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## FAMILY

# Dance Marathon at FSU begins annual 26.2 hour Florida Statement fundraising push

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As we continue into our 27th year, Dance Marathon at Florida State University is hosting its seventh annual Florida Statement fundraising push. Florida Statement will take place over the course of 26.2 hours with a goal of raising \$404,000.

This number is symbolic of our theme of pediatric heart health and represents the 1 in 4 children born with a Congenital Heart Defect who will need surgery or other interventions to survive.

**Marathon effort:** Leon High graduate vows with six-digit fundraising haul for Children's Miracle Network

Moreover, our organization feels the impact of these statistics every day, as more than 8 of our own Miracle Children suffer from a pediatric illness or injury that directly affects the heart. The overwhelming in-patient rates illustrate the need for our organization now more than ever.

Currently, all 23 beds in Shands' Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit are full, and these children need our help.

Florida Statement will begin on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 9 a.m. and conclude on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 11:12 a.m. The money fundraised during this time will directly impact our two beneficiaries, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital and the FSU College of Medicine Pediatric Outreach Program. Together, we are all fighting to help put an end to pediatric illnesses and injuries.

As we slowly transition into in-person programming, this Statement will be one to remember. On Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. we are inviting our students and local

communities to Landis Green for all-day events including coffee, games, fundraising challenges, cause-based initiatives, and so much more.

Following this, we will head into Gong on Tour from 5 p.m to 7 p.m., where we will bring our beloved Gong, the heartbeat of our movement, to different locations and facilities that make up our team-based external community. At 7:30 p.m. we will begin our Vigil and Comma Club Ceremony on Landis Green, where we will honor our Miracle Children who sadly lost their fight and those that continue fighting every day.

Our Vigil will include testimonies from two of the mothers of our children. Our Comma Club ceremony will begin immediately after our Vigil, where we will celebrate our participants who have fundraised over \$1,000 this year alone.

Our last programming event of Day 1 will be one of our favorite yearly occasions, DM After Dark. From 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Landis Green, participants will be able to take part in yard games, axe throwing, paint night, and food trucks, and so much more.

The fun continues on Wednesday! From 8 a.m. until 11:12 a.m., we will be in the final hours of making our statement. At this time, participants will be invited to Landis Green to take part in a student-run workout class, grab a bagel, coffee and take in the last of our 26.2-hour event.

Our total reveal will take place at 12 p.m. on Landis Green, as well as live-streamed on Facebook and Instagram. With all this, we would love to have you come out to one of our events to learn more about our organization, our participants, our cause, and everything in between.

Last year we hosted our first-ever hybrid Florida Statement which meant the majority of the event was hosted virtually via Zoom. Although this was a year of uncertainty and adapting, we had 1,500 fundraisers, partnered with 7 local high schools, and received 9,300 donations in 26.2 hours all during a global pandemic.

At the total reveal, we found out that we had raised \$400,595. Finally, we are back in person for this year's Statement, so it's going to be a great one!

If you would like to help us make our statement, you can make a donation at [events.dancemarathon.com](https://events.dancemarathon.com). Looking for a suggested donation amount? A donation of \$25 could purchase a distraction toy used to distract patients during procedures. A donation of \$50 could purchase swaddling blankets for premature babies in the NICU. A donation of

\$100 could purchase a child's medical play kit used to help explain procedures and help them purchase through their hospital experience.

For more information about Dance Marathon at Florida State University and the sixth annual Florida Statement, 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.

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