

## FAMILY

# Dance Marathon at Florida State hosting 26.2 hour fundraising push

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Despite the many challenges 2020 has presented, Dance Marathon at Florida State University is hosting its sixth annual Florida Statement fundraising push. Florida Statement will take place over the course of 26.2 hours with a goal of raising \$424,000.

This year, more than ever, Leon and its surrounding counties are relying on the funds raised by Dance Marathon at FSU in order to provide essential medical equipment and care. At the center of this year's Florida Statement is Leon county and its surrounding counties and the medical needs provided by DM at FSU through FSU's College of Medicine Pediatric Outreach Program.

The fundraising push will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 9 a.m. and conclude on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 11:12 a.m. Dance Marathon at FSU is reaffirming their commitment to fundraising for pediatric illness and injury against all odds by setting a record-breaking goal of \$424,000.

This number symbolizes the 424 children from Leon and the surrounding counties of Madison, Jefferson, Gadsden, Wakulla, Grady, and Thomas that were admitted last year to UF Health Shands Hospital, the Children's Miracle Network Hospital that Dance Marathon at FSU fundraises for.

In accordance with the recent adjustments made by Florida State's administration due to the coronavirus, the largest student-run organization is allowed to have 50 students at an on-campus event at a time. In order to accommodate all students' needs, DM at FSU will host a hybrid of in-person and virtual activities throughout the Florida Statement fundraising push.

One new in-person activity will include the "Tour de Gong." The golden gong has become the heartbeat of DM at FSU and for the first time in the organization's history, the gong will travel to all 17 of FSU's Panhellenic chapter facilities and Landis Green where students are

given the opportunity to participate in the tradition of hitting the gong while practicing social distancing.

Virtual events will include the annual Circle of Hope and Comma Club ceremonies where one of the Miracle Families, the families of the children directly impacted by the funds raised by DM at FSU, will share their story and congratulate the students who have fundraised throughout the day.

Students are also invited to participate in a virtual Power Hour where the entire organization strives to bring in as many funds in 60 minutes as possible. The event will culminate with a total reveal on Oct. 28 at noon, which will be live-streamed on DM at FSU's Instagram and Facebook platforms.

For more information about Dance Marathon at Florida State University and the sixth annual Florida Statement or to donate, visit [dmfsu.org](http://dmfsu.org).

DM at FSU is a year-long effort that culminates into an annual 30-hour event, where more than 1,800 students stay awake and on their feet to raise money and awareness for our local beneficiaries.

Over the past 25 years, DM at FSU has raised over \$15 million for local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, Shands Children's Hospital, and the FSU College of Medicine Pediatric Outreach Program. These funds help provide the medical care, treatment, and research needed at Shands Children's Hospital and the FSU College of Medicine.

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