...More than just a 24-hour event

UI Dance Marathon: Enhancing Education and Impacting Lives

Elyse Meardon—Dance Marathon Executive Director 2012
Courtney Bond—Dance Marathon Advisor, Assistant Director, Center for Student Involvement and Leadership
Dance Marathon is...

Dance Marathon Executive Council Video
Dance Marathon 17, 2011

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwWHe-pNQn4
Dance Marathon Mission Statement

Dance Marathon creates and sustains special projects to provide emotional and financial support for the pediatric oncology and bone marrow transplant patients and their families treated at University of Iowa Children’s Hospital.
The Beginning of Dance Marathon

- October 5, 1993 was the proposal to establish Dance Marathon on the UI campus

- In December of 1993—Representatives from other schools met in San Diego to begin discussing the framework of Dance Marathon

- In 1994, Christopher Metzger was selected as the first Executive Director

- The first Dance Marathon raised $31,000

- Over 17 years Dance Marathon has raised $9.8 million

- In 1998 the process for UI Dance Marathon Allocations changed
“Working collaboratively with others is the single most valuable leadership experience I took with me following my time with Dance Marathon. Bringing together people from varied backgrounds with different personalities and working styles is something that we experience every day. Learning to harness these differences and focus energies on a common goal - helping children with cancer - is what makes DM such a special organization.”

Chris Klitgaard, President and Founder, Precision Revenue Strategies, Inc.

“DM had taught me to provide family centered-care rather than patient-centered care and to be more passionate about what I do as a nurse and how I act towards my patients. I don’t think I really understood the definitions of passion, commitment, and hard work until I was involved in DM.”

Katie Guckert, Nurse on 3JCP, UI Children’s Hospital
“18 years ago, we had no idea that what we were creating would have such an enormous and lasting impact on our campus and on the patients and families of UI Children’s Hospital. To imagine that Dance Marathon would one day be in the position to make multi-million dollar commitments to UI Children’s Hospital was beyond our wildest dreams.”

“The most important part of my UI education was not earned in the classroom, but in the lower level of the Iowa Memorial Union in the Student Activity Center.”

Sheila Baldwin, Assistant Vice President of Development, UI Foundation
“My experiences with Dance Marathon and as the 2007 Sponsorship Director directly impacted who I am today; my friends and career. My work as a development officer for the UI Foundation is just an extension of what I was given the chance to start while an undergraduate. It quite literally changed the course of my life.”

Adam Blind, Assistant Director for Development, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UI Foundation

“Dance Marathon gave me direct experience to work with children and families—that helped me to move towards my career as a Child Life Specialist. Without Dance Marathon I would not have found this rewarding career that has defined me as a person.”

Emily Mozena, Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS)
“Coming from a science background I knew nothing about how fundraising and event planning worked. I’ll learn all about what I need to do in my profession from school, but it’s **what I learn outside of class that will round me out.**”

*Tom Truong, 2nd year pharmacy student*

“Just last year **I had a student** who was diagnosed with cancer and she returned to school with no hair, and became exhausted very easily - my understanding of **kids wanting a normal life**, no matter their medical condition, helped me have the **conversation** with students, colleagues, and parents. I'm so grateful for the DM experience!”

*Tina Brunson, Teach for America Corp Member*
Past Dance Marathon Executives Today

“Through Dance Marathon I gained confidence in my ability to lead and motivate, from presenting in front of 1,000 dancers in preparation for the Big Event to effectively coordinating with my fellow Executive Council.”

“I learned about philanthropy!”

Jennifer Smith, Assistant Vice President, Legal, UI Foundation

“My experience in DM allowed me to EXCEL both in and out of the classroom. I learned to set ambitious goals that will lead me towards future successes. I have learned that I am responsible for my own success—this came from learning to utilize the many resources available to me.”

Kyle-Dale Walters, May 2011 graduate and future Teach for America Corp Member
“It is amazing to think of the incredible impact the student leaders of the Dance Marathon and all the participants have on our missions of clinical care, research, and teaching.”

*Thomas Scholz M.D., Interim Head of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief, UI Children's Hospital*

“DM students who become nurses and work on 3JCP, provide the extra special touch that *most nurses aren’t able to do* when they first start, as the new nurse is typically still trying to learn all of the ‘technical’ things. All of these things *really benefit the 3JCP team* and all of the children and their families that we care for.”

*Sherry Lang, 3JCP Nurse Manager, RN, MA, CPNP, CNA-BC*
Who Dance Marathon Engages

- Today, over 1370 UI students participate annually—spanning from UI freshmen to graduate students—In it’s first year approximately 100 people participated
- 200 Leadership team members
- 10 Executive Council members
- Over 500 families affected by pediatric cancer at UI Children’s Hospital
- 425 student and community volunteers annually
- Over 42,000 student hours spent on DM annually
  This equates to 20 Full-Time Equivalents OR 1,000 work weeks
- 12,500 alumni around the USA and world