

Winter 2018 Newsletter + Vol. 7 No. 1

## "I WAS AMAZED!"

### Jim C., Parent

Our introduction to Above the Clouds was when a group of students danced as part of our worship service. When I heard that the organization these dancers belonged to offered free training in the arts for students, I was amazed. Our daughter had taken Rec Department dance lessons when we lived in Illinois, and believe me, it wasn't free.



We jumped at the chance to sign up our daughter for an Above the Clouds ballet class at Eastbrook Academy. Our daughter joined the class and instantly I loved what I saw. Not only was she receiving high quality instruction, but she told me of the class praying for each other. The message I heard (from her) was that God wants us to celebrate life through the arts and care for each other. Beautiful stuff!

This year, we signed up our son and daughter for the martial arts class. They have not only learned their kicks and punches, but also techniques to get away from potentially dangerous situations. They are learning selfconfidence, discipline, and respect.



What Above the Clouds means to our family is really a reflection of what I think it means

to this city. It is an amazing organization that seeks to honor God by empowering kids with a love for the arts! This opportunity is not based on what they can afford, what they look like or where they live, but by the fact they all reflect the beauty of their creator.





# Students and Families Attend Two PERFORMANCES

ore than 80 Above the Clouds students and parents enjoyed a play presented by Concordia University called "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," thanks to Lori Woodall-Schaufler, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Communication at Concordia.



Above The Clouds once again took 55 students and families to see "The Nutcracker" thanks to Alyson Chavez, Milwaukee Ballet's Director of Community Engagement and Milwaukee Ballet II Manager. Twenty-five students had the opportunity to go back stage to see how it all happens.



## **NEWS AND EVENTS**



Our volunteer/parent celebration was held on Saturday, December 16. More than 189 families RSVP'd for a night of fun, fellowship, and thanks.

A bove The Clouds will **move into a new facility** (on North Teutonia Avenue) in mid-summer of 2018. This new Intergenerational Community Center is being built by Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church.

Above The Clouds will share space with Lead2Change, Milwaukee County Department on Aging, UWM, and several other local agencies.



Noving Forward Milwaukee, LLC is moving forward. We have signed our first contract with Blessed Savior Catholic Church to provide fitness classes at their a Forward Milwaukoc's goal is to

location. Moving Forward Milwaukee's goal is to provide low-cost fitness classes to families to help motivate and encourage them to change their tomorrow by moving forward today!

## "WE ARE THANKFUL"

## Donna J., Parent

hat does Damar like best about ballet at Above the Clouds? "Everything!" is her response. Ever since she can remember, she has loved to dance and sing. We

are thankful for being introduced to Above the Clouds through Eastbrook Academy. During this past year and a half of taking ballet classes, Damar has learned that practicing helps make her better at what her loves. She has built friendships and continues to learn to work as a team.

I am most encouraged by her understanding that she can give back using her talents, which she learned by dancing at the nursing home. Damar is growing in her understanding of praising God



through those talents by sharing them with others. "Pique!" is Damar's response to what she is most excited about learning from ballet. She is excited about achieving and that has motivated her to persevere. Psalm 149:3a: "Let them praise His name with dancing..." *Thank you, Mrs. Kim and Above the Clouds.* 

Our winter/spring session started out with us providing classes for over 200 students at eight locations, offering 20 classes in beginning ballet, ballet level 1-8 and pointe, modern dance, hip hop, marital arts, drama, and visual arts explorations (visual arts was taught by students from Concordia University).

THE ATC MISSION: Above the Clouds provides free, faith-based, arts education and training to young people, ages 5 to 17, who lack fine arts exposure and access.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways..." Isaiah 55:9

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Linda Wade, President Kennita Hickman, Board Chairperson Bryan Garcia, Vice Chair Katherine Rogers-Burrow, Secretary Michael Simmons, Treasurer Tom Pipines Nkozi Knight Richard Hines Rebecca Cook Michelle Perez Benjamin Shryock

#### **ADVISORS**

Sharon Patterson Terri Jordan DeAngela Luna Georgine Wenzler-Johnson Sarah Kasdorf Co-founder, Barbara Melsheimer

#### **FUNDERS**

ATC Board Members Bader Philanthropies Berean Family Worship Center Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC. Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation Emory T. Clark Charitable Foundation Albert & Flora Ellinger Foundation Fresh Thyme Farmers Market The Gardner Foundation GMAR Realtors/Youth Foundation The Green Bay Packers Foundation Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation Individual Donors Jewish Community Foundation Johnson Control/UPAF Kaztex Foundation Gustav & Gladys Kindt Foundation The Herbert V. Kohler, Jr./Natalie Black Kohler Fdn For Giving Back Marking Services, Inc. Messmer Foundation Peck Foundation, Milwaukee LTD Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust Melitta S. Pick Charitable Trust PPC Foundation Royal Gas Teerlink Family Foundation

Above The Clouds • 510 East Burleigh, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212 414.344.3019 • abovethecloudsmilw@gmail.com • www.abovethecloudsmilwaukee.com