

# at the front lines

## Raising the bar

Motivated Florida State University students are doing more than ever to help improve children's health. In February, more than 1,500 of them helped raise a record \$487,000 as part of the 16th Annual Dance Marathon at Florida State.

The money goes to the Children's Miracle Network at Shands Children's Hospital to help care for young children in need of expensive, lifesaving medical procedures. Numerous children and their families from the Tallahassee area have benefited.

Half of the money raised is returned by CMN to the College of Medicine to be used in pediatric outreach programs locally. The College of Medicine uses some of the funds to pay for a school-based health program in Gadsden County, which has some of the highest rates of health disparities of any county in Florida.

The majority of children in Gadsden County do not have a primary-care physician, but Dance Marathon proceeds enable them to receive primary-care services at school.

Dancers solicit sponsors and then stay on their feet during one of two 20-hour shifts at the marathon in February.



COLIN HACKLEY