stonebridge World School, Minneapolis
 The Heights Community School, St. Paul
 Windom Dual Immersion School, Minneapolis

DANCING CLASSROOMS TEACHING ARTISTS

Heather Johnson, Lead
 Bruce Abas
 Drew Anderson
 Jon Chiaravalle*
 Frances Emberley
 Michael Engel
 Rayna Howard
 Leslie Koepke
 Andrea Kuzel*
 Esther Ouray
 Kami Sim**
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PROFESSIONAL DANCE "BUDDIES"

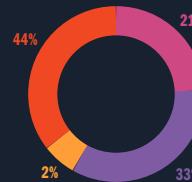
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* Duluth

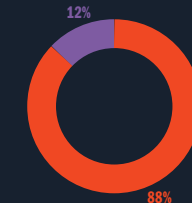
** Rochester

2017-18 FINANCIAL INFORMATION



INCOME

Program Service Fees	\$170,500
Event Sponsors	\$7,046
Individuals	\$130,344
Grants & Organizations	\$81,106
Total	\$388,996



EXPENSES

Program Service	\$295,369
Management & Fundraising	\$41,160
Total	\$336,529

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

WINNING WALTZ SPONSORS (\$5,000+)

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* Duluth
 ** Rochester

We gratefully acknowledge our
 Circle of Dance Champions (in
 orange) who have made a five-
 year commitment to Heart
 of Dance at the levels indicated.

OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

2016-18 Volunteer Engagement Committee Chair Dede Ouren (right) is honored, as new Chair Joyce Thompson assumes the role. They are just two of our Heart of Dance volunteer Classroom Assistants and donors upon whom our mission depends. Dede managed the Classroom Assistant program and is a member of the Board of Directors and Circle of Dance Champions.



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THREE YEARS OF GROWTH

4,044 5th graders

108 8th graders

165 classrooms, 42 schools

70% students of color

66% free and reduced lunch



2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

13 part-time Teaching Artists

84 classrooms in 31 schools

415+ donors and volunteers



**DANCING
CLASSROOMS**
IMPACT REPORT

94%

of Dancing Classrooms **students** agree they will be successful when they grow up:

“Dance class made me feel more confident and made my shoulders feel like there's nothing there.”

88%

of **parents** believe other students would benefit from Dancing Classrooms:

“He opened up and talked about it and shared more with us.” “She got better test scores and feels better about herself.”

70%

of **teachers** noticed a decrease in student behavior management problems during Dancing Classrooms:

“Respectful physical contact: it's so critical now to explicitly teach and Dancing Classrooms does just that.”

“I experienced a huge boost in my relationships with my students. It was a real bonding experience.”

HELP BRING DANCING CLASSROOMS TO A CHILD YOU LOVE!

- Connect us to educators and parents
- Volunteer as a Classroom Assistant
- Audition to become a Teaching Artist
- Make a financial gift in any amount
- Become a Classroom Sponsor to grow more classrooms
- Become an Event Sponsor or co-brand with Heart of Dance
- Invite Heart of Dance to your school or community event



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