

# Dance Marathon giving \$550K to FSU med school

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(Photo: FSU)

Dance Marathon at Florida State University and Children's Miracle Network at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital will present a check for more than \$550,000 to the Florida State University College of Medicine for the benefit of children throughout Gadsden and Leon counties.

The presentation will be at noon Wednesday at FSU College of Medicine, 1115 Call St. The proceeds are part of the record \$1.16 million raised in 2015 by Dance Marathon, the largest student-run philanthropy on the Florida State campus. That money supports the Children's Miracle Network and UF Health Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville and the FSU College of Medicine's pediatric outreach programs.

The money invested locally supports a school-based primary-care health clinic at three schools in Gadsden County, where children often have inadequate 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 each year for a few adolescents who otherwise could not get it. Additional support goes to Bond Community Health Center, Big Bend Hospice and the Young Parents Project at Early Head Start.

Scheduled to participate in the presentation are Dr. Alma Littles, senior associate dean at the FSU College of Medicine; representatives from UF Health Shands Children's Hospital and from the organizations receiving funds; nurse-practitioner Susan LaJoie, who oversees the Gadsden school-based clinic; members of the Dance Marathon student executive committee, who will perform a brief dance; and students from the medical school's Pediatrics Interest Group.

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