

## *Understanding the POWER of ... DANCE MARATHON*

- What:** Dance Marathon is a continuous, multi-hour event held on college campuses and in high schools. It blends dancing, music, games, food and a variety of entertainment into one experience where students raise money for kids treated at Riley Hospital for Children. The goal is for everyone to finish and have a good time!
- Who:** Dance Marathon is completely student-run. Each committee offers outstanding opportunities for students to develop business and life skills learned in their classes. Whatever the major or age of the student, there is a place for you in Dance Marathon.
- How:** Involvement takes on many forms. Students can help plan the Marathon by volunteering to be a committee director or member. And what would Dance Marathon be without dancers? Many dancers come back every year knowing they are making a difference in children's lives. Students raise money through pledges, canister donations, and/or sponsorships (monetary or in-kind).
- Why:** Many students feel the need to make a positive contribution to their community. Dance Marathon is a great way to get involved. Combined with 170 other children's hospitals around the country, Children's Miracle Network is helping 17 million children each year. What better way is there to make an impact on a community than by helping children?
- When:** Each university or high school holds their event when the campus calendar allows. Events can be anywhere from 6 to 36 hours long, depending on what the committee decides.
- Where:** Dance Marathons are held in gyms, ballrooms and arenas. Currently there are 14 Dance Marathons in the state, including 7 high schools!
- A Look to Future:** It is our goal, at the Riley Children's Foundation, to have a Dance the Marathon at every college and high school possible in Indiana. There is still a lot of work left to do. You can make the difference in the life of a child by deciding to be a part of this incredible event.

## *Please remember:*

The dream of Dance Marathon is now before you. You have started the journey down a long road that will lead you to fantastic places. Through this process you will learn:

- ❖ A great deal about yourself and your ability to create and lead.
- ❖ About the value of giving and committing to a worthy cause.
- ❖ And you will grow and develop as a leader and as an individual.

Through experience, we have learned that the best ideas and greatest events take a long time to establish and grow. Dance Marathon definitely fits into this category. The first Dance Marathon in the state was started in 1991 at Indiana University-Bloomington to commemorate the life of Ryan White. It took dedication and passion to start the event, and experience has proven that truly worthwhile activities seem to require the strongest commitments. Dance Marathon is a yearly, long-term endeavor, which requires much time and energy. Your strong devotion and earnest enthusiasm will take the Dance Marathon fund-raising program to great heights.

Over the next few months, there may be times when the journey seems endless and the task seems impossible—they are not. Keep the kids first and you can accomplish ANYTHING!

Never forget the impact you will have on many young lives, lives that need hope and help. To these young children, you are their angel.

*You are making miracles happen!*

## Goals

Although you will set specific goals for your event, Children's Miracle Network and the Riley Children's Foundation feel the following goals are priorities:

1. Raise money and awareness for the children treated at Riley Hospital for Children.
2. Build a legacy of community involvement and caring at universities and high schools throughout the state.
3. Learn to run an organization with real world challenges and understand how to glean practical and valuable knowledge.
4. Develop professional skills.
5. Promote a positive image for other college and high school students through the Riley Children's Foundation's relationships and media network.



## Dance Marathon History

Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon program began in 1995 when Indiana University raised more than \$60,000 after their third event for the Ryan White Infectious Disease Fund. The Indiana University Dance Marathon Council (IUDMC) established this fund at Riley Hospital for Children, a Children's Miracle Network hospital in Indianapolis.

The tradition of dance marathons began as a contest in which the last couple standing was declared the winner. That concept began to change in 1973 when Penn State's Interfraternity Council began a dance marathon as a fundraiser. By 1977 it had a set length (48 hours) and was an annual benefit for the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State's Hershey Medical Center. Today the Penn State IFC/ Panhellenic Dance Marathon raises over \$4 million annually.

Thanks to the help of students at Indiana, Penn State and many schools since the onset of their partnerships, Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon program has grown tremendously. In 1995, the first year of the program, four universities raised \$142,000 for kids treated at Children's Miracle Network hospitals. The following year, 10 schools participated and raised over \$300,000. Currently, almost a hundred schools and tens of thousands of students across North America participate in Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon. CMN Dance Marathons are held at campuses of all sizes.

### *Objectives of Dance Marathon are:*

- ◆ Raise money for kids treated at your local CMN hospital  
All 170 CMN hospitals are not-for-profit and treat a child based on need, not the family's ability to pay. More than \$4 billion is given out in charity care each year. Some of that comes from funds raised through CMN. These funds also help buy new equipment, pay for upkeep on current equipment, and fund support programs for children treated at the hospitals and their families
- ◆ Build school unity and pride  
Dance Marathon brings together many different student groups and individuals because it is a positive, exciting event. It is also an event that faculty and administration can get behind.
- ◆ Learn skills that translate in the marketplace  
All students will learn practical experience related to their career goals, such as teamwork, communication, and presentation skills.
- ◆ *Have fun, and lots of it!! To learn more about Children's Miracle Network and Dance Marathon, please visit: [www.cmn.org/dance](http://www.cmn.org/dance)*

## *Other Participating School*

Akron, University of  
Alabama, University of (Birmingham)  
Albright College  
American University  
Angelo State University  
Arizona State University  
Bradley University  
Bowling Green State University  
Butler University  
Central Florida, University of  
Central Michigan University  
Connecticut, University of  
Creighton University  
Dakota Wesleyan University  
Dallas, University of  
Dayton, University of  
Elon University  
Emory University  
Ferrum College  
Florida, University of  
Florida Atlantic University  
Florida International University  
Florida State University  
Georgetown University  
George Washington University  
Georgia University of  
Hope College  
Illinois State University  
Indiana University  
Iowa, University of  
Iowa State University  
Lyon College  
Marshall University  
Maryland, University of  
McNeese State University  
Miami - Ohio, University of  
Michigan, University of  
Millersville University of Pennsylvania  
Minnesota State University- Mankato  
Missouri, University of (Columbia)  
Nebraska - Lincoln University of  
North Carolina, University of (Greensboro)  
North Carolina, University of (Wilmington)  
North Dakota, University of  
North Dakota State University  
North Florida, University of  
Ohio University  
Ohio State University  
Oklahoma, University of  
Oregon State University  
Pittsburgh State University  
Randolph Macon College  
Rice University  
St. Cloud State University  
Sioux City area colleges  
Slippery Rock University  
South Carolina, University of  
South Dakota, University of  
South Dakota State University  
Southern California, University of  
Southwest Missouri State University  
SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica  
Tennessee University of (Knoxville)  
Texas A & M University  
Texas, University of (Austin)  
Texas Tech University  
Toledo, University of  
Valdosta State University  
Valparaiso University  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia, University of  
Virginia Tech University  
Walsh University  
Washburn University  
Washington University (St. Lois)  
Washington, University of (Seattle)  
West Georgia University  
West Texas A&M University  
West Virginia University  
Wichita State University  
Wisconsin, University of (River Falls)

