

Warming up for the 2005 Dance Marathon Season

A Decade of Miracles at The Florida State University Dance Marathon

Dance Marathon at Florida State University celebrated its 10-year anniversary on February 12th and 13th. More than 700 students were on their feet and danced for 32 hours straight. In the ten years since the initial dance marathon, student/volunteers have raised over \$950,000 to benefit the children from Tallahassee and surrounding areas who are treated at Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida, as well as the pediatric outreach programs at the FSU College of Medicine.

Since August 2004, hundreds of student volunteers worked in various ways to raise money for the 2005 Dance Marathon. Before every FSU home football game, students wore

"Noles4Kids" t-shirts and asked for donations from the community. The Dance Marathon team also appeared with miracle families in the FSU Homecoming parade carrying buckets to collect donations from spectators along the way. D.A.N.C.E.R. Week was held in November where all of the organizations on campus participated throughout the week to raise awareness on campus.

In addition, the Mayor of Tallahassee proclaimed November 29th as the "75th day until Dance Marathon" to help garner support. Other special events, including a Resolution Fun Run, a high school Mini Dance Marathon, a flag football tournament and picnic, as well as a Lip Sync Competition help raise funds

and highlight the positive efforts of philanthropic students at Florida State University. This year's theme, "A Decade of Miracles," represents 10 years of dedication from students at Florida State University and the greater Tallahassee community. "It's great to see the whole campus get involved to help sick kids, it's important for the students to be able to 'give back', just seeing all the Miracle kids makes all the long hours worthwhile" said Laura Coburn, a senior at Florida State University and native of Tallahassee who is this year's Overall Director of the event. For more information on this year's event, visit <http://dm.fsu.edu>.

Florida Atlantic University Stretches for the 2005 Dance Marathon Season

Last year, the 2004 Dance Marathon at Florida Atlantic University was a successful event raising over \$7,000. Students and members of the community joined to participate and help increase awareness of Children's Miracle Network and Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida.

FAU students are now in the midst of preparing for the 2005 Dance Marathon. Miracle families continue to show their support and are all looking forward to a wonderful event. In store for the upcoming event on March 19 - 20, 2005 is a bigger venue, more entertainment featuring local bands and international flavor, fun games, and much more. For more information on this event, visit www.fau.edu/dmarathon.

"Dancing Today for Their Tomorrow" during 11th Annual Dance Marathon at UF

Last March marked the 10th Anniversary of Dance Marathon at the University of Florida, raising more than \$250,000 for the kids at Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida. Students have kept the momentum going and planning for the 2005 Dance Marathon is in full swing.

The 2005 DM at UF will be held in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center on April 2-3. Students have been busy planning registration for participants and special events for supporters, "dancers" and miracle families.

The first ever DM at UF Miracle Day took place in October at a UF Women's Volleyball Game. UF students joined miracle families to cheer on the Gators as they completed a win against Alabama.

Family Day at the Zoo was held on February 20, 2005 at the Santa Fe Community College Teaching Zoo. Fun, food and games made this event a success again this year! DM at UF is once again supported by many Gainesville businesses as well corporate groups such as Dominos' Pizza, NIKE, Cold Stone Creamery, COX, Apple Computers and KISS 105.3.

Since the first Dance Marathon at the University of Florida, held in the Spring of 1995, this event has raised over \$1.3 million for Shands Children's Hospital, and thanks to the generous support DM at UF receives from its sponsors, this year's event hopes once again to help make miracles happen. For more information on Dance Marathon involvement or to become a supporter go to www.floridadm.org.



Dance Marathon at UF delivers pizza and popcorn, in the PICU, as a part of Peds Movie Night.