
NEWS

‘More Than Medicine’: Dance Marathon hosts annual Florida Statement

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Dance Marathon at Florida State University (DM at FSU), the university’s [largest](#) student-led organization, recently hosted its 11th Annual Florida Statement, raising [\\$333,279.84](#) in just 26.2 hours.

The annual Florida Statement brings the FSU and the local community together to [fundraise for](#) UF Health Shands Children's Hospital and FSU College of Medicine Pediatric Outreach Program. This supports family-centered care and makes the hospitalization experience more joyful for children and their families.

Since its start in 2015, Florida Statement has become one of the largest fall fundraising events that takes place on campus. It is Dance Marathon’s largest fall push and contributes significantly to their year-long fundraising programming. This year, DM at FSU adopted the theme of “[More Than Medicine](#)” for the Statement to recognize programs such as [Child Life](#), [Arts in Medicine](#) and Bereavement Support.

"I have many fond memories when it comes to participating in Statement with DM at FSU, and one of my favorites was from last year. I had the honor of leading a group of over 100 freshmen INLs, who were experiencing Statement for the first time," Executive Director of DM at FSU Grace Massari said to the FSView.

“Through a lot of planning, programming and communication, they not only raised their fundraising goal, but their love for DM grew.”

All fundraising events took place on or nearby FSU's main campus, where there were activities like a wing eating competition, share it events with Little Masa and Frother's Daughter, legacy bracelets, registration rally and "gong on tour" where members of DM at FSU transport a gong between different Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic chapter facilities throughout the day for people to run up and hit to celebrate fundraising efforts.

"The students come together for one cause. I've never seen people so excited for others' fundraising goals or even donating to each other's fundraising pages all at once. We all feel for the same cause, and it's really special," first-year member of the internal team for DM at FSU Tai Graham said to the FSView.

Many members of DM at FSU contribute their successful fundraising to the culture that exists within the organization.

"Finding where you fit in can be difficult, but this is truly such a special experience, and all coming together to raise money for this cause really strengthens and builds friendships," Leadership Chair for DM at FSU, Olivia Scheichet, said to the FSView.

Some students have a personal connection to the cause, motivating their involvement.

"My best friend has a rare form of epilepsy and would not be here without Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. She is one of the kindest and brightest lights in this world," Dance Marathon delegate for Delta Nu Zeta at FSU, Clare Warfield, said to the FSView. "Thanks to Children's Miracle Network, she is here and thriving and I truly would not be the person I am today without her! If you're ever worried, Dance Marathon is not for you, just give it a try!"

The Statement succeeds beyond treatment to also fund research, access to specialized equipment and pediatric outreach at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital and FSU College of Medicine's Pediatric Outreach Program.

“I have heard so many amazing stories from our ambassador families that have been impacted firsthand because of the money that we have raised. FSU has one of the [largest Dance Marathons](#) in the country, which shows a lot about how much the students here really do care,” member of the Legacy Team for DM at FSU, Lauren Schindler, said to the FSView.

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