

ANNUAL REPORT

ABOVE THE CLOUDS
2018



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

Message from Board Chairperson

2018 was an amazing year for Above the Clouds and 2019 already has the momentum to give me confidence to say it will be even better!

In 2018, we:

- *Held our Inaugural annual Gala @ the Mitchell Park domes, which was a tremendous success!*
- *Reached 420 students with our program offerings!*
- *Moved into our new location (2432 N. Teutonia Ave., Unit #2) thanks to our partnership with Greater Life Community Center. What a blessing!*
- *Increased exposure to Above The Clouds by way of award nominations, television coverage and our promotional video done with the help of Tom Pipines & Jim De Koch Co.*

Our children serve as our inspiration through many facets of our lives. I would like to introduce you to my daughter Rayna, who is my inspiration for becoming a part of this great organization.

Rayna is a student of the ballet program at Above The Clouds and I've seen firsthand how it positively impacts the children beyond the core arts education that is taught. The Above The Clouds community has become our extended family, and I see the same glimmer in the eyes of all of the students much the same as I see in Rayna's eyes. Our Above The Clouds staff, instructors and supporters work hard for these children, and will continue to do so.

We have brought life-changing impact to so many kids in our community, but with over 35 sites on our waiting list, there are so many more waiting for us to reach them too.

I want to thank all of our supporters, as we would not be able to celebrate this success without you! As we head into 2019, we are guided by a mission – ***(to provide free, faith-based, arts education and training to young people ages 5-17, who lack fine arts exposure and access.*** to the children of our community and will work to continue to reach more and more in the years to come.

Bryan Garcia



2018 at a glance!

Wow, what an exciting year it was!! Although the year started out like many others, it will definitely go down in the chronicles as a very successful year.

Listed below are some highlights of 2018:

- Spring Recital
- New Volunteer Position ~ Program Liaison
- Moved Offices to New Site
- Special One-Time Contribution from Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust to help with new office furniture & program supplies at new facility
- 2018 Gala ~ A Night of Elegance
- Received A Large Donation of Dance Clothes/Shoes
- Part Time Employee to Full Time ~ Director of Operations
- Ballet Level 1 & Level 7/8 at Crossroads Advent Brunch
- Added Two Ballet Instructors
- An Additional Martial Arts Class
- 68 Above The Clouds family/students attended the Nutcracker – Milwaukee Ballet provided discounted tickets. They had an opportunity to go back stage and meet the dancers.
- Moving Forward Milwaukee in partnership with Above The Clouds signed it's 1st contract in 2018 with Children's Hospital to provide movement classes as well as held our 1st Salsa Aerobic class in the spring of 2018.

We are very thankful for all the wonderful events that occurred in 2018, we have been extremely blessed. We are looking to 2019 as a year to expand into areas of the city that we have not yet had the opportunity and we believe with the support of all who have a vested interest that **WE CAN DO IT!**



Our Success

Fall 2017 Session

19 zip Code Served

133 children making up:

86-African American
4-Asian
27-Caucasian
5-Hispanic
10-Multi-Racial
1-Native American

Winter 2018 Session

22 Zip Code Served

176 children making up:

119-African American
4-Asian
34-Caucasian
9-Hispanic
10-Multi-Racial

Summer 2018 Session

22 Zip Code Served

61 children making up:

39-African American
15-Caucasian
15-Hispanic
2-Multi-Racial

Fall 2018 Session

23 Zip Code Served

171 children making up:

100-African American
35-Caucasian
19-Hispanic
3-Asian
13-Multi-Racial
1-Hmong



**Ms. Lindsey Kelly – ATC former
student now ATC ballet
instructor**

Mission Statement: 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.

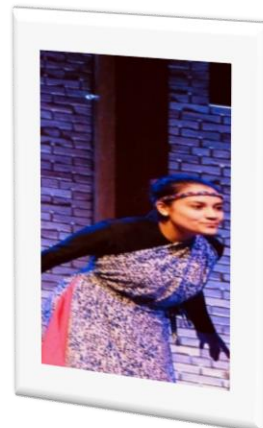
Awesome Experience!

My experience with ATC has been awesome! My daughter takes the Hip Hop class and loves it! She will be taking Advanced Hip Hop next session. In addition, to be honest, if it was not free, I could not afford it. I have six children and this is a wonderful organization that makes it possible for low-income families to provide the training that kids otherwise would not be able to participate in. I plan to sign my two little girls up for ballet as soon as they get old enough; they are currently 3 & 4. Thank you Above the Clouds! **Tonya C. (Parent)**



As grandmothers go we love to brag on our grandchildren; just the other day while sharing a video of my girl's ballet talent, my co-worker commented, "WOW"! your girls are way more advanced then mine and my girls even participate in the Nutcracker. Thanking God for consistent, Christian – based, quality Arts. –**Nancy S. (Grandparent)**

I cannot even begin to explain the large role Above the Clouds has played in my life. I took ballet classes at ATC for ten years, and even got to take pointe classes as well for the last two years. I made amazing friends, developed my confidence, and learned to use my passion for dance to glorify God. My experience at Above the Clouds and my teachers there were so instrumental in shaping me into who I am today. When I was little, I was too shy to talk to people, much less perform in front of others. ATC has helped me develop the confidence, discipline, and motivation to change and grow far beyond that. Now I confidently minister in dance in front of my church's congregation and perform as an actress as well. I'm a junior studying to get my BBA with a focus in Marketing at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Many thanks to ATC for all they have done in my life and for helping to shape me to be who I am today. **Tori J.- ATC Former student**



What make us 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 not 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.



Class Descriptions

All classes listed are not offered each session. All classes are free!

Beginning Ballet: Learn basic modern ballet technique, which will give you the fundamental skills that will help you learn any type of dance. (For new students or no experience. MUST be 5 BEFORE Feb. 1st!)

Ballet Levels 1-9: Students will have taken ballet with Above The Clouds before and have been placed in a class per the teacher.

Drama: Students learn voice projection, use of body as well as develop & build confidence in their presentational skills

Beginner Hip Hop: Hip hop is much more than a way of moving to hip hop music...it is a way of life. Students will learn that Hip hop is a lifestyle that includes its own language, music, and style of dance.

Advanced Hip Hop: Hip hop with more advanced moves and skills from the above. Your student must have taken beginner hip hop and be placed into this class.

Martial Arts: This is a continuing program where students learn respect, discipline, safety, integrity, and self-confidence with Christ at the center. There are opportunities for promotion to different levels.

Modern Dance: In this class you will use your classical ballet technique, strength, and discipline to perform modern styled interpretive choreography. This is a class for students who are currently in Ballet Level 4+.

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

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



OUR SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATIONS

Bader Philanthropies

The Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation

Brewers Community Foundation

Emory T. Clark Family Charitable Foundation

Albert J. & Flora H. Ellinger Foundation, Inc.

The Gardner Foundation

GMAR Youth Foundation

Greater Milwaukee Foundation High Point Fund

Green Bay Packers Foundation

Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation

Dorothy Inbusch Foundation

Kaztex Foundation

Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust

Melitta S. & Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust

The Townsend Foundation

United Performing Arts Fund

ORGANIZATIONS

Berean Family Worship Center

Eastbrook Church

Good Hope Investors Group

Lisa Kaye Catering LLC

Marking Services, Inc.

Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corp

Network For Good

Third Coast Paper LLC

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

U.S. Bank Foundation

Vanguard Charitable

Your Cause

PARTNERSHIPS

City On A Hill

Eastbrook Academy

Greater Galilee Comm. Dev. Corp.

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

Urban Ecology Center

Vincent High School



Nancy Arcara
Lindsey Atwood
E. Caroline Ault
Michelle Balda
Mary Benay Johnston
Joe Bova
Tam Bradley
Bruce & Kim Brunner
Lauryn Burkhalter
Katherine Burrows
James Caler
Denise Carter
Megan Chamberlain
Patrice Comparin
Rebecca Cook
Rosalind Diederich
Katherine Doedens
Tonya Donald
Brian Dreger
Lupe Duenas
Virginia Finn-Lenhardt
Bryan Garcia
Dawn Gozet
Terry Graves
Marie Greco
Brent Grier
Laurel Guerrasio



INDIVIDUALS

Rolf Haemel
Reginald Harvey
Lara Hauser
Brent Hendricks
Michael Herbrand
Stephanie Huston
Oladele Ibitoye
Barbara Janssen
Dwayne Johnson
Idella Johnson
Karin Jones
Terri Jordan
Deborra Kaaikiola
Strohbusch
Julie Kelly
Nkozi Knight
Sarah Lake
Scott Madsen
Richard Montiho
Nichole Nichols

Sharon Patterson
Michelle Perez
Jennifer Peterson
Tom Pipines
Tanja Price
Kevin Raczynski
Andrew Robinson
Carol Rydzik
Catherine Sanfelippo
Debra Schiel
Joe Schilz
Vicki Schultz
Lucinda Shallock
Benjamin Shryock
Michael Simmons
Roger & Judy Smith
Andrea Smith
Lisa Smith-Harris
Mary Stanley
M & D Stern
Rebecca Stoner
Sarah Thomas
Helmut Toldt
Rosetta Washington
Karen Weber
Georgine Wenzler-Johnson
Nalee Yang





VOLUNTEERS

Holly Graves
 Lewis Gregory
 Tina Gregory
 Mary Ellen Grier
 Dennis Gorecki
 Margarita Gwin
 Sarah Hoffman
 Stephanie Huston
 Femi Ibitoye
 Jennifer Ingram
 Suzanne Jackson
 Donna James
 Tamika Johnson
 Lisa Johnston
 Danielle Jones
 Karin Jones
 Julie Kelly
 Kevin Kelly
 Kiara Knox
 Laura Marshall
 Jewel Mattke
 Colleen Mittag
 Lesley Pierson
 Lanara Pipkins



Acquinisha Allen
 Kate Arvold
 Lindsey Atwood
 Terese Bernard
 Bethany Blechacz
 Phil Blechacz
 Joe Bova
 Jim Caler
 Mary Ann Caler
 Megan Chamberlain
 Bethany Cronk
 Paula Cross
 Tonya Donald
 Jennifer Dreger
 Amy Garcia
 Brittany Gayden

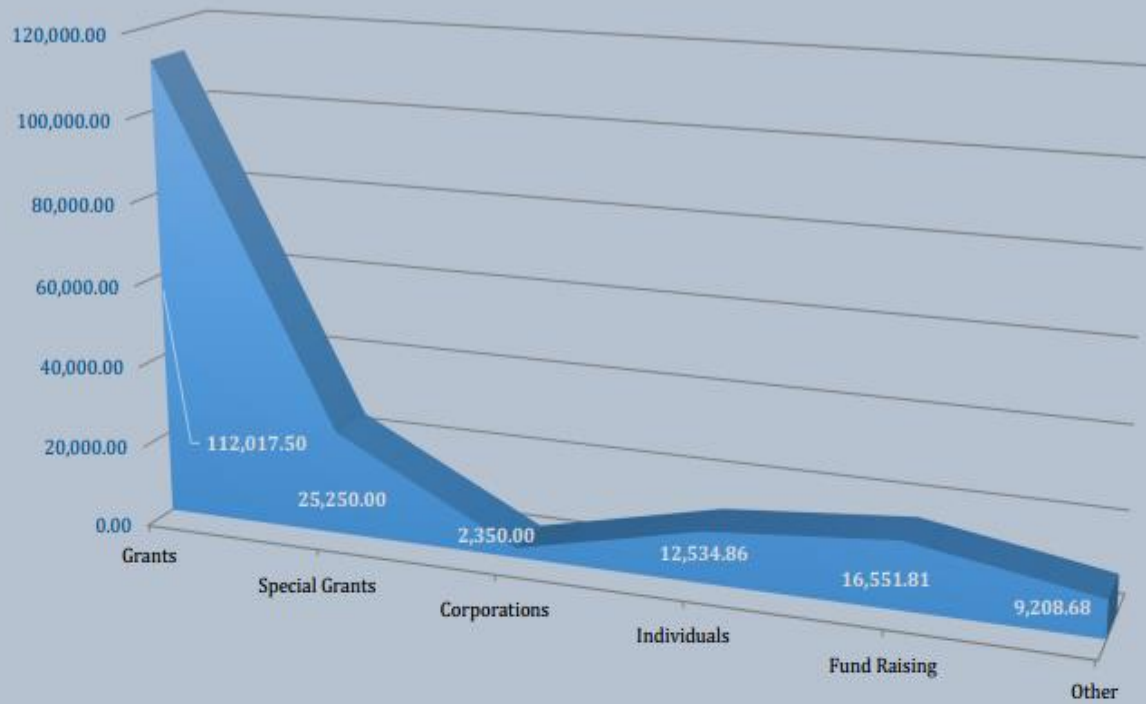


Joe Porter
 Tanja Price
 Mae Ray
 Kendra Robinson
 Jessica Salas
 Martha Silva
 Nancy Simmons
 Andrea Smith
 Amy Stensberg
 Toyosi Tunde-Akintunde
 Anna Marie Velazquez
 Kara Vercimak
 Ms. Walker
 Michelle Witt
 Nalee Yang
 Pansy Williams



FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 2018





PROGRAM LIAISON

Kim Brunner

Instructors



PAULA ADAMSON
Martial Arts



LAURA BRUNNER
Cheerleading



RACHEL DOUGLAS
Beginning Ballet



TAMEICA GREENE
Beginner Ballet &
Modern Dance



LINDSEY KELLY
Beginning Ballet & Level
7



JULIA LAGINA
Ballet Level 1-4



MARTHA LEUTHNER
Beginning Ballet & Level 3



MALCOM NIEVES
Hip Hop



SARAH PFENNING
Drama



CAITLIN SANFELIPPO
Ballet Level 5 & 7



LORI SCHAUFLE
Drama



RYAN SCHAUFLE
Drama



ROSALITA VILLA
Modern Jazz & Salsa
Aerobics

Art is a language that all people speak and it transcends across racial, cultural, social, educational and economic barriers.

- Our instructors, in addition to being professionally trained in the fields they teach, characterize a wide range of ethnic, gender and faith backgrounds.
- Our programs are expressly designed to appeal to youth ages 5-17. No matter where our children are starting from, our programs enhance cultural appreciation and awareness of the arts.
- Our programs integrate teachings that focus on character development as well as developing their faith.

Our Board & Advisors

