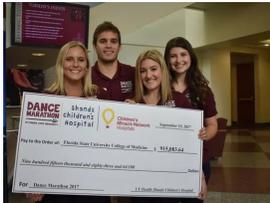


Dance Marathon presents check to FSU College of Medicine

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(Photo: Courtesy of Chloe Milthorpe)

Dance Marathon at Florida State University and Children's Miracle Network at University of Florida Health Shands Children's Hospital presented a check for more than \$915,000 to the Florida State University College of Medicine on Tuesday. The money will help children throughout Gadsden and Leon counties.

In February 2017, Dance Marathon, the largest student-run philanthropy on FSU's campus, raised a record \$1.85 million. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to the Children's Miracle Network at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville and the other 50 percent goes to the FSU College of Medicine's pediatric outreach programs. The members have fundraising activities throughout the year leading up to the 40-hour Marathon.

Locally, the money supports school-based primary-care health clinics at three schools in Gadsden County, where children often do not have access to these resources. In 2017, the College of Medicine also shared the funds with Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, Bond Community Health Center, Big Bend Hospice and the Young Parents Project at Early Head Start.

Professor and Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. John P. Fogarty, was present at the check ceremony to receive the funds along with representatives from UF Health Shands Children's Hospital and from the organizations receiving funds.

"This was a remarkable check," Fogarty said. "We've seen the amount from Dance Marathon increase every year for the past five years and it's just amazing every time I go to the closing ceremonies. Always wondering how could they possibly beat last year's total and they continue to do that. I'm just incredibly grateful for the amount of effort the dancers do every single year."

Members of the Dance Marathon student executive committee also attended the presentation and performed the dance they taught at Dance Marathon.

"We feel very fortunate that we are able to directly impact our local beneficiaries, as not many programs are able to divide their funds into two different pediatric outlets," Dance Marathon Executive Director Chloe Milthorpe said. "Through trips to the Gadsden and Quincy clinics, the touring of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital NICU and the wonderful speakers from Big Bend Hospice and the Young Parents Project at Early Head Start who have made appearances at our team meetings, we are able to understand how important the growth and sustainability of our organization is to our community."

Milthorpe has been involved in Dance Marathon for four years and has had the chance to see the organization grow.

"Shands and College of Medicine are doing some incredible things for our kids today," Milthorpe said. "We could not be more honored to raise and give our funds to these two pediatric beneficiaries."

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