

WORK HARD | DO YOUR BEST | NEVER GIVE UP | BE HEALTHY!



spotlight

FALL 2020



PROGRAMS partnerships & plans

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass – it's about learning to dance in the rain. Over the past several months, NDI New Mexico students all over the state have been dancing in their homes, backyards and driveways, oftentimes in front of a computer, tablet, television or smartphone, as the school year moved from in-person to remote learning. Despite weathering these changes and challenges, NDI New Mexico teachers, musicians and staff are steadfast in using the power of the arts to bring joy, purpose and dancing to students' lives.

The core values that we teach children are to work hard, do your best, never give up and be healthy. This "Core Four" message is the foundation of our programs and helps engage and motivate our students each year. This year, those words have special meaning as we face a global pandemic and recognize people's just demands for inclusion and equity. As NDI New Mexico continues to navigate this new reality, we are committed to our belief in

children and to inspiring personal excellence in each and every child we serve.

"This pandemic has been really difficult on me and my family," says NDI-NM student Maddie from Albuquerque. "Through times of crisis, dance and my NDI-NM instructors have been a source of stability, love, support, and an outlet to release stress. Having online classes to try and maintain some normality is really important for me and so many others right now, both mentally and emotionally."

NDI New Mexico culminated the 2019-20 school year by completing programs in our partner elementary schools through video classes, conducting virtual graduation ceremonies for Celebration Team and Company XCel dancers, providing online classes and programs to our afterschool students from The Dance Barns and The Hiland Theater, and forging an exciting

(continued)

WHAT'S inside



Silver Sneakers
Society



Guess Who's
The Best?

(Programs, Partnerships & Plans, *continued*)

new partnership with New Mexico PBS, all while shifting our offices and teaching to home-based work.

Liz Salganek, NDI New Mexico Artistic Director says, "I am so proud of our students and our staff, who pivoted during this unprecedented time and worked together to continue dancing and creating at home. It is important for us to stay connected and see each new day for the opportunity it brings to be inspired and to continue learning. The arts have the power to engage and motivate all of us."

For more than 25 years, NDI-NM has been teaching children's dance classes, including the "pivot step," thanks to our many donors, volunteers and community partners. Over the past few months, we have significantly strengthened our communication efforts on social media platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook. We have also regularly updated our website and engaged directly with our community via phone. We connected with people in all our communities and this communication has fostered profound outcomes. Many families donated their ticket costs back to NDI-NM, hundreds of children submitted videos for culminating events, and thousands of friends tuned in for our first ever virtual gala.

The safety and health of our students and staff will always be our highest priority. To that end, our annual summer programs evolved to include a virtual adaptation of our annual Summer Institute programs for public school students called Outside/In as well as daily dance classes for children of all ages and abilities. Program innovations include teacher training workshops on conducting fun and engaging online classes; frequent virtual "show and tell" performances for families and friends; and new curriculum offerings for our students over 12, the Dancing 101 summer intensive,

featuring dance history, culture and choreography.

As we head into fall and consider how to carry out NDI-NM programs in an uncertain environment, we know that our work remains critical. The 2020 Kids Count report ranks New Mexico 50th in the nation for child well-being, and the pandemic promises to create ongoing challenges to education and well-being. NDI New Mexico partners with school systems statewide as well as the New Mexico Department of Health to provide aerobic exercise, social-emotional learning support,

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relationships with caring mentors, experiences of joy and access to friends that will be greatly needed by our students this year.

As always we continue to rely on the fundamentals of dance as an art form to help us be ready: creativity in content and connecting and engaging with students, flexibility in scheduling and planning, alignment with CDC and state health guidelines, discipline in safety protections, as well as stability and strength through our curriculum and teaching techniques. We promise to be nimble and committed to constantly reevaluating how we can best serve the most children around the state. Thank you for being a part



HIGHLIGHTS

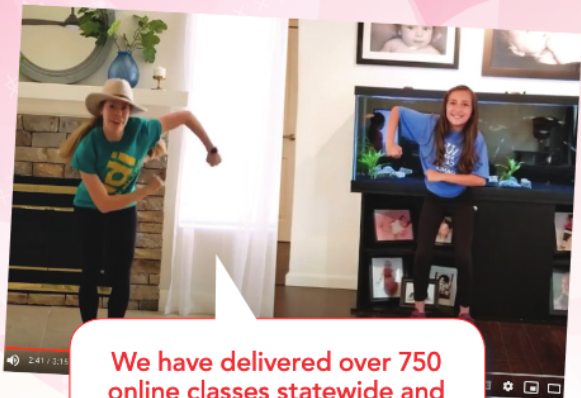


**ALBUQUERQUE
BUSINESS FIRST**

We are the
2020 NON PROFIT OF
THE YEAR!

**REPORTER
BEST of
SANTA FE
2020**

Winner in FIVE
CATEGORIES!



We have delivered over 750
online classes statewide and
beyond, providing a light in
these challenging times!



Summer programs
included international guest
instructors from Europe to South
America!



NDI New Mexico's FIRST
EVER VIRTUAL GALA
featured special guests and
hundreds of dancers!



Albuquerque Public Schools
and PBS created daily features
with two-minute dance videos
for the greater Albuquerque
television and online audience!

Thornburg
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

United Way
United Way
of Central New Mexico

SANTA FE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

THANK YOU
Thornburg Investment Management
Santa Fe Community Foundation
United Way of Central NM!



The Albuquerque Team has delivered
over 800 masks & 450 headbands
throughout the community!

SILVER SNEAKERS spotlight



NDI New Mexico welcomes our newest members of the Silver Sneakers Legacy Society: Valerie and Bud Hamilton! Valerie and Bud are well-known community leaders in Santa Fe who, over the past several years, have updated their estate plans to include more organizations such as NDI New Mexico. Bud says that they noticed something unique happening when attending the annual NDI-NM gala at The Dance Barns. "You get a feeling there that you get nowhere else, a feeling of profound joy in the children, musicians, firefighters, and other performers up on stage. It is a joy that the audience gets to share in. That's a feeling that we want to see continue on forever."

Valerie, who is a former teacher, has always wanted to know that children in struggling families experience the benefits of programs like NDI New Mexico, including access to adult mentors, peer camaraderie, and opportunities to develop discipline and confidence. "For many kids, the most memorable moments of their childhood will be, during 'runs and jumps,' when they leap in front of the spotlight. Each dancer will likely recall the live music, the cheering of the audience, and the instant each was the most important dancer on the stage."

Valerie and Bud are strong supporters of board restricted endowments to support non-profits into the future. "NDI-NM has strong leadership and vision which is important to fortify and ensure. For us, the end game is that their students perform better academically, which leads to lifetime achievement."



How do I become a Silver Sneakers member?

Visit ndi-nm.org or contact Mary Gulledge,
mgulledge@ndi-nm.org or call 214.803.7791
to make a life-changing donation today!

SAVE THE DATE

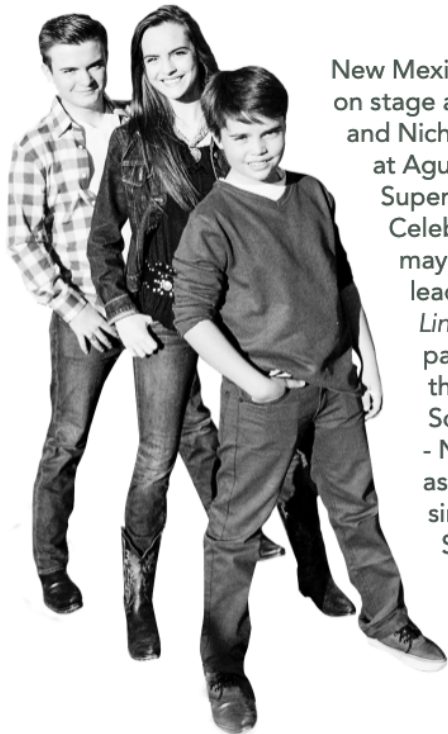
for our all new virtual gala

MAY 8, 2021

Share the joy with New Mexico's children!



THE OTTERSBERGS a dancing family ...



New Mexico first saw the Ottersberg children on stage at The Dance Barns. Stewart, Gabriella and Nicholas all danced with NDI New Mexico at Agua Fria Elementary before joining the Super Wonderful Advanced Team (SWAT), the Celebration Team and Company XCel. You may remember Stewart and Gabriella as the leads in our one-act version of *A Chorus Line* or Nicholas as the Ringmaster in this past year's *Carnival of the Animals*. All three siblings attended the New Mexico School for the Arts and are triple threats - Nicholas is attending college this fall as a New Mexico Davis Scholar to study singing like his siblings did before him. Since those first days, Ottersbergs have been spotted as buskers on the Santa Fe Plaza, on stage at the Santa Fe Opera, on television in *Law and Order*, and at the Mayor's Arts Awards.

For the past ten years, the Ottersberg family feels like they have lived at The Dance Barns. In fact, mom and dad have also been seen performing on stage at NDI-NM's blockbuster End-of-Year Events in the parent-teacher dance. Both parents loved seeing their children, and all the children at NDI-NM, develop discipline, form friendships, and experience excellence and success.

Now when the family gets together, they watch videos from their collection of old NDI-NM shows. They love listening to the music, remembering old friendships, and reminiscing about the good times of growing up together under the NDI-NM footlights.

NDI New Mexico wants to hear YOUR alumni story. Please contact us! Do you remember a special teacher or have a favorite show? Tell us what you are doing now! And don't forget to watch social media for special alumni announcements.



NDI-NM.ORG

visit our
website for
online dance
class offerings
& virtual events
throughout
the year

CONNECT WITH US!



ALUMNI
CORNER



teaching
children
excellence

The Dance Barns 1140 Alto Street | Santa Fe, NM 87501
The Hiland 4800 Central Avenue SE | Albuquerque, NM 87108

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
PERMIT NO. 1100

DREAMS DO come true

One of the highlights of the year is when NDI New Mexico instructors select dancers to join the Super Wonderful Advanced Team (SWAT). One of the calls made to extend that invitation emphasized the power of the values we teach.

One mother shared, "My daughter was so devastated in her third grade year to not be invited to audition for SWAT. I went through SWAT, as have many members of our family, so we encouraged her to work hard, never give up, and do her best in the fourth grade.

When schools shut down, we were all heartbroken. She was so upset and thought she would never get the chance to perform with NDI New Mexico again.

We all rallied around her and danced at home. When the schools closed, we were all heartbroken. She was so upset and thought she would never get the chance to perform with NDI-NM again.

And then you called on Friday! She is going to be so excited. We are all so excited. Thank you!"

This dancer and her family demonstrate that determination and hard work are pathways to success!

