

ABOVE THE CLOUDS



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

A Letter From The Board Chairman



Dear Friends of Above The Clouds:

As I sat down to write this, the word “community” came to mind. It is what I think about when I think of the families we serve through Above The Clouds.

It is certainly what comes to mind when I work with our board of directors and what you’re a part of as a friend and supporter of Above The Clouds.

Community ~ Thank you for joining our community through your time and resources. Your support allows us to provide arts classes to marginalized and underserved families.

We have certainly had a few wins this year including:

- Rebranding the organization including a new mission statement.
- We have our programs in eight sites throughout the city with a waiting list of 30 sites.
- Planning our first gala to take place Saturday, September 29, 2018 (save the date, please)
- Moving into a brand new facility thanks to our partnership with Greater Galilee, to open summer of 2018.

On the following pages, you will read about more successes Above The Clouds celebrated. However, we know there is more work to do and more families to serve and we can’t get there without you.

Here is to another year full of learning opportunities and successes.

Sincerely

Kennita Hickman

Board Chair



**“This is a place
of unlimited
possibilities!”**

Parent Testimony

Tahkara began her journey with Above The Clouds at the age of five. She has shown an interest in dancing since she began walking, but I knew I would never be able to afford ballet lessons. A friend told me about Above The Clouds. I couldn't believe it – this was an answer to my prayer! We tried Ballet and Cheerleading for the summer, and we haven't turned back.

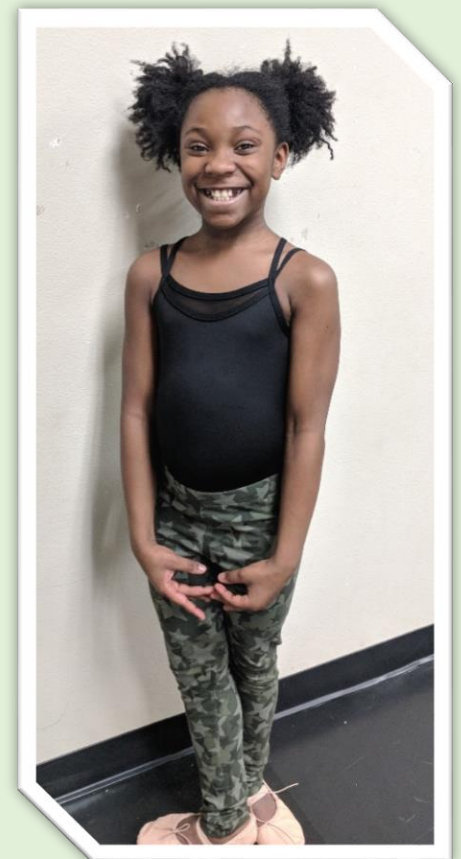
Tahkara is now eight years old and in the third grade taking Level 4 Ballet and Martial Arts. She has developed so many skills from her involvement with Above The Clouds. I have noticed her leadership qualities, confidence, her discipline with her schoolwork, and her graceful movements across our floors. The training she receives follows her wherever she goes. She understands that she can praise God through movement. I am so happy that she can be spiritually fed, while being properly trained. My husband and I are proud parents of Above The Clouds.

This is a place of unlimited possibilities

~Mrs. Gregory, Parent

**For as the heavens are
higher than the earth
so are my ways higher
than your ways.**

Isaiah 55:9



Why we are different



We offer arts/movement classes to children with a positive message, “**It’s good to expand your mind and express yourselves by being creative**” and in a safe and inspirational setting. Children who participate in programs offered by Above The Clouds are inspired to appreciate the arts, participate in the arts professionally and to grow spiritually.

Life-Changing Experience. Children who participate in programs offered by Above The Clouds are inspired to appreciate the arts, participate in the arts professionally or personally and grow spiritually.

Life-Long Connection to the Arts. Above The Clouds inspires a life-long love for the arts through its classes, internships, scholarships, and long-term commitment to keeping children connected to the arts.

No Child Turned Away. Above The Clouds offers its life-changing arts program to every child who comes to its doors with an interest in the arts and desire to grow spiritually.

Partnerships. Above The Clouds seeks out children who would normally be exposed to the arts by collaborating with others and enhancing their programs with a focus on the arts.

State-Wide and National Reputation. Above The Clouds is recognized for its unique approach, high quality, professional, and respected teachers and its commitment to seek out children who normally would not be exposed to the arts.

Instructors

“I have a passion to help youth in need of hope, love and encouragement.”

~Delvyn Crawford

“After years of studying with Above The Clouds, I am proud to say that I now teach ballet at Above The Clouds!”

~Lindsey Kelly

“We have a deep appreciation for the way the arts can heal communities, families and the youth.”

~Ryan & Lori Schaufler

Instructors



PAULA ADAMSON
Martial Arts



KIM BRUNNER
Ballet Level 1-7



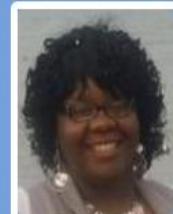
LAURA BRUNNER
Cheerleading



DENISE BURTON
Music (Vocals)



DELVYN CRAWFORD
Rap/Spoken Word
Song Writing



CASSANDRA CROSBY
Basic Drawing & Drama



TIERSA FERRARO
Tap



SAMANTHA FUNK
Modern Dance



LINDSEY KELLY
Beginning Ballet & Level 7



JULIA LAGINA
Ballet Level 1-4



MARTHA LEUTHNER
Ballet



KAREN MARININ
Modern Dance &
Stretch/Strengthening



MALCOM NIEVES
Hip Hop



CAITLIN SANFELIPPO
Ballet Level 5 & 7



LORI SCHAUFLE
Drama



RYAN SCHAUFLE
Drama



ROSALITA VILLA
Modern Jazz & Salsa
Aerobics

Classes Offered



CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

ALL CLASSES LISTED BELOW ARE NOT OFFERED EACH SESSION, CLICK ON CURRENT CLASS SCHEDULE TO SEE TIMES AND LOCATIONS OF CLASSES OFFERED FOR CURRENT SESSION.

Ballet-Beginning: Designed for ages 5-9 that are new students or have no experience. Learn basic modern ballet technique which will give you the fundamental skills that will help you learn any type of dance.

Ballet-Beginning 2: Designed for ages 10-17 that are new students or have no experience. Learn basic modern ballet technique which will give you the fundamental skills that will help you learn any type of dance.

Ballet-Levels 1-8: These classes are for existing students and are assigned by instructor as students advance in their skill level.

Basic Drawing: Growing artistic talent through 2-dimensional artwork using various forms of media.

Cheerleading: A fun and energetic way to learn cheers and stunting techniques.

Drama: Student learn voice projection, use of body as well as develop and build confidence in their presentational skills.

Hip Hop: More than just a way to move to music; Hip Hop has its own music, language and style of dance.

Interactive Storytelling: Students will use their imagination to create characters, design worlds, and craft their own dazzling adventures.

Martial Arts: Learn respect, discipline, physical awareness, integrity and self-confidence with Christ at the center.

Mighty Movers: An all boys movement class based on principles from Martial Arts, Modern Dance and Sports conditioning exercises.

Modern Dance: This very versatile and expressive class blends a wide range of movement styles with energetic jumps and smooth fluid gestures.

Music (vocals): Students will learn how to properly sing and understand the movement of music, how to breathe, vocal exercises and foods to avoid before singing.

Spoken Word/Song Writing: Children will learn how to turn something negative into something positive, conveying thoughts into poetic expression using rap and poetry.

Stepping: A real life version of "Stomp the Yard"

Tap: Learn to tap, flap and shuffle....for those ages 8 and up that want to see what else they can do with their feet.

Visual Art Explorations: Students will explore a variety of materials (drawing, painting, 3D/Sculpting and more) in this overview of visual arts.

New Classes Added!



Our Mission

Above The Clouds provides free, faith-based, arts education and training to youth, ages 5-17, that lack fine arts exposure and access.

Hip Hop: Learning that Hip Hop is a lifestyle that included its own language, music, and style of dance

Tap Dance: Learn to tap. Flap and Shuffle Off To Buffalo



SPRING RECITAL



We had over 80 students participate in our spring recital. They were able to show family, friends, and guests what they had been working on all semester. It ended with all the children moving as one unit to a finale piece. A special “Thank You” to Jeff Dickinson of Marking Service, Inc. for sponsoring our Spring Recital.



Children Served In The Greater Milwaukee Area

Our
Success

Winter/Spring 20 Zip Code served	Summer 18 Zip Codes Served	Fall 19 Zip Codes Served
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 76 African American• 23 Caucasion• 5 Multi-Racial• 4 Asian• 2 Hispanic• Total served 110	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 70 African American• 18 Caucasion• 18 Hispanic• 8 Multi-Racial• Total served 114	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 86 African American• 27 Caucasion• 10 Multi-Racial• 5 Hispanic• 4 Asian• 1 Native American• Total served 133



Sites Served in 2017

- Eastbrook Academy (5375 N. Green Bay Road)**
- Hi-Mount School (4921 W. Garfield)**
- Holton Youth + Family Center (510 E. Burleigh Street)**
- Journey House (2110 W. Scott Street)**
- Kegel CLC (1210 W. Mineral Street)**
- Milwaukee Environmental Science (6600 W. Melvina)**
- Silver Spring Neighborhood Center (5460 N. 64th Street)**
- Urban Ecology Center (3700 W. Pierce Street)**
- Vincent High School (7501 N. Granville)**

Financial



FINANCIAL REPORT - Year Ending December 31, 2017

INCOME SUMMARY

Total Annual:

\$140,633.00

■ Grants ■ Individuals ■ Fund Raising ■ Other



FOUNDATIONS

Bader Philanthropies
The Lynde & Harry Bradley
Foundation
Brewers Community
Foundation
Emory T. Clark Family
Charitable Foundation
Albert J. & Flora H. Ellinger
Foundation, Inc.
Greater Milwaukee Association
of Realtors Youth Foundation
Evan & Marion Helfaer
Foundation
Dorothy Inbusch Foundation
Kaztex Foundation
Herb Kohl Philanthropies
The Herbert V. Kohler, Jr. /
Natalie Black Kohler
Foundation for Giving Back
Clare M. Peters Charitable
Trust
Melitta S. & Joan M. Pick
Charitable Trust
United Performing Arts Fund

ORGANIZATIONS

Berean Family Worship Center
Bob's Discount Furniture
Bon Ton - Boston Store
Fresh Thyme Farmers Market
Good Hope Investors Group
Greater Galilee Missionary
Baptist Church
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Jalal Khan Ltd.
Marking Services, Inc

Midwest Womens Sports Group
Pieper Electric, Inc
Purpose Cleanning LLC
Terracycle US, LLC
United Way of Metropolitan
Chicago
Your Cause

INDIVIDUALS

Sarah Abendschein
Christian & Kate Arvold
Karen Becker
Lisa Bilik
Joe Bova
Bruce & Kim Brunner
Dorothy Brunner
Lauryn Burkhalter
Walter & Katherine Burrows
Nick & Ruth Carver
Rebecca Cook
Charles & Pam Davison
Barb Deltgen
Maritza & Manuel Diaz
Lauren Farmer
Christine Felton
Bryan Garcia
Dan & Holly Graves
Terry Graves
Rolf Haemel
John Haydon
Brent & Megan Hendricks
Carrie Holden
Adenike & Femi Ibitoye

Thank You Supporters

Idella Johnson
Jennifer Johnson
Tamika Johnson
Mary Benay Johnston
Will & Lisa Johnston
Marques & Karin Jones
Kevin & Julie Kelly
Michael & Sheryl Kelly
Nkozi & Jessica Knight
Mark & Colleen Mittag
Scott Madsen
Rachel Malacara
Greg & Laura Marshall
Theresa Meyer
Anna Mora
Anita Mueller
Tom Pipines
Kevin Raczynski
Tom & Cathy Sanfelippo
Joseph & Rosalie Schilz
Benjamin Shryock
Roger & Judy Smith
Tyler & Andrea Smith
Mary Stanley
Sarah Thomas
Kurt Vercimak
Robin Vercimak
Georgine Wenzler-Johnson

PARTNERSHIPS

City On A Hill
Eastbrook Academy
Hi Mount School
Holton Youth + Family Center
Journey House
Kagel School CLC
Milwaukee Ballet Company
Milwaukee Environmental
Science School
New Beginnings Are Possible
Silver Spring Neighborhood
Center
Steps of Grace Ballet School
Urban Ecology Center
Vincent High School

VOLUNTEERS

Tommie Anthony
Kate Arvold

Joe Bova
Nabu Brister
Jim Caler
Mary Ann Caler
LaTanya Cosey
Bethany Cronk
Paula Cross
Charlie Davison
Tonya Donald
Jennifer Dreger
Jaquawn Euell
Lauren Farmer
Holly Graves
Tina Gregory
Margarita Gwin
Sandra Hubbard
Jennifer Ingram
Donna James
Lisa Johnston

Karin Jones
Julie Kelly
Kristin Koepke
Laura Marshall
Jewel Mattke
Tammi McGowan
Colleen Mittag
Quiana Randolph
Mae Ray
Kendra Robinson
Deborah Ross
Laneisha Shelton
Andrea Smith
Amy Stensberg
Kara Vercimak
Ms. Walker
Nalee Yang



“I have seen firsthand that Above The Clouds brings so much value to children in our community who may not be able to have the experience otherwise by providing them with a high quality experience to the arts at no cost. Truly amazing!”

~Bryan Garcia

Board Of Directors



LINDA WADE
ATC Founder & President
Founding Partner @ Holton
Youth & Family Center



BARBARA MELSHEIMER
ATC Co-Founder
Office Assistant @ BFWC



KENNITA HICKMAN
ATC Board Chairperson
Public Relations Manger @
WAMI (Wisconsin Area
Music Ind.)



BRYAN GARCIA
ATC Board Vice Chairperson
Community Leader @ BMO
Harris Bank



MICHAEL SIMMONS
ATC Board Treasurer
Account @ AAAdvantage



KATHERINE ROGERS BURROWS
ATC Board Secretary
Asst. Professor, Dept. of
Pediatrics, Child Development @
Children's Hospital of WI

Founders & Board



LAURYN BURKHALTER
ATC Board Member
Engagement Manager @
Spectrum Nonprofit Services



REBECCA COOK
ATC Board Member
Chief Engineer @
Mount Mary University



RACHEL DIX
ATC Board Member
Financial Rep @
Principal Securities



RICHARD HINES
ATC Board Member
Assistant Youth Pastor, Destiny
Youth Ministry



TERRI JORDAN
ATC Board Advisor
Retired, Corp. Relations
Liaison USPS



SARAH KASDORF
ATC Board Member
Teacher @ Milw Ballet



NKOZI KNIGHT
ATC Board Advisor
Knight Investment Group,
LLC (KING)



DEANGELA LUNA
ATC Board Advisor
Assist General Counsel-IPO @
Northwestern Mutual



SHARON PATTERSON
ATC Board Advisor
Dir of Corp/Fnd Relations
@ WI Lutheran College



MICHELLE PEREZ
ATC Board Member
Branch Manager @
BMO Harris Bank



TOM PIPINES
ATC Board Member
Retired, Sports
Director @ Fox 6 News



BENJAMIN SHRYOCK
ATC Board Member
Chaplin Resident @ St. Lukes
Medical Center/Atty @
Shryock Law Firm



LISA SMITH-HARRIS
ATC Board Member
SPARK Literarcy Tutor @
Boys & Girls Club



BERNICE TOWNS
ATC Board Advisor
Chaplin @ VMP-Trinity



GEORGINE WENZLER-JOHNSON
ATC Board Advisor
Choir Director @ Teen Challenge