



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Mr. & Mrs. Miller, Parents

Above The Clouds is a great program that exposes our girls to different forms of art that they may not have experienced if they were not a part of this organization, such as going to the Milwaukee Ballet to see the Nutcracker. Above The Clouds helps build confidence in the girls by their performing in front of others, such as their spring recital.



My husband grew up in the neighborhood where Above The Clouds' main site is located (510 E. Burleigh) and went to the center when he was younger, so he enjoys that the girls can go to the same place he did as a child. Thank you, Above The Clouds, for giving our girls a true arts education that they will never forget.



Theresa C., Parent

Jaetana has been part of the Above The Clouds (ATC) program, for three years. When she first joined, she was so timid, shy, and quiet. It's great to see

how much she's grown and opened up. We absolutely love the ballet program, the field trips, and volunteer time. She looks forward to each and every class. Jaetana was also selected for the First Stage program through ATC, we are so thankful to have her in that program. WE LOVE ATC.

I started the adult salsa aerobics class and fell in love. I've never taken any sort of dance classes. I am so very thankful for Mrs. Wade and her amazing staff, always here to help, and all the wonderful programs Above The Clouds has to offer. Thank you so much for all you do, ATC.



Above The Clouds, in partnership with HYFC, receives MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership **AWARD**

The Holton Youth + Family Center (HYFC) was one of 11 groups nationally to be honored with the 2014 MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award. The award, which is administered by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), recognizes outstanding innovations in crime prevention with measurable results, and Above The Clouds was honored to be a part of that collaboration.

HYFC, through its collaborative partnerships, particularly on the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) effort with the Medical College of Wisconsin, has worked to research, identify, and implement comprehensive neighborhood-based approaches to reducing youth violence in Milwaukee's central city. The Harambee and Riverwest neighborhoods have been the focus of sustained, deep collaborations between Milwaukee Police Department District 5 and its community based partners like Above The Clouds, Running Rebels, and Wisconsin Community Services for a number of years. Riverworks Development Corp. works to intentionally incorporate its law enforcement partners into discussions relating to neighborhood development opportunities, nuisance abatement, and resident engagement.

Some of our dance students participated in a play, "Paper Bag Christmas," held at Eastbrook Church. Pictured are Lilliana, Gabriella, Tori, and Grace. (Not pictured: Lizzy)



ATC FAMILY FOCUS



Kim Brunner, Ballet

I was with Linda Wade, flying back from Texas, when she got the vision for Above The Clouds. I guess you could say I have been “on board” from the beginning. And I am so honored to be a small aspect of this huge, diverse program.

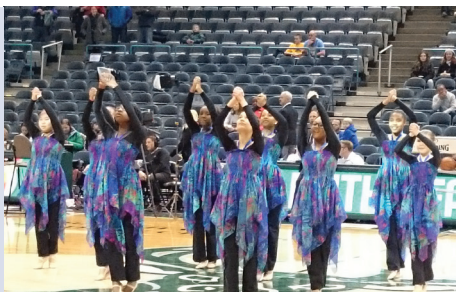
I have been teaching basic ballet for the past 14 years, at first one to two classes with a few children and now six classes with a waiting list at some levels. I love that this program has expanded over the years, however my greatest joy is the children I have had the privilege to meet and pray for. I love the determined looks and struggles to do their best, and the beautiful smiles and joy when they achieve a new movement is a delight. Yet the most powerful part is that they are learning how special they are and how much God loves them.

I will always remember when we had our recital one spring and a mother ran out of the room crying. Linda ran to see what was wrong, only hear the mother say, “I’ve never seen my daughter so beautiful.” To see a dancer like Lindsey start with me, advance to a scholarship with Steps of Grace Ballet School, and dance on “point” is priceless. She now teaches for us and is going to UW-Milwaukee for dance.

I have students who were once awkward and shy, who have not only become physically graceful, but have grown more confident in school, relationships, and even in other art forms. They also learn to share their gifts with others. I see students helping others to get a movement without my directing them, clapping when someone achieves, to students like Tori, volunteering and assisting the level 1 and 2 students. And I love when I have students, who for whatever reason have to leave the program, come back and say “I missed this so much,” or “I gave up this event so I could return.” The joy in having such a positive influence in their lives is so rewarding.

When I think of the gifted talent that might not have been nurtured without this organization, I thank God for Linda and Barb pressing in and following through with the vision, and that I have been able to ride along.

Level 6/7 ballet students participated in the Faith & Family Night with the Milwaukee Bucks on February 20.



Reggie Rice, Parent

My name is Reggie Rice and my daughter is Tyra. I am a single father of one, and at times life can be very difficult; raising an 8-year-old daughter isn’t a walk in the park. Places like Above The Clouds offer your kids an opportunity to have a full share in a wonderful arts education.

Tyra is in Above The Clouds Level 2 ballet, and she absolutely loves attending every Wednesday. The staff members are amazing, and parents and kids are always greeted with hugs and smiles. Above The Clouds gives kids in the community a place where they can go that is safe and positive. Thanks for all you do to help my daughter participate in a class where she truly loves and feels love.



First Stage Theater Winter Scholarship Recipients

Gabriella B.	Grace D.	Caree M.	Sanaa T.
Lilliana B.	Brooklynn F.	Autumn M.	Chamari W.
Jaetana C.	Lilia G.	Summer M.	Zeniya W.
Regiah C.	Tori J.	Alicia G.	
Rehginæ C.	Lydia K.	Hannah P.	

HOW TO SUPPORT ABOVE THE CLOUDS

- Become a Friend of Above The Clouds with a gift of \$35 and receive our quarterly newsletters and invitations to special events, or become a Major Donor at \$250.
- Consider sponsoring a child for the cost of \$560 per child. With that they can attend a class of their choosing for one quarter (class are approximately 10 to 14 weeks).
- Sponsor our spring recital for \$2500 or more. With this sponsorship you help all students showcase their talent before friends and family at our yearly recital.
- Volunteer or intern as a classroom helper or assist with projects and day-to-day office activities or special events.

Call **414.344.3019** for more information about how you can help!

THE ATC MISSION

To expose children ages 5-17 to the creative arts/movement – free of charge – in a safe and loving atmosphere, in order to expand their minds for appreciation of the arts, for personal enhancements and the possibility of pursuing a career in the arts while instilling biblical truths.

Above The Clouds: Celebrating more than 13 years of service to more than 4500 young people.
 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways...” *Isaiah 55:9*