7th Annual Deep Run High School Marathon Dance

The Deep Run High School Marathon Dance is a student run function that aims to raise money for 12 local organizations. In its 7 year history, we have raised more than $863,000, and this year the student’s goal is to break the 1 million dollar mark. The event has progressed from a small dance in the high school gym to an event that brings the entire community together.

So far, the 863,000 dollar total from all six years has been raised to help a total of 67 local organizations around the Richmond community. This year the student committee has chosen the following organizations as recipients of funds raised from the 2013 Marathon Dance:

**Brain Injury Association** - The only statewide non-profit organization in Virginia exclusively devoted to serving individuals with brain injury, their families, and those that care for and about them.

**Canine Companions** - Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is a non-profit organization that breeds, trains and places highly trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities - FREE OF CHARGE.

**Center for High Blood Pressure** - For almost 30 years the Center has been a place of health, healing, and learning for those affected by strokes.

**CJ’s Thumbs Up Foundation** – CJ’s Thumbs Up Foundation provides financial assistance to families of children with chronic and life-threatening illness. The Foundation also has a small but growing meal program and occasionally, they even provide emergency gas cards and bill payment.

**Elijah House Academy** - The mission of Elijah House Academy is to assist parents in providing a quality education in a protected environment for the children of our city.

**Galloping Acres** - Galloping Acres’ primary mission is to encourage people with disabilities, their families, and friends to achieve a better quality of life including physical, emotional, social, and spiritual development through the dynamics of therapeutic horseback riding.

**A Grace Place** - A Grace Place is committed to improving life every day by igniting hope, instilling pride, and offering compassionate support for adults with disabilities and their caregivers.

**Jackson-Feild Home** - Jackson-Feild Homes’ mission is to heal children who have suffered severe trauma and to support their families to end generational patterns of abuse and neglect by providing therapeutic, residential, educational and community-based services while we equip children to lead independent, productive lives.

**Messages Project** - Since 1999, the Messages Project has visited state prisons throughout Virginia three times a year to create videotaped messages of love and support from incarcerated parents to children.

**Richmond Friends of the Homeless** – This organization was founded to strengthen and enrich the lives of those living in poverty in our community. Our mission is served by providing nourishing meals and services to those in need.

**Safe Harbor** - Safe Harbor’s mission is to empower survivors of sexual and domestic violence to transform their lives, and promote healthy relationships for all.

**Sophie House** - The Sophie House’s mission is to provide supportive services to single women and their children that will help meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs and empower them to independently establish a stable, secure home upon successful completion of the program.
The 2013 Marathon Dance will be held on March 15th and 16th at Deep Run High School. Opening ceremonies will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday evening. Each of the approximately 800 students participating is required to collect a minimum of $120. We strongly encourage the dancers to raise as much money as possible since it is all going to people in need right in our community.

There are a significant number of events held prior to the dance in which money collected at these events is then donated to the Marathon Dance. A short summary of many of the events being held prior to the dance are listed below. Please visit the Deep Run Marathon Dance website at www.marathondance.org for more information about these events, and new events as they are established.

- Bowling at Bowl America Short Pump — Thursday, February 7th; 6pm – 8pm
- Buffalo Wild Wings Short Pump — Wednesday, February 13th; 5pm – 9pm
- Cheeburger Cheeburger Twin Hickory — Monday, February 18th; ALL DAY (flyer needed)
- Chipotle Short Pump — Monday, February 25th; 6pm – 9pm
- Sonic Drive-in Short Pump — Friday, March 1st; 5pm – 10pm
- Annual Zumba Class @ Deep Run — Sunday, March 3rd; 2:00 – 4:00pm (only $5.00)
- Annual Pancake Supper @ Deep Run — Friday, March 8th; 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- Blood Drive @ Midas of Richmond — Saturday, March 9; 10am – 4pm

This event is open to the public during the finale which starts at 8:00 pm Saturday, March 16th. Since the dance has grown immensely, only registered dancers are permitted on the dance floor. For safety reasons, siblings and other persons are not allowed.

There are multiple ways for the community to get involved. The dancer’s parents are strongly encouraged to sign up to volunteer as chaperones or donate food and prizes to the dance. Also, if you would like to donate money to this year’s dance you can sponsor a dancer, attend any of the above fundraisers, and/or send a check made payable to DRHS to the attention of David Kern, Dance Coordinator, to the schools address above (please note Marathon Dance in check’s memo box). Corporate sponsorships are also one of the biggest contributors to the dance. Therefore, if you know of a company that would like to consider sponsoring this year’s dance, please email Kathleen Kern at kbkern@henrico.k12.va.us.

We hope that you will be able to partake in this wonderful event. It is a truly moving experience to witness a community that comes together to help those in need. **Please visit the Marathon dance’s website at www.marathondance.org for more information, and to view the Marathon Dance live the weekend of the event!** We hope to see you the weekend of March 15th!

**Student Chair Committee**
- David Bruce
- Kate Smucker
- Sara Turnley
- Matt Barnett
- Matt Baugh
- Brooke Langhorne

**Advisors/ Coordinators**
- Kathleen Kern
- David Kern