



HEADLINES

people

COLIN HACKLEY

Dance Marathon 2015

For the kids

Celebrating its 20th year was a piece of cake for Dance Marathon at FSU. Among the festivities (yes, there was cake) the largest student-run philanthropy on the FSU campus raised a record-breaking \$1.16 million.

The dancing takes place in two shifts of 20 hours from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon in February, but raising the money is a year-round effort for the more than 1,800 FSU students who participate.

The proceeds support the Children's Miracle Network and Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville, and the FSU College of Medicine pediatric outreach programs. Tallahassee-area children benefit from each of the agencies.

The College of Medicine, which received more than \$550,000 raised during the 2015 event, seeks opportunities to fill gaps in health care for medically underserved children in the community by utilizing available

resources. The money invested locally supports a school-based primary care health clinic at three schools in Gadsden County, where children often don't have adequate access to care. The clinics represent a partnership among the College of Medicine, the Gadsden County Health Department and Gadsden County Schools.

The College of Medicine also distributes funds to Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare to support pediatric services, including potentially lifesaving genetic screening for a few adolescents each year who otherwise would not be able to get it. Additional support goes to Bond Community Health Center, Big Bend Hospice and the Young Parents Project and Early Head Start Program.

Dance Marathon at FSU 2016 takes place Feb. 26-28 at the Donald W. Tucker Civic Center. Donations are accepted year-round at dmfsu.org.

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